

Watertown Public Arts and Culture Committee

Monday, June 24, 2024, 6:00 pm

Remote

Zoom link: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/89677945000>

Meeting ID: 896 7794 5000 Call in: +16465588656

Minutes

Present: Roberta Miller, Archy LaSalle, Erin Webb, Matt Hanna, Sally Young, Barbara Epstein, Swati Biswas, Jay Wilson, Liz Helfer

Absent: Dawn Scaltreto

Roberta called meeting to order at 6:06 pm

Opening inspiration

- Roberta received a very nice note about building from someone after Porchfest
- Kudos to the team, and shoutout to Matt and Dawn for being part of the planning committee!

Approval of May minutes

- Moved by Archy
- Seconded by Jay
- Unanimous vote

Outreach

- Arts bulletin sent last week
 - Very good open rates and click through rates
- Watertown pride
 - Streamline the tie dye process for next year
 - Fewer options/pre-rubber band some
 - Could use some more skilled face painters
 - Very popular, not everyone is at the same skill level
- Hello Summah (Boys and Girls Club)
 - Dawn and Liz did facepainting
 - Archy took photos
 - Anthony (programs @ Boys and Girls Club) looking forward to future collaborations including sculpture walk and River of Light
- Arts Market
 - August 17 @ Phillipello Park
 - Will have table next to the Watertown Cultural Council and Watertown Cultural District and Watertown Art Association
 - Archy and Barbara to work on the content for two one sheeters - Liz will design in Canva
 - All orgs and their relationships
 - Overview of the PACC and our projects
 - Outreach subcommittee meeting strategy forthcoming
- Watertown Community Foundation - \$5,000 for Gorky

- Two grants over two periods \$2,500 this year and \$2,500 next
- Watertown Community Foundation did not give any money to Watertown Cultural Council for River of Light - hoping to collaborate and receive gap funding from WCC
- Gorky/Murals
 - Received \$5,000 from Mt. Auburn Cemetery
 - Received two \$2,500 gifts from private sources - increasing the artist stipend
 - RFP is out - Liz has gotten some clarifying questions so far
 - Info session is on July 29 12-1pm (virtual)
- Community Sculpture Walk
 - Liz is leading tours for Boys and Girls Club with age appropriate activities
 - 60-90 minutes with fun activities
 - Summer dates TBD
 - Live Well Watertown walk was cancelled due to extreme heat
- Edible Watertown
 - Visited all elementary schools
 - Kids are enthusiastic about doing the botanical drawings
 - Teachers appreciated the art materials donated to their classrooms
 - Elizabeth Caplan (math and science coordinator) has been instrumental for buy in
 - Met a parent of a student who participated in the botanical drawings - got great feedback from the parent and student
 - Expert pairings call is out
 - Sally making connections with scientists and encouraging them to apply
 - Summer interns have been hired for the school gardens - same coordinator/Judy Fallows is still very involved - slight curriculum shifts
 - Impressive applications - a lot of knowledge about climate change and gardening
 - Thursday, June 27 - medicinal plant workshop with Jennifer Tucker at MCA
 - Liz showed some of the student drawings!
- River of Light
 - Liz has connected with Watertown Boys and Girls Club and Rick Saunders (performing arts coordinator for the schools) for this project.
 - Include the school teachers in the lantern making training
 - Strengthening the Boys and Girls Club and school connections :)
 - Scheduling workshops for October (MCA)
 - October 18 - Public School/Library/Hatch/Boys and Girls Club (priority training)
 - Any consideration for the private schools in Watertown? Offer available slots to the private schools secondarily.
 - October 19/20 - large scale workshop where people will make their lanterns.
 - Selection TBD
 - October 21 - Community workshops (open to all)
 - Sally has befriended a MassART professor who teaches light installation
 - Could be a good collaborator for River of Light
 - Send any suggestions/questions to Liz
- Summer Concert Series

- Starts June 26!!! First non-binary orchestra, co-sponsored by the Library
 - Has a rain location in the library
 - Mosesian Center Benefit
 - Successful event - raised a fair amount of money, raised more than last year
 - Book mobile
 - Sally hoping to collab with Edible Watertown
 - Topsy Tea
 - Future collaborations??
 - Call for Artists for Bike Racks
 - Selected and in production - 3 mobius and 1 snail
 - Skip July meeting
 - Sally moves to cancel meeting on July 22
 - Seconded by Barbara
 - Unanimous
 - Light Artists
 - Sally has befriended a MassART professor who teaches light installation
 - Could be a good collaborator for River of Light
 - August meeting over Zoom
 - August 26, 2024
 - September meeting in person
 - September 23, 2024
 - Committee members will send top selections to Liz ahead of time to pare down the selections and guide the selection process
 - Motion to Adjourn
 - Moved by Jay
 - Seconded - Archy
 - Unanimous
1. Opening Inspiration (Roberta)
 2. Approval of May minutes (Dawn)
 3. Subcommittee and Project Team Reports
 - a. Outreach (Matt)
 - i. Monthly PACC Arts Bulletin
 - ii. [Watertown Pride](#) on June 2
 - iii. Face Painting at “Hello Summah” event by Watertown Boys & Girls Club June 13
 - iv. Watertown Arts Market on August 17, 12-5pm
 - i. What activities?
 - v. Standing subcommittee meeting: 3rd Mondays at 6pm
 - b. Governance & Funding (Roberta)
 - i. Grants for projects
 - i. Watertown Community Foundation Program Grant: Gorky
 - ii. WCF Program Grant through Watertown Cultural Council: River of Light
 - iii. Asking Watertown Cultural Council for gap funding (River of Light)
 - ii. Schedule subcommittee meeting

- c. Murals (Barbara)
 - i. "100 Years of Arshile Gorky: Call for Artists" launch on July 1st
 - i. Artist fee \$25,000 (\$5000 increase from last month)
 - a. Two \$2500 private contributions
 - d. Community Sculpture Walk (Liz)
 - i. Liz leading tours with Watertown Boys & Girls Club this summer
 - e. Edible Watertown (Sally)
 - i. 5th Grade Botanical drawing for garden ID signs completed in May
 - ii. Summer Garden Interns selected
 - iii. Expert Pairings call launched June 17
 - iv. Schedule project team meeting
 - f. River of Light (Roberta)
 - i. Workshop weekend scheduled October 18-21
 - ii. Schools working to make 10/18 a teacher training day
- 4. Old Business
 - a. [Summer Concert Series](#) kicks off June 26
 - 5. New Business
 - a. Vote on July meeting change
 - b. August or September in person
 - 6. Visitor Input
 - 7. Adjourn