



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

Report of the Committee on Economic Development & Planning Meeting Date: April 25, 2023

The Committee convened on Tuesday April 25, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber, with remote participation by Zoom. Present were Lisa Feltner, chair; John Gannon, vice chair; and Vincent Piccirilli, secretary. Staff present was Liz Helfer, Public Arts & Culture Planner. Also present was Roberta Miller, chair of the Public Arts & Culture Committee.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a request from the Public Arts & Culture Committee to change the youth membership as defined in Resolution 21-R-23. (Attachments A & B)

Ms. Helfer and Ms. Miller reviewed the problems with recruiting and retaining youth members, as was detailed in the PACC letter. Everyone loves the idea of involving the perspectives of young residents in public art projects, but the demands of school schedules makes it very difficult for them to participate on a regular basis.

Councilors Piccirilli and Gannon agreed with the request to eliminate the two “under 21” members and replace them with regular members. Councilor Feltner expressed concerns that 9 members would be too big, based on discussions during the original creation of the committee which suggested 5 or 7 members plus two youths, comparisons to other working boards/committees, and the realistic long-term manageability of a 9-member committee, such as requiring a larger quorum and maintaining membership appointments. Ms. Miller said there is waiting list of people wanting to join the Committee, and as a working Committee that runs events, it helps to have nine members.

Councilor Piccirilli prepared a draft resolution for discussion purposes, in anticipation of agreeing to making the change. (Attachment C). After discussion, the Committee agreed with this approach, with the following changes:

- Change to 3 members expiring each year (from two)
- Include the Qualification section from the original resolution, and add “gender” in paragraph c).

➔ **ACTION ITEM:** Councilor Piccirilli made a motion, seconded by Councilor Gannon, to recommend the City Council approve the resolution amending the membership of the Public Arts & Culture Committee. Voted 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.

Report prepared by Vincent Piccirilli

Attachments:

- A. Public Arts & Culture Committee letter dated March 6, 2023
- B. Resolution 21-R-23 Establishing A Public Arts & Culture Committee
- C. Proposed resolution for Committee discussion
- D. Final Resolution for City Council Approval



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149 Main Street
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March 6, 2023

Dear City Council,

The Public Arts & Culture Committee requests a change to the committee structure outlined in the Resolution to Establish a Public Arts and Culture Committee adopted on April 13, 2021. In the Resolution, the PACC has six members at-large, one Watertown Cultural Council designee, and two members under the age of 21 at the time of appointment. At the formation of the PACC, no under 21 candidates were forthcoming and a request was made to the Watertown High School Art Teacher, Angela Fitzpatrick, to recommend two students. May Cort and Kara O'Neil attended most monthly meetings from December 2021 through June 2022, when they resigned their positions to pursue summer and collegiate activities. Both "Under 21" members were very willing but had very limited time and often unpreventable conflicts to participate fully in the work of the committee.

Since their departure, the PACC has actively searched for and tried to recruit two "Under 21" members with no success. One young applicant applied but was too young to serve independently. Even when other prospective "Under 21" members expressed interest, they ultimately didn't have time to serve. After exhausting outreach through the schools, Boys & Girls Club, Watertown Community Foundation, and personal connections, the PACC ultimately decided that – if the goal is to include youth perspectives on public art projects – the committee could offer a better alternative than PACC membership.

The PACC would like to change the committee structure as follows, removing the two "Under 21" members:

- a) Eight members at-large who will serve staggered three year terms, with three expiring each year, who shall live in Watertown, to be appointed by the City Manager and confirmed by the City Council.
- b) One member of the Watertown Cultural Council, to be selected by the Cultural Council, to serve a one-year term of the Public Arts and Culture Committee.

In the addition to this change, the PACC propose to undertake Youth Outreach Sessions at least once a year at the Watertown Public Schools and with other youth-based organizations as available. We'd also like to explore outreach to families and the elderly.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roberta Miller".

Roberta Miller
Chair, Public Arts & Culture Committee



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Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Angeline B. Kounelis,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Kenneth M. Woodland,
District D Councilor

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A PUBLIC ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION # 23

2021 - R - 23

WHEREAS, the City known as the Town of Watertown has established a Public Arts Master Plan that was created through the efforts of a steering committee that included a number of representatives of stakeholder organizations in the community that deal with arts and culture, as well as Town departments and the Town's consultant, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council; and

WHEREAS, after careful consideration, the Honorable Town Council did adopt the Watertown Public Arts Master Plan at its meeting on February 23, 2021; and

WHEREAS, said Plan includes a number of implementation strategies, including Implementation Item 1A, a recommendation for the creation of an appointed Public Arts and Culture Committee (PACC) that acts as a permanent, standing advisory body to the Town of Watertown, to make recommendations over two core program areas:

1. Art in Public Places: Permanent, semi-permanent, temporary, and ephemeral artworks and activations that create a vibrant, welcoming, inclusive, and connected public realm. This may include semi-permanent projects as well as temporary artworks and installations funded through a variety of funding sources,
2. Cultural and Community Life: Programming that enhances the public realm, engages Watertown's community life and cultural diversity, and fosters social cohesion; and

WHEREAS, the Plan further provides that the PACC be staffed by staff member from the Department of Planning and Community Development; and

WHEREAS, the PACC will make final recommendations regarding various forms of public art and culture to the Town Manager and Town Council for final approval; and

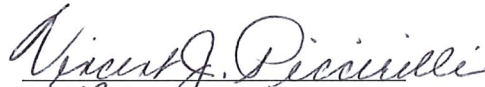
WHEREAS, the PACC may convene working groups to attend to business such as evaluation, fundraising, and community partnerships and outreach as needed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the City known as the Town of Watertown hereby authorizes the creation of the Public Arts and Culture Committee to be established as provided herein, consisting of nine members:

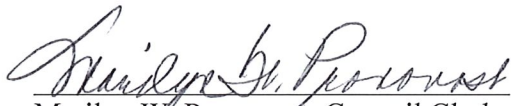
- a) Six members at-large who will serve staggered three-year terms, with two expiring each year, who shall live in Watertown, to be appointed by the Town Manager and confirmed by the Town Council.
- b) One member of the Watertown Cultural Council, to be selected annually by the Cultural Council, to serve a one-year term on the Public Arts and Culture Committee.
- c) Two members who shall live in Watertown and be under the age of 21 at the date of appointment, to be appointed by the Town Manager to one-year terms.

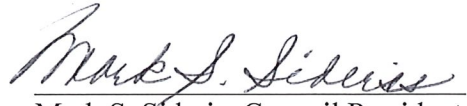
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Member-at-Large Qualifications should include, if possible:

- a) Experience in the visual arts, performing arts, arts education, curation, architecture, design, or landscape architecture. Members may include staff and board members of arts and cultural organizations.
- b) At least two members should be working artists, arts administrators, or cultural historians. At least one member will have direct experience with or knowledge of public art installation and maintenance.
- c) Membership should reflect a diversity of ages, incomes, ethnicities, racial identities, cultures, and abilities.


S: / MWP Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a voice vote of 8 for and 0 against and 0 present on April 13, 2021.


Marilyn W. Pronovost, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President
S: / MWP

**RESOLUTION TO MODIFY
THE PUBLIC ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE**

RESOLUTION #

R-2023-

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2021, the City of Watertown approved Resolution 2021-R-23 to establish a Public Arts and Culture Committee (PACC), and

WHEREAS, the City Council felt that reserving two seats on the PACC to residents under the age of 21 was an opportunity to include youth perspectives in the City's decision-making processes, and

WHEREAS, the PACC has found that it has been very difficult to recruit and retain members under the age of 21 to participate fully in the work of the PACC because of their limited time, and often unpreventable conflicts, due to summer and collegiate activities, and

WHEREAS, the PACC ultimately decided that, if the goal is to include youth perspectives on public art projects, the PACC could offer a better alternative, using Youth Outreach Sessions, rather than PACC membership, and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2021-R-23 authorized the creation of the Public Arts and Culture Committee consisting of nine members, as follows:

- a) Six members at-large who will serve staggered three-year terms, with two expiring each year, who shall live in Watertown, to be appointed by the City Manager and confirmed by the City Council.
- b) One member of the Watertown Cultural Council, to be selected annually by the Cultural Council, to serve a one-year term on the Public Arts and Culture Committee.
- c) Two members who shall live in Watertown and be under the age of 21 at the date of appointment, to be appointed by the City Manager to one-year terms.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby modifies the membership of the Public Arts and Culture Committee, as originally defined in Resolution 2021-R-23, as follows:

- a) Eight members at-large who will serve staggered three-year terms, with two expiring each year, who shall live in Watertown, to be appointed by the City Manager and confirmed by the City Council.
- b) One member of the Watertown Cultural Council, to be selected annually by the Cultural Council, to serve a one-year term on the Public Arts and Culture Committee.

Council Member

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Council Clerk

Council President



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Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a voice vote of ____ for and ____ against and ____ present on May 23, 2023.

Council Clerk

Council President