

Watertown Public Arts and Culture Committee (PACC)

Board Meeting, Monday, July 25, 6:00 pm

In Attendance: Roberta Miller, Chair; Archy LaSalle, Vice Chair; Dawn Evans Scaltreto, Secretary; Liz Helfer, PACC Planner; Carole Katz, Erin Webb, Sally Young, Board Members, and Abbey Judd, MAPC Art & Culture Planner. Via Zoom: Leah Craig, Board Member; Archana Menon, MAPC Arts and Culture Fellow; Michael Martinez, Desiree Ivey. Not present May Cort and Kara O'Neill

1. Call to Order and Welcome, Roberta Miller, 6:09
 - a. Opening by Archy LaSalle. Land Acknowledgement remarks about the Pope visiting Canada and apologizing for the Catholic Church's culpability in atrocities against North American Native People including decimating their culture. It should never have happened, and it is important that we all remain aware and stand up and speak out. He recited ***Just Don't*** by Roy T. Bennett:
Don't just learn, experience.
Don't just read, absorb.
Don't just change, transform.
Don't just relate, advocate.
Don't just promise, prove.
Don't just criticize, encourage.
Don't just think, ponder.
Don't just take, give.
Don't just see, feel.
Don't just dream, do.
Don't just hear, listen.
Don't just talk, act.
Don't just tell, show.
Don't just exist, live
Archy finished with, "Hope is only a dream; It takes action to make it happen."
 - b. Welcome to Ruby, our newest member! Ruby is Leah's new baby, and we acknowledge her big sister, Faye, as well.
2. Approval of June Minutes – Motion by Archy, second by Erin. All were in favor.
3. Report on Reorganization of Subcommittees and Project Teams - Roberta
 - a. Two standing subcommittees controlling internal policies: Outreach – Chair Carole, Erin, Archy, Dawn, and Liz. Governance and Funding – Chair Roberta, Erin, and Liz.
 - b. Project Teams: Community Sculpture Walk – Chair Erin, Archy, Leah, and Liz; Edible Watertown Project – Chair Sally, Leah, Erin and Liz
 - c. Archy is the Designated Photographer, and will document activities of the PACC
 - d. Titled Board Members remain Chair, Roberta Miller; Vice-Chair, Archy LaSalle; and Secretary, Dawn Evans Scaltreto.
4. Subcommittee and Project Team Reports

- a. Outreach – Carole, Dawn and Liz met at Hatch Makerspace to discuss plans for Watertown Arts Market (WAM) and Faire on the Square. An arts scavenger hunt and mini swag bags with artsy treasures will be given at WAM. Coordination with other arts organizations will happen as we plan for FOTS. Liz presented a public info session for WAM, which will feature over 120 artists and performers. There are 84 locations on the map. It will be from 12 – 5 pm. Liz hosted an info session about Creative Ground by the New England Foundation for the Arts, with the support of the Watertown Business Coalition, a handful of people showed up for that. Carole was invited to join a media group with Jan Singer, Charlie Brietrose and High School journalism teacher, John Vitto.
 - b. Governance and Funding – Work has begun on a Youth Representative Handbook, which, since the information is mostly the same for all PACC members, will become the “PACC MEMBER HANDBOOK.” It was discussed to call the youth members “Under 21” to broaden interest in the position and allowing students to serve during and after high school. This will be discussed at a future meeting. The suggestion was made to have one student from WHS and one under 21 serve. There will be a 1-page document from Erin that specifically describes responsibilities for youth members highlighting that the hours served count toward community service and provide an opportunity to work on a dynamic, public committee doing exciting things. We will be looking for a time commitment and a passion to do the work. She has asked that members read the document and scan for issues and typos. Liz will distribute it. The members of the committee met with MAPC about broadening our focus and looking at lots of funding for our work. Abby and Archana from MAPC are working on a comprehensive document to assist in pursuing funding streams. Our time together with MAPC ends in August.
 - c. Sculpture Walk – Erin and the team are working on the Call for Art with input from the New England Sculptors Association (NEFA). When the call opens, all final details will be filled in. We will not be looking for portfolios, we will be looking for completed or nearly completed artworks. Pat from New England Sculptor’s Association had some examples and really great input.
 - d. Edible Watertown – Sally and Liz, with help from several community partners, completed the National Endowment for the Arts Project Grant application (Applause!). She feels it is a strong application, and that we did the best that we could. We are developing a diverse list of partners. Terry Lee, Watertown filmmaker, is excited about being a part of the project, and is expected to make videos of the 4th part of the project. Chef Achmed Yassim may use his restaurant on Common Street for cooking and recipes based on the plants. The committee is meeting next week to make an agenda to follow up on the grant and build relationships with partners. Leah, Erin, and Sally made plans for Monday, August 1, 1 – 2 pm at Sally’s house at 1 Appleton Street. The Community Gardens near Arsenal Park may have openings which could be plots for native plants. The artist stipend has increased from \$750 to \$1K.
5. Update on Artist Workplace Survey – There are 82 responses so far. Liz is conducting follow-up interviews. She teased that there will be affordable artist workspaces coming up soon! Artist tables available at the Farmer’s Market have proved popular, with all spots for the remainder of

the season full, but she encourages artists to still apply. The Massachusetts Cultural Council announced COVID-19 Relief Grants for individuals and organizations starting in August. TILL/Wave Gallery will host the first Edible Watertown exhibit. Zine Fest has invited us to participate in their event on Saturday, October 15. We will have the Edible Watertown Coloring Book published by then to distribute. The Townwide Yard Sale was brought up.

6. Visitor Comments? None, but Leah reports that Ruby is great! In other business, Dawn will be participating with her Yard Art "Meep Houses" exhibit at the Whoville Jubilee event at the Commander's Mansion on December 3, which will also include a holiday bazaar of artisans and crafters. Carole inquired about new terms for board members which begin November 15.
7. Open Session review of review and vote on Edible Watertown entries. We reviewed the 31 applications anonymously, rated them individually on the listed criteria, and awarded the 10 finalists based on their cumulative scores. The selected artists and their randomly assigned plants:
 - a. Cat Bennet – Mountain Mint
 - b. Kate Martens – Wintergreen
 - c. Patti Murphy – Daylily
 - d. Jaclyn Kain – Garlic Chives
 - e. Carol Leonesio – Mayapple
 - f. Donna Calleja – Huckleberry
 - g. Connie Henry – Bearberry
 - h. Debajyoti Biswas – Red Bud
 - i. Marija Draskic Brancazio – Elderberry
 - j. Niloufar Keyhani – Bee Balm
8. Carole makes a motion to adjourn at approximately 8:45 pm, Archy seconds, all are in favor. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 26, 6 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Evans Scaltreto

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August 9, 2022