



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

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023 AT 6:00 PM

AGENDA

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, the meeting and public hearing will be conducted with remote opportunities for participation. Remote participation and access methods include:

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/83549340015>
- B. Public may join the virtual meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Meeting ID: 835 4934 0015
- C. Public may comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov

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- 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Discussion
 - A. Consider Structure Change of the Public Arts and Culture Committee and Amending Resolution
 - 3. Adjournment

CC:

Lisa Feltner, chair;
John Gannon, vice chair;
Vincent Piccirilli, secretary.



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Anthony J. Donato,
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

21 - R-

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.

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 ____ for and ____ against and ____ present on April 13, 2021.

Marilyn W. Pronovost, Council Clerk

Mark S. Sideris, Council President



Watertown City Council
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

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