

Watertown Public Arts and Culture Meeting

Monday, June 26, 2023

Attending: Roberta Miller, Archy LaSalle, Dawn Scaltreto, Liz Helfer, Erin Webb, Sally Young, WCAC

Call to order 6:08

1. Call to Order and Opening – Roberta
 - a. Opening – Archy brings us the second part of the Land Acknowledgement from Atlantic Magazine. He just attended the exhibit “As We Rise” at the Peabody Essex Museum, and is planning a visit later this summer for those who are able to attend, with Stephanie Tom, curator of the exhibit. All of us should be working to move the needle towards inclusion. Archy presented the text of an editorial by Joseph M. Pierce from “Hyperallergic” regarding Land Acknowledgement, which I have paraphrased here, see the link below for the full article. *Land is not asking for an acknowledgement; the Land is asking to be free. Land does not require recognition; it requires our care. If the Land is our relative, we must engage in reciprocity relationship with this kin of ours. To engage with the Land is an act of reciprocity. Are you not alive and breathing because of the Land?*
2. Approval of the May Minutes. Erin moves to accept the minutes with amendments, Sally second, unanimous approval.
3. Subcommittee and Project Team Reports:
 - a. Governance – The city council has approved our amendment that the 9 member committee will not be required to have 2 members under 21 years of age, and Liz reports that at least two potential members are in the vetting process now. Modifications to our Foundational Documents will be voted on next month. The Festivals and Projects Grant went out to the MCC. If we receive it, we will have one year to spend \$2500. The Asphalt Art Initiative from Bloomberg, for which we should be notified in the fall, is for \$25,000.
 - b. Outreach Subcommittee – Erin –
 - i. Erin has been putting together the bulletin for this month – it is very jam packed, including a Call to Art for Edible Watertown with a link for writers and artists. We have a healthy number of applicants already.
 - ii. Cultural District – No more review meetings until September, everything is on track to start community meetings in September, also to include a more business-oriented meeting through the Watertown Business Coalition. The partner organizations are assisting, the Cultural District Partnership, businesses, individual artists and cultural organizations. Liz believes that it is appropriate for PACC to be one of the partners and assist in the creation of this initiative. Liz is hoping for more musicians to become members. Roberta points out that it is a state-wide program which is governed by their mandates as to how large it can be, how walkable, where it is, etc. Bringing people together and developing the program here in Watertown and determining how it serves the community will make the whole community enriched for inclusion of a Cultural District.
 - iii. Table for the Watertown Arts Market – The Scavenger Hunt was such a big hit last year, there was a question of why aren’t there any face painters? We have a resounding YES, we can do that, and Dawn hopes to engage MCA/WCT summer

students in doing the face painting. Dawn has a button maker, and buttons were a big hit at the Yard Art party. Erin has lots of cameras that take Polaroid-like pictures instantaneously, and Erin, Dawn and Sally have some cool lighting effects for our tent.

- iv. Community Sculpture Walk – No theme this time around, hopefully we will get a lot more applications to review. The Jot Form seems to be very streamlined and easy to use for processing applications. We should do some outreach for diverse people to apply. Archy will call Michael Bobbitt, who said at the opening that he would get us a list of sculptors and assist in wording that could make the call more inclusive. There is a new installation at Arsenal Yards behind Roche Brothers near the large building, big, blue and 3-D printed by a California artist. Sally has a contact at MassArt, Elaine Buckholts, a light installation artist, who may help get the word out. Liz had a call with the Americans for the Arts who puts out calls for public art. Liz will talk to the MAPC people about putting out our call to artists, too. Archy and Sally will do outreach at the Massatucket Pequot Museum in Mashpee to try to get some results there.
 - v. Edible Watertown – Sally mentions that we have applied for the MCC Festivals Grant to fund our activities. The grant to the NEA for Expert Pairings is being finished up now. Sally feels that the grant needs to emphasize that we want to encourage more diverse artists to apply – theater artists, dancers, writers, etc., not just visual artists. Roberta and Sally both think that Erin will be able to craft a very compelling summary that will make people really excited to apply. There needs to be some good outreach to the scientific community, and perhaps we could ask Leah to help us out, as well as a group from Cambridge that Sally knows which is a group that includes artists and scientists on a regular basis. The date to submit is next Thursday just to build in some time in case things go awry. The Call to Artists for Edible Plants went out in early June. The Accelerating Climate Change grant from MAPC has Jen Moore as our summer garden coordinator, we received 63 applicants to the internship, selecting only eight interns this summer, from entering 7th to 9th grade, everyone had really great letters of recommendation. There are 6 paid, and two unpaid interns, all are very excited about the project. It starts in early July and continues through August. Sally gives a shout out to Liz for all her hard work that she does always to help bring these projects to life. We need a vote to submit the NEA Grant with the additions mentioned – Erin’s punchy paragraph. Archy has made a motion, Dawn seconds, unanimous approval, the grant will be sent!
- 4. New Business – Subcommittees should meet. Roberta is Chair of the Governance and Funding Committee, Erin is Chair of the Outreach Committee with Dawn and Archy, then there is Project Teams, Liz, Archy and Sally, Edible Watertown and the Sculpture Path. Sally is the Chair of Edible Watertown. Maria from Noche de Dominoes is having a big Cultural Event on Thursday, August 3. Dawn’s first Saltonstall Park Concert with Lightning Rising is Wednesday, July 5, at 6 pm.
 - 5. Visitor Input – No visitors tonight.
 - 6. Next meeting – Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 24, 2023, 6 pm.
 - 7. Move to adjourn by Erin, Sally seconds, adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Evans Scaltreto

Joseph M. Pierce, "Your Land Acknowledgement is Not Enough" from Hyperallergic, October 2022:

<https://hyperallergic.com/769024/your-land-acknowledgment-is-not-enough/>