



Needham Council for Arts and Culture

Meeting Minutes

9/21/2021 at 7:00PM | Zoom

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- Welcome and roll call
 - NCAC Members Present:
 - Cathy (Charly) Nanda*
 - Gail Lustig*
 - Sharon Breitbart*
 - Julia Gould
 - Anne McCaffrey
 - Bala Muthukaruppan
 - Heather Simmons
 - Elizabeth Cook
 - Absent: Joni Schockett, Samantha Hoff, Betsy Milane
 - Other People present: Amy Haelsen, Corinne, Jessica from Needham Channel, Valerie, John Lechner
 - Grants Information Open House and Q & A
 - Overview of Grant Program from Gail
 - Open floor for questions from attendees including:
 - Valerie, Needham resident who works with Students. Looking to learn more about grant opportunities to host a dance and movement class with needham students.
 - John Lechner, Local Artist, Author and Illustrator, Puppeteer, Animator. General questions about grants, spending timeline and shifting grant plans due to COVID.
 - Approval of past minutes
 - Motion to approve – Sharon
 - Second – Elizabeth
 - Public Art update
 - Mural Update
 - Joni putting list together for mural
 - Amy is working on location
 - Developing a one-pager
 - Jersey Barriers
 - Bala and Heather finished the Panchos barrier
 - Heather sent thank you letter to Stacy for paint
 - Marketing update
 - Charly and Julia working on Banner for event
 - New press release developed, getting up on website
 - Consider developing an overview press release about the jersey barriers that link this work to economic growth?
 - Could coincide nicely with Public Meeting about allowing outside dining to be permanent (currently only allowed through Gov Executive Order through April 2022)
 - Potential Outlets: Needham Times
 - Bala working to update the website

- Advocacy update
 - \$29M invested from State into the cultural sector
 - Advocating with the state for \$575M for arts and culture
 - \$5.3B from ARPA (Feds) coming to MA, Legislature working on how to allocate
 - Time to advocate to legislators
 - FY23 Town Budget in the works – request for funding would be voted on at Spring town meeting
 - Charly drafted one-pager
 - Amy to get back to us on deadline
- Needham Events that NCAC works on/helps out with:
 - Winter Arts Festival – Donate \$ and Volunteer Time
 - Not happening this year
 - Blue tree lighting will happen, but events TBD (potentially outdoor)
 - Needham Lights – Crafts Tables
 - Previous was a Spring Arts Festival (Charly learned from past NCC Chairs)
 - Amy drafted Proposal outlining who the ARPA money could be used and put in request for money to be earmarked for an Arts and Culture Festival
 - Harvest Fair – 10/3
 - Three members available to volunteer
 - Slots are 1-1.5 hrs
 - Banner in development
 - Craft project for table
 - Updated flyer
- Other business
 - NAA looking to submit a proposal this year (first time since 2012)
 - Demonstrations at library or giving out art during the holidays (partnering with CoA and Community Council)
 - 11/16 Next Meeting, assignments to be sent via email
 - Read application, think about recs for funding and questions you may have for the council. Voting meeting to be in December

Sub-Committee/ *Leads					
Public Art	Marketing	Art Box	Advocacy	On -Boarding	Fundraising
Heather*	Charly*	Charly*	Bala*	Elizabeth*	Betsy*
Bala*	Julia*	Julia			
Joni	Sharon	Sharon			
Charly	Joni	Betsy			
Betsy	Heather				
Julia					

Future Meeting Dates

Meeting Date	Location	MCC Timeline Event	Notes
November 16, 2021	Remote	1st Grant Meeting	*This year grants will be assigned online by Nov 1 and discussed over 2 meetings.

December 14, 2021	In Person	Voting Meeting	Usually a Longer Meeting (1.5-2hrs)
January 18, 2022	Remote	Rejection & Approval Letters	
March 8, 2022	Remote	Grant Processing	
April 26, 2022	Remote	Survey	
Week of May 16th	In Person	Artist Reception	*Not a regular meeting
June 14, 2022	In Person	Elections	