

ECA Community Meeting 5.2.22 | 5PM at 50 Payson, Conference Room B

Attendance:

Tracey Eller

Pasqualina Azzarello

Ted Perch

Jeff Bagg

Maude Haak-Frendscho

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- April Meeting notes approved by all in attendance

Financial Report:

- We're coming into the year with the funding necessary to produce committed programs

Programming Updates + Report:

Arts Walk:

- Next Art Walk this upcoming Friday! Come on out to explore some new spaces and activities
- More new venues again, incl Survivor Arts Collective, Valley Art Supply workshops, etc

June 11th Arts Festival:

- Everything is coming together! Floating sculpture exhibition on the pond
- A fall community-engaged process to transparently involve the public in name change is in the works

Public Art:

- RFP for volunteer sculpture on Cottage St will get release this summer
- Unveiling of new pocket park May 27 at 5pm

Art Workspace Easthampton:

- New resident moving into MAP, will be visited on MCC tour, will participate in June art walk
- ECA will change locks at CitySpace due to a lost key – expenditure to change locks approved
- Given the limited amount of time available in the space, don't anticipate using as a residency space again, but if so, will structure differently

MCC Director Michael Bobbitt Visit May 6th:

- Burns Maxey & Pasqualina Azzarello organizing visit: presentation and tour with performances by local artists, shaping up to be great, but came together quickly, more collaboration warranted ahead
- Easthampton Cultural Council was not engaged in organizing the visit, in the future strive towards more collaboration and info-sharing. Include an ECC presentation highlight of successes in program

Looking Ahead:

December Volunteer Event:

- Need to follow up with CitySpace for available dates for this event

Discussion of possible strategies on how to address racial inequity in the arts and in our community:

- Multi-pronged approach, including ongoing dialogue within ECA Coordinating Committee and Sub-Committees, continued outreach and relationship-building to create more opportunities in Easthampton to support BIPOC artists, and internal assessment and realignment of programming and processes with trained facilitators for support and guidance.
- In work ahead, assess what is within the capacity and purview of ECA Coordinating Committee, and remain goal-oriented in how designed and undertaken so that it's actionable and accountable.

- Among goals, devise principles for ECA as a proactive guide for addressing situations consistently rather than on a case-by-case basis, and bake those principles and values into both internal program structures, invitations, criteria, as well as in external outreach and relationship development
- Include all the sub-committees in these conversations – an annual conversation, facilitated retreat?
- Invite Michael Bobbitt into this discussion? Learn from what’s happening elsewhere
- Revisit the Easthampton Futures outcomes as foundation on which to build
- Consider what and whose cultures are represented and missing from existing cultural events
- As internal work of ECA turns more broadly, coordinate with other city efforts and resources in racial justice training, organizing, and repair work

New Business:

Prospective Committee Members:

- Pamela Matsuda Dunn is interested in joining the committee later on
- Cindy Sperry from Oxbow Gallery is also interested in joining

Next Meeting Schedule June 6th, 2022