



Amherst Cultural Council

February 8, 2023

6:00 PM

Via Zoom:

Minutes

In attendance: Matt Holloway, Julianne Applegate (co-chairs), Rachel Wang, Robin Thompson, Christy Anderson, Cody Rooney, Eleanor Walsh, Leah Neuburger (joined 6:26), Guests: Sarah Barr (Amherst College), Gabrielle Gould (BID)

1. Call to order
2. Sarah Barr -- Amherst College representative
 - introduced by Rachel Wang
 - Michael Elliot very focused on relationship between College and Town
 - Potential opportunities for shared use of space, e.g. Anika Lopes' project
 - Amherst College students craving opportunities to participate in Town culture
 - Institutional connections -- could we set up partnership programs for student interns (community partners) that could help get the students out into the community?
 - Sarah Barr talks about existing community outreach opportunities (career center, museum, internships) and limitations (10-3 course schedule).
 - Possible outreach opportunities: partnership with high school, museum outreach programs for K-12 kids, acc event outreach
 - How to streamline communications between AC and ACC?
3. Spring Block Party:
 - Using funds for event costs as opposed to artists costs. All ACC grantees are invited to perform/work at the block party and are guaranteed a space to do so.
 - Gabrielle talks about the event: Remove the block party name because in September it is focused on food/businesses whereas this event will be arts focused. This event is more of a "cultural party" focusing on artisans, performers, art makers. Town of Amherst gives the entire parking lot near Amherst Coffee for artisans to have market space to sell art. Strong House Museum, Jones Library, Amherst Cinema, The Emily Dickinson Museum, and the Mead art Museum will be participating. There will also be a large stage for music and performers outside. Paint by numbers community mural! **Date/Time: Sunday May 7th and 12-5**

- Needs ASL sign for stages and Strong Museum not being accessible.
- Idea for powwow grantees to have presence at the event.
- Matt lists the five grantees already interested in the event.
- Where do we need volunteers and how do we sign up? Bringing tents, tables, and cleanup.
- Possible showcase footage? Amherst Media involvement?
- Some partnerships with past grantees to join events. Case management involving grantees.
- Take 5 minutes to look through grantees and single out grantees we would like to include.
- Children's area in Jones Library? Dance area? How is this divided and organized?
Performance / art space: one main stage, craft vendor parking lot, paint by numbers parking lot, grassy lawn, middle of street. Maybe build a platform stage that becomes a dance stage.
- Involvement with the high school performing arts department! Music, student written plays, dance.
- Send out a date correction email to try and get more interest.
- Be open to and prioritize all 2023 grantees and try to find space for other grantees from past years.

4. Approve minutes

- Rachel motions to approve and it passes unanimously.

5. Public Comment

6. Grants Update

- Two members can approve date changes because of COVID.
 - Date change for *Rewild Experimental Ensemble Music*. Was originally December 16th but because of weather is rescheduled for April 16th.
 - Paperback Magazine changed the date from March 25th to February 15th at the Augusta Savage Gallery.
- 2023 Paperwork is submitted to town and is being processed.
- We have final grant reports for all 2022 grants with 10 exceptions.

7. Toby officially resigned due to personal circumstances. We are looking for a new ACC member. Robin is also ending her time on the ACC after 6 years so we also need to fill that spot as treasurer.

8. New business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance

- Date for the next meeting in March will be resolved through email.
- Timeframe for new council members? Town manager brings ACC interviews and we will try and fill those two spots at the same time (probably during August). Would be better as soon as possible for people to fill out forms. Leah can talk to teachers and ARHS staff about getting new student members.

9. Adjournment at 7:47

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