

Washington Arts Council

April 12, 2021, 7:00 via zoom

In attendance:

Michelle Gorra, Dan Sherr, Tony Bedini – Economic Development Committee
Emily Kent, Matt Kent, Rene Jaworski, Mark Melman, Carol Maxwell, Anna Bate, Kirsten Leon,
Shane Mongar- Pilobolus
Joanne Torti- ASAP, Maria Mostajo- Judy Black Park, Stephen Bartkus- Gunn Museum, Donna
Wright- WAA & Shepaug Art, Hermann Tammen, Waltraud Tammen- Washington Friends of
Music

1. Mission- There was first a discussion about what an Arts Council could be and why have one. Joanne Torti and Dan Sherr shared the experience of several years ago when an Arts Council was initiated. There is agreement that Washington has quite a few assets in regards to the arts and any Arts Council should represent a cross section of all the arts. The old mission was to create events and promote economic activity. A broader mission was discussed. Dan suggested we lay out a plan and the more specific it is the better.

The draft Mission statement was shared and has been attached with the proposed edits.

Everyone shared ideas regarding possible topics for the council with some specific ideas.

2. Collaboration- working with the schools to let them know “we are here!”, improving communication within the Town, sharing space needs, studio and performance, cross promoting and shared marketing
3. Marketing- Getting our name out there in Litchfield County and beyond. Promotions with tie-ins with businesses, i.e. wear your Pilobolus shirt and get a discount at a restaurant. Bringing tourists to town.

Marketing for our Washington organizations that are performing outside of town as well as organizations from out of town performing here e.g. Shakesperience, Litchfield Jazz.

4. Artists- There was a discussion about what we can do to support artists, resident and guest. Housing came up as an issue. It is challenging to house guest artists as well as expensive for artists themselves to live here.
5. Next meeting- It was agreed we should meet in a month and was suggested everyone share what they have coming up for the summer. Question- Does being part of a Local Arts Council open up larger grant opportunities?

Respectfully Submitted- Michelle Gorra

THE WASHINGTON ARTS COUNCIL

STRENGTHENS OUR COMMUNITY, FOSTERS CREATIVITY AND CELEBRATES LIFE THROUGH ART.

Mission Statement:

The Washington Arts Council is dedicated to increasing arts awareness and appreciation by supporting, promoting and connecting visual, performing, and literary artists, arts organizations and businesses. We celebrate the arts everyday by cultivating all types of creative exploration and artistic expression. We take pride in serving and connecting regional artists and the general public to information and opportunities that inspire a creative life. We promote, advise on, create, coordinate and encourage innovative programming, public art, artist services, inclusive youth programs, and community events and art-based initiatives. Cultural activities shall include, but not limited to, music, theater, dance, ~~painting, sculpture~~, **visual arts**, architecture, **history**, literature and film. We aim to inspire a rich and vibrant arts community in Washington.

Links to explore.

National Endowment for the Arts

<https://www.arts.gov/grants>

National Endowment for the Humanities

<https://www.neh.gov/grants>

CT Department of Economic and Community Development

<https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Services/Arts-and-Creativity/Funding-Opportunities>

CT Humanities

<https://cthumanities.org/grants/>

NWCT Arts Council

<https://www.artsnwct.org/arts-funding>