



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
ARTS COUNCIL
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

Somerville Arts Council Board Meeting Minutes
City Hall Annex conference room, 1st floor
50 Evergreen Ave., Somerville MA 02145

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 | 6:30 pm

In attendance: Heather Balchunas, Joe Burgio, Ada Ren-Mitchell, Gregory Jenkins, Emily Beattie, Ben Cuba, Antonio Escobar, Christine Hayes, Sarah Beckmann, Rachel Strutt, Yorgos Efthymiadis, Becky Donner

1. Approve Agenda (5 min)
2. Community Check In (10 min)
 - a. Emily – Dec 12th dance concert at SomArts
 - b. Ben – loved running the LCC work session, will be meeting with Ben EC soon, band will be playing their 100th show soon!
 - c. Heather – busy planning Ignite
 - d. Sarah – helped with LCC outreach and promotion
 - e. Antonio – InterCambio program had several field trip events this summer, to keep the momentum going through the summer. Now advertising the program again for new participants. 30 people so far. Seeking more Portuguese speakers. Program starts Oct 2nd. Once a week, every Wednesday. Apply TODAY!
 - f. Christine – found the LCC work session super helpful.
 - g. Becky – new studio mate talented in textile design, loves Somerville, working on doing outreach for Milk Row. Thinking about ways to support the musicians. Been recruiting for LCC panelists.
 - h. Joe – attended Brickbottom Open Studios, went to Boston Alliance auditions for dancers and choreographers, joined the East Somerville Food Crawl it was well attended and fun.
 - i. Yorgos – Sign up for his ICA opening show! Exhibit ends Jan 19th, artist talk Sept 25th
3. Panelist Recruitment Check-In (10 min)

- a. Remember to email people directly for outreach. Deadline Oct 1st.
<https://somervilleartscouncil.org/lcc/lcc-panelist-application/> Panelists cannot participate 2 years in a row. Email Heather for more potential panelists.
- 4. LCC Work Sessions (5 min)
 - a. Served ~12 artists this year. Limit registration could get more people attending and not overwhelm the facilitators.
 - b. It's important to connect individually to people who need to be heard.
 - c. Need to clarify communications about work sessions and information sessions and what people get out of them.
 - d. Great opportunity to take temperature of the local arts, just by listening to people 🍷❤️
- 5. LCC 2025 Guidelines Review (5 min)
 - a. The new updated document mirrors the categories on the actual application.
- 6. Mayoral Forum on Arts & Culture (10 min)
 - a. Arts council has been doing a lot towards the larger strategic goals
- 7. MassCreative — Creative Spaces Act (5 min)
 - a. All good news. Many groups are endorsing it. Doesn't cost a dime.
 - b. Click on the button on the website to endorse it!!
 - c. We need cultural trust!
- 8. Arts Space Needs Survey via SAC (5 min)
 - a. Get the word out about the survey and encourage people to fill it out. Deadline is Sept 19th, 2025.
 - b. <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/art-space-survey/>
- 9. Armory Updates (5 min)
 - a. Armory advisory board will have 5 final members, to be selected from semi-final of 15
- 10. Upcoming events etc. (10 min)
- 11. Other
 - a. What are ways the SAC board can connect and elevate the LCC grant awardees?
 - b. Collect and share positive stories!