



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, July 09, 2025 | 6:30 pm

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

1. Approve Agenda (5 min)
2. Community Check In (10 min)
 - a. Ben wrapped up the T musical! Read Sarah's poetry book.
 - b. Sarah – volunteer picnic was fun, poetry workshop at Armory this month and will reach out to the coordinator, starting to find people for the literature LCC
 - c. Christine – went to a show at the MFA, also saw Ben's show and read Sarah's poetry!
 - d. Greg – many budget meetings passed, Somernova and ACE zoning passed,
 - e. Heather – been working on stuff for fiscal year end and start, helping LCC grantee community benefit projects, an artist is curating the Inside Out gallery, will be installing on Monday! Promoted the Central St Studios
 - f. Joe – first time using recording music for dance, harder to improvise dance that way,
 - g. Yorgos – Greece is beautiful, and not too hot during the trip, announced the fridge gallery show, last Sunday of July! Mark your calendars. Big exhibit opens 27th of August!
 - h. Antonio – Intercambio will have a table at ArtBeat! Trying to keep the group together through the summer, once a month, went to the Arboretum together <3
 - i. Emily – been glamping with family! ArtBeat dance performance is coming together one step at a time.
3. LCC panelist application online view for edits (10 min)
 - a. We reviewed the application and gave feedback.

4. LCC work session explanation and sharing dates (20 min)
 - a. These sessions help inform, brainstorm, provide support, and help guide people on which area to apply for and provide more clarity about what makes a successful application.
 - b. Zine for LCC planning ... it is focused on project grants. Community benefit in the zine takes up a bit more space than it needs. MCC requires community benefit. "How does your project benefit Somerville?" Provide examples of community benefit projects.
 - c. Decision tree would be helpful for people to decide between project vs fellowship.
 - d. Dates and times for the work sessions!
 - i. Sun Aug 3rd, 1-3pm Connexion: Ben, Sarah, Ada
 - ii. Tues Aug 12th, 6:30-8:30pm Somerville Library Main: Emily, Joe?, Yorgos?
 - iii. Wed Aug 20th, 6:30-8:30pm Somerville Library West: Christine, Emily?, ??
5. Recruit for LCC tabling at ArtBeat (5 min)
 - a. July 19th, 1-4pm
 - b. Joe, at table 1-3pm
 - c. Ada, at table 3-4pm
 - d. Ada will prepare materials, zine: panelist application form QR code
6. LCC panel DRAFT dates select (10 min)
 - a. LCC orientation: Either Oct 22nd or 29th, 6:30-8:30pm at VNA, preference for 22nd.
 - b. Usually start at 6:30pm
 - c. November 12th – Visual Arts Fellowships, Yorgos + Christine
 - d. November 13th – Cultural Heritage, Antonio
 - e. November 18th – Interrelated Media, Joe
 - f. November 19th – Dance and Theater, Emily
 - g. November 20th – Visual Arts Project Panel, Ada + Becky
 - h. December 2nd – Music, Ben
 - i. December 3rd – Literature / Writing, Sarah
7. Organize for ArtBeat (10 min)
 - a. Done
8. Somerville Armory RFP and updates (15 min)
 - a. RFP is for people to lease, potentially 5-year leases.
 - b. Please recommend people to serve on the board for the Armory, link is on city website.
 - c. SAC board members cannot apply.