



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, October 8, 2025 | 6:30 pm

In attendance: Joe Burgio, Ada Ren-Mitchell, Gregory Jenkins, Emily Beattie, Ben Cuba, Sarah Beckmann

1. Community Check-In (20 min)

- a. Emily went to artist talk at Milk Row, queer sauna. ICA exhibit opening was very popular, real people from the unions. One day Greg will have a fabulous outfit for art events. Went to MEET and met with peers in dance. Highly suggest doing cleanup for Ignite and other festival events, a great opportunity to help out and chat with friends
- b. Becky did her first face-painting gig. Milk Row Studios will have a holiday market in the winter. Will do a separate promotion for SOS, Sunday Dec 7th. People can apply to be a vendor at the market for a small table fee.
- c. Sarah: Really cool to find panelists for LCC, Armory is hosting a series of poetry workshops. There's a group of people Canny Trophic interested in salon style conversations and LCC panel
- d. Greg: went to Yorgos' exhibit, lots of SAC weekend festivals and events in the past 6 weeks, didn't get to see any toy camera events (always great, highly recommend). SomArts and Nibble are going really well. Nibble is getting a lot of press (City's job trust), model for activating cooperative model for job training program,
- e. Joe: went to Synth-tember! Met people in Cambridge Hackspace. Attended lectures in spatialization of sound (being built into video games for people with impaired visions). Went to MEET, an improvisation night (musicians, video artists, and movers) at SomArts at the Hive (old TAZA Factory building). Went to ICA reception too! Joined New England Science Fiction Association, now a card-carrying member.

- f. Considering communications to share out to a bigger audience of all the little neat spaces and things around Somerville.
 - g. Ada: Getting back into photography and poetry, block party on School St?,
 - h. Ben: Meeting with different city councilors to advocate for the arts, working on choosing the panelists, saw a few bands play, band played passed the 100th show mark!
- 2. LCC Panelist updates (15 min)
 - a. SAC staff will send out the contract agreement for panelists
 - b. Some panelists haven't been confirmed. Panel chairs will reach out to people to respond ASAP.
 - c. VA Projects: Make sure to confirm 3 people on the panel this year, next year 4 panelists.
- 3. LCC Panelist process / protocol discussion (15 min)
 - a. Outreach strategy of all the board members reaching out was actually positive.
 - b. Some people felt not qualified enough because of the application. Next year, the application will include some examples to help people visualize what are the range of responses.
 - c. There's an LCC orientation package (~6-page document), remember to send it to the confirmed panelists!
- 4. Art Space Updates (20 min) + Upcoming advocacy (10 min)
 - a. Non-traditional spaces are need for artists, working on advocating for it