

SAUGERTIES ARTS COMMISSION meeting 9/27/19

In Attendance: Barbara Bravo, Katie Cokinos, Robert Langdon, Suzanne Bennett, Isabel Soffer, Suzanne Bennett, Leann Thornton, Fred Costello

Leanne / Fred: What is the town's vision?

- Made responsibilities to promote the arts and tourism aspect of bringing people into the community
- Encouraging more mural projects (one at M&T Bank was a big hit)
- As a town board they are not looking to tell us what to do. We are the artists and it's our responsibility to plan to promote. Can use town locations to showcase events. Restaurants helping promote the arts and increase visibility
- We can do as much or as little as we want
- If for insurance purposes, joining with SOS, Life Spring and other groups would be beneficial, even though it would be covered through the other agency
- an obvious opportunity to promote the arts
- Commission can see how to expand the town's umbrella to fill voids where needed (i.e.: insurance)
- There may be theater space available if we can establish marketing platforms and networks and go for funding
- We need to do the baby steps to gather the creatives
- Be sensitive to the fact that we are new and don't want to bite off more than we can handle.

We need to take baby steps

- Budget workshops haven't begun yet but we should hear soon

Listening Sessions / Venues

- Cultural mapping is on the agenda for December
- Should we invite spaces and venues for the meeting? Would be beneficial to identify venues.
- There is a stage available in Cantine Field that is underused
- One of the complaints about St Mary is that there is too much activity there and they would need to be set up and take down in the same day
- Pavillion at the top of the hill in Season Park
- It's very important that when talking about the commission we need to also talk about the arts as filmmaking, dancing, music, literary, etc.
- Using the term "THE ARTS" will include many disciplines
- Can we bring JAZZ festival back to Saugerties? It will need a dedicated committee. Steve Staten and Bob Carsey were the main folks coordinating the event.

Social Media

- Members of the commission should be administrators. We will need to have a larger conversation about what to post, but in the meantime, everyone should start to post events. Everyone will be added to FB page as an editor.
 - Criteria for posting events: Events in Saugerties; Arts Events in Saugerties; Saugerties artists;
 - Saugerties artists performing outside of Saugerties. Should they be posted?
 - We need to be very careful not to post anything political

Jot Forms

- Will be put on FB
- Submissions will go to SAC mailbox
- At next meeting, let's spend some time looking at the forms and have some hands on exercise
 - Let's launch the jot forms on the FB page
 - Barbara will get the links up on town website page.
 - When we add the form to the FB page, everyone should share with their personal list
 - We need to reach out to others aside from visual artists. Perhaps collaborate with local businesses to reach the underrepresented (Saug Dance Studio, Rock Academy, etc).
 - for future meetings we'll need to figure out best way to handle info
 - Public meeting Nov 3 between 2-4

Flier

- should include most current version of mission statement

- We have an official mailbox at Town Hall (use 4 High St as address)
- Community Arts Center: A lot of work that needs to be done with the church, not a viable property.

- New logo looks great in color but will need to work in B&W
- For landing page on website, images should not be targeting visual arts but rather very generic to include other disciplines as well.
- Katie is working on getting a reporter (has Will Dendis' ear - heads web for Ulster Publishing)
- Next meeting is Nov 1, 9:30 at Town Hall (Building Dept. conference room). Going forward meetings will be held first Friday mornings of the month. They will be public meetings. Information will need to be added to Commission website page.