

**Art-Speak: City of Portsmouth Cultural Commission**  
**September 12, 2005 Board Meeting**  
**Meeting Notes – Approved 10/3/2005**

**In Attendance:** Jane James, Chair  
M. Christine Dwyer  
Ellen Fineberg  
George Friese  
M.L. Geffert  
Chris Greiner  
Tom Holbrook  
Marge Hubbard  
Blair Hundertmark  
Wendy Lull  
Leanne Spees  
Deb Thompson

**Absent:** Roger Goldenberg  
Russell Grazier  
Jeffrey Hyland  
Mimi White

**Also:** Beth Shepard-Rabadam

Jane James began the meeting at 7:20pm.

**1. Review of Minutes**

The August 1<sup>st</sup> minutes were approved (with an abstention from Ellen Fineberg) with the following two corrections: Beth Shepard-Rabadam was not at the August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting and Susan Savory and Allyson Mehley should have been listed as guests.

**2. Organization administration**

- a. M.L. Geffert spoke on behalf the Advisory Group for the Trust for Arts and Culture. The Advisory Group for the Trust for Arts and Culture adopted the FY06 Art-Speak budget. This budget will be presented to the City's Trustees of Trust Funds on October 6, 2005. The Advisory Group will meet if the Art-Speak budget changes or if money is received outside of the allotments outlined in the Art-Speak budget.
- b. Leann Spees reported on the possibility of obtaining Officers and Directors Liability Insurance. After some discussion, a decision was made to table further discussion until the organization's 501c3 status is secured.

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**3. Programs/Projects/Exhibits**

- a. A letter was presented from the Music Hall proposing a collaborative project with Art-Speak that would involve painting the window areas and stage doors along Porter Street as part of a juried public art project. Ellen Fineberg suggested that the Public Art Committee follow up on this and arrange a meeting with Patricia Lynch and others from The Music hall to discuss further. This committee will report back to the board with their recommendations.
- b. On behalf of Russ Grazier, Jane James presented Russ' expressed goal to reach out further to local cultural organizations and increase communication between local non-profit cultural organizations. The Advocacy and Planning Committee will consider ways in which this might happen.
- c. Beth Shepard-Rabadam presented a proposal by Integrated Development Corporation to offer web pages to artists who are on the Art-Speak directory but do not have websites. The Education, Service and Technical Assistance Committee will investigate this further.
- d. Beth Shepard-Rabadam announced that *Creative Business Strategies: The Art of Promoting Your Art Online* will be held on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 9-11am. Volunteers from the board and WEST had been enlisted to help Beth. Enrollment was near to capacity.
- e. The Seacoast Performing Arts Network online bulletin board is now live. Beth Shepard-Rabadam was in the process of spreading the word and encouraging the performing arts community to begin posting and provide feedback on the folders. A moderator has signed on for a six-month period.

**4. Committee Reports**

a. Space

Beth Shepard-Rabadam reported that the Space committee was now reviewing the draft for artist certification guidelines. Zoning ordinances were also being reviewed and a meeting was to be scheduled with David Holden.

b. Advocacy and Planning

Chris Dwyer reported that meetings were being scheduled with organizations such as the Housing Partnership, the Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Commission and Neighborhood Associations to share the goals of Art-Speak and investigate where their interests might dovetail with Art-Speak's agenda. The committee had also met with Mary Ann List, director of the Portsmouth Public Library.

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c. Education, Service and Technical Assistance Committee

M.L. Geffert reported that Leann Spees was pursuing their goal of reaching out to arts educators.

d. Public Art

Chris Dwyer reported that the committee had held a retreat in August to look at the existing public art in Portsmouth and to begin to consider a site review process for public art in the downtown, historic district, and gateways. Chris Dwyer and Jane James had met with David Holden to get his feedback on this process.

a. Fundraising

George Friese reported that this committee was reviewing grant applications, and considering a follow up fundraising letter to those who had been previously asked to contribute to Art-Speak.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05PM.

Meeting notes taken by Deb Thompson, *Secretary*

**Art-Speak, City Cultural Commission Board of Directors (alpha order)**

Chris Dwyer  
Ellen Fineberg  
George Friese  
M.L. Geffert,  
Roger Goldenberg  
Russell Grazier, *Vice President*

Christopher Greiner  
Tom Holbrook  
Marge Hubbard  
Blair Hundertmark  
Jeffrey Hyland  
Jane James, *President*

Wendy Lull  
Deb Thompson, *Secretary*  
Leanne Spees, *Treasurer*  
Mimi White  
Nancy Carmer, *Ex Officio*  
John Bohenko, *Ex Officio*