

## Meeting of the Arts and Cultural Commission

April 29, 2024

### In Conference Room A at Portsmouth City Hall

We began with a check in question:

What is your earliest culture and arts experience that you can remember?

Attendance:

Linnea Grim, co-chair – seeing The Nutcracker at age 3, which became an annual event

Emma Straton, co-chair – Teddy Roosevelt home at Sagamore Hill on Long Island

Ken Goldman, vice-chair – Peter and the Wolf on a 78 rpm record

Jeffrey Cooper, secretary- Mom was a painter, played with Play-Doh

Theresa McDowell– art classes at school

Genevieve Aichelle – Gilbert and Sullivan

Jessica Dickey – Egyptian art exhibit

Eli Kaynor – musical family

Robin Albert Lehman – shells on the beach, artist grandmother

Catherine Saarela attending by zoom – newspaper cartoons

Jason Goodrich – Prescott Park Arts Festival

Karen Rosania – entered a poster contest

Kate Cook, City Council representative – was a Nutcracker mouse

Sean Clancey, City Staff representative – sang a Christmas carol

Also attending the meeting were Ben Van Camp, Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce, and Elisa, a UNH political science student

Following the introductions we dot voted the bullet points on pages 6 and 7 of the Culture and Arts Master Plan, in three rounds, green for things to tackle in our first year, yellow for the 2-to-4-year time frame, and blue for long term goals.

General discussion followed. A few highlights of the discussion:

- Results were balanced, all items having received recognition at significant levels
- Short term goals stood out, dominating the conversation.

- preserving and expanding studio space
  - communication between various arts organizations, and the public
- We would like to have tangible results in our first year, along with the expansion of educational opportunities in home-based studios that is currently before the City boards
- We do not want to focus solely on short term accomplishments at the expense of the medium and long term objectives

Next steps are that the leadership team will meet prior to the next meeting to analyze the priorities set by the dot voting and discussion and will create four workgroups to accomplish those priorities. The workgroups and their descriptions will be circulated to the Commission members prior to the next meeting.

**That meeting will take place at conference Room A, 1 to 2 PM on Monday May 20, 2024.**

We will form the workgroups of 3 to 4 members each at that meeting.

The June meeting will take place June 17, and a more complete meeting schedule will be circulated along with the agenda for the May 20 meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 2 PM.