

Arts & Cultural Commission

Work Group Framework

Group 1: Communication

Primary Goals: Use existing resources to coordinate communications from the wide variety of arts organizations and independent artists in ways that improve visibility to all areas of our community (34 points) and provide a community resource that informs our residents of the wide variety of existing arts and culture opportunities (21 points)

1. Improve gaps in current communications about Portsmouth's arts and cultural resources and programming
 - a. Identify and leverage existing pathways and communication channels.
 - i. Continuously assess emerging technologies as a means to enhance communications related to arts and culture events.
 - b. Encourage use of all current Citywide communication channels by arts and cultural organizations.
2. Publicize via central hubs (City of Portsmouth, Chamber Collaborative) and existing media channels and platforms that have fostered engaged audiences and sustain awareness of emerging technologies and interest groups
3. Publicize the work of this Commission
4. Compile a list of existing arts and culture education opportunities (from beginner to professional development levels) to better understand needs, gaps, or barriers in these suggested focus areas:
 - a. Public and private school arts offerings (including whether AP art classes are offered)
 - b. Nonprofit community arts education offerings
 - c. For-profit arts education businesses.

Group 2: Collaboration/Resources

Primary Goals: To better understand the community's existing inventory of arts spaces, whether studio space, arts schools and classrooms, performance venues, and more (28 points), identify new opportunities for arts spaces and partnerships/ collaborations (29 points), and to better understand and communicate our current preservation efforts with the community at large (17 points)

1. Compile a database and map of existing physical spaces for Portsmouth's arts and culture sector with relevant details related to these spaces (ownership, size, affordability, flexibility, etc.) and develop a process to keep the database/map updated.
 - a. Spaces include but are not limited to: existing studio spaces, traditional arts spaces, non-traditional spaces, potentially available art spaces, rentals, studios, community art spaces, City-owned properties, buildings, sites, and open spaces contributing to Portsmouth's history, unique character, and culture.
2. Seek opportunities to utilize a variety of spaces in our community for artmaking opportunities, based on learnings from the data.
 - a. Repurpose underutilized spaces for artmaking, including identifying opportunities for artists and arts organizations to use spaces for free or affordable cost
 - b. Adopt City guidelines that expand opportunities and reduce barriers for performance artists throughout the City, including street performers
 - c. Facilitate collaborations between downtown businesses and the Chamber of Commerce to activate neighborhoods and find creative ways to showcase works
 - d. Bring theater and music groups to local parks and community centers
 - e. Advocate for additional artist live-work space to retain local talent
 - f. Expand the arts and culture scene to include the neighborhoods and all parts of Portsmouth.
3. Compile and maintain a database on previous and current preservation efforts and identify gaps, needs, and opportunities for public/private partnerships in the following areas:
 - a. Historic markers
 - b. Existing wayfinding maps
 - c. Archival preservation and storage
 - d. Initiatives
 - e. Establish communication channels with the City related to history and preservation
 - f. Information exchange about historic preservation and related initiatives.

Group 3: DEAI

Primary Goals: Ensure that our arts and culture offerings welcome diverse audiences and participants and leverage the arts to help all people feel welcome in our community (20 points) and address issues of affordability to ensure the arts are accessible to all in our community (17 points)

Diversity

1. Recruit for diverse representation on Portsmouth's Arts & Cultural Commission
2. Identify underrepresented groups and increase outreach to those communities and organizations
3. Encourage a diverse range of arts and culture programming, including cross-cultural offerings
4. Expand the arts and cultural scene to include all geographic areas of Portsmouth (not just the downtown areas)
5. Work with organizations throughout the state that provide resources and support for diversity, inclusion, and access
6. Curate a series of workshops to share skills and build capacity across the arts and culture community (for individual artists and arts and culture organizations)
7. Encourage creative leaders to participate in DIA training

Affordability

1. Lobby for zoning changes to allow for artist live/workspace in the community
2. Identify potential spaces for art instruction, with a focus on affordability (including spaces that are already equipped to be used as classrooms)
3. Identify potential low-cost studio space within the City, and ways to preserve that space for artists' use
4. Promote community resources that reduce costs for economically disadvantaged audiences, i.e., library passes
5. Promote free arts and culture offerings and opportunities in the City
6. Identify funding sources to sponsor memberships and event attendance for economically disadvantaged individuals
7. Conduct outreach to lower income communities, specifically working with the Portsmouth Housing Authority
8. Reduce barriers to participation and access to financial resources.