

2026 ARTS & CULTURAL COMMISSIONERS

PORTSMOUTH, NH

Our mission is to preserve Portsmouth's cultural identity and create a vibrant, inclusive, and accessible arts community. We're achieving this through the Portsmouth 2023 Cultural Plan.



PHOTO BY KEN GOLDMAN

PORTSMOUTH ARTS & CULTURAL COMMISSION
COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKGROUP

GENEVIEVE AICHELE

ARTIST

Genevieve Aichele is a professional theatre artist and consultant, the founder of New Hampshire Theatre Project, and a long-time resident of Portsmouth. She is currently the 2024-26 Artist Laureate for the State of New Hampshire.



2026 - 2027

PORTSMOUTH ARTS & CULTURAL COMMISSION
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HOPE ANDERSON PUZZO

CITIZEN

Hope chose to make Portsmouth her home after completing her undergraduate studies at the University of New Hampshire, and has since developed a deep appreciation for the city's vibrant arts and cultural scene. She enjoys supporting local artists and organizations by attending events like Art 'Round Town, live theater performances, and concerts throughout the community. Hope values the role the arts play in fostering connection, creativity, and a strong sense of place.



2026 - 2027

PORTSMOUTH ARTS & CULTURAL COMMISSION

STAFF LIASON

**SEAN
CLANCY**

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER —————
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**



2026 - 2027

PORTSMOUTH ARTS & CULTURAL COMMISSION
COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKGROUP

KATE COOK

CITY COUNCIL

Councilor Cook is in her third term as a Portsmouth City Councilor and serves as the Arts Liaison for the Council to the Arts & Cultural Commission and the Public Art Review Committee. She loves the arts because they enrich our lives, and the lives of our community members. While she is not a professional artist, she loves playing piano and dancing.



2026 - 2027

PORTSMOUTH ARTS & CULTURAL COMMISSION
COLLABORATIONS & RESOURCES WORKGROUP

SECRETARY

**JEFFREY
COOPER**

ARTIST

Jeffrey is a furniture maker and wood sculptor living and working in Portsmouth for over 4 decades, a member of the Guild of NH Woodworkers and the NH Furniture Masters Association. In Past years Jeffrey has been an active participant and steering committee member of Portsmouth Listens and the deliberative democracy movement. He is now putting that effort into the Arts & Cultural Commission, wishing to help support Portsmouth's vibrant creative community be successful and able to live and work right here in Portsmouth as he has had the privilege of doing.



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PORTSMOUTH ARTS & CULTURAL COMMISSION
COLLABORATIONS & RESOURCES WORKGROUP

DEMI DUBOIS

3S ARTSPACE

Demi grew up in Durham and recently moved back to the Seacoast area as an empty nester. She served as Chair of the Melrose Cultural Council (2005-2010) and was a 2007 recipient of the MA Cultural Council's Leadership Circle Award. Among other volunteer efforts, Demi founded and led the Melrose Open Studio Tour (MOST) from 2017 to 2022. She has been on the Board of 3S Artspace since April 2025.



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PORTSMOUTH ARTS & CULTURAL COMMISSION
COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKGROUP

MATT DYDO

CITIZEN

Matt is a Seacoast New Hampshire-based creative collaborator deeply invested in the local arts and culture scene. Keeping his finger on the pulse of regional music, poetry, and cultural events, he loves connecting audiences with meaningful creative experiences. Whether he is organizing programming with CreativeMornings PKX or championing local venues, he thrives on bringing community-driven projects to life. He firmly believes that the arts are the heartbeat of any great community and works constantly to foster spaces where local storytellers can thrive. For Matt, supporting the regional cultural landscape isn't just a pastime—it is a way of life.



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MARGHERITA GIACOBBI

PLAYERS' RING THEATRE

Margherita has over 15 years of experience as a leader, producer, and administrator in nonprofit arts and culture organizations worldwide. She holds degrees in communications, professional acting, and arts administration, and began her career at La Scala Opera Theatre Academy in Milan, Italy. She later managed cultural programs in the United Arab Emirates and contributed to the launch of Dubai Opera. For the past seven years, she has served as Executive Director of the Players' Ring Theatre in Portsmouth, focusing on joy, excellence, and efficiency.



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SARAH ILLINGWORTH

PORTSMOUTH MAKERSPACE

Sarah Illingworth joined Port City Makerspace in 2025 as the organization's first Executive Director (ED). She began her career as a nonprofit ED in New Hampshire, later transitioning to international public health. After spending seven years living in Zambia, she's thrilled to be back on the Seacoast and grateful to be a part of PCMS's kind-hearted, supportive, and talented community.



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PORTSMOUTH ARTS & CULTURAL COMMISSION
COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKGROUP

VICE CHAIR

**KEN
GOLDMAN**

ARTIST

Ken retired as an engineer after almost 40 years working for a Navy Laboratory. He is now a photographer, writer, traveler and local volunteer. Ken has always wanted to do something in the arts and finally found his niche in photography. He typically photographs whatever is in front of him, but his current focus is on street and urban photography. You will frequently see him meandering around Portsmouth, or at public events, camera(s) in hand, documenting life in the city. Ken enjoys donating his work to non-profit organizations, and exhibiting his work at various locations including the Foundry Place Parking Garage, the Portsmouth Senior Activity Center, Kittery Art Association, Portsmouth Athenæum and the Portsmouth Public Library.



2026 - 2027

PORTSMOUTH ARTS & CULTURAL COMMISSION
EDUCATION/ADVOCACY WORKGROUP

CO-CHAIR

**LINNEA
GRIM**

STRAWBERRY BANKE MUSEUM——

Linnea has 25 years of experience working in leadership positions at nationally relevant historic sites and history organizations. She joined Strawberry Banke Museum as its President and CEO in March 2023. Prior to working at Strawberry Banke, she worked for 16 years at Monticello, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Charlottesville, Virginia.



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PORTSMOUTH ARTS & CULTURAL COMMISSION
EDUCATION/ADVOCACY WORKGROUP

ELI KAYNOR

CITIZEN

Cellist Eli Kaynor is an active teaching artist and performer, whose professional career encompasses the full gamut of musical genres, including chamber, orchestral, solo, ethnic, folk, and rock. Eli is an active Teaching Artist at Portsmouth Music and Arts Center (PMAC), where he also serves as Chief Development Officer. Through his work, both at and away from the instrument, Eli spends his time building audiences and fostering community.



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PORTSMOUTH ARTS & CULTURAL COMMISSION
COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKGROUP

THERESA MACDOWELL

CITIZEN

A lifelong lover of the arts, Theresa built her early creative experience through roles at the UNH Museum of Art and Firefly Pottery. She has been a Portsmouth resident for the past 6 years and recently completed her MSc degree in Sustainability Management at Columbia University. Currently, Theresa serves as the Vice President of the Board at the New Hampshire Art Association. Theresa's focus sits at the intersection of sustainability, communications, and the arts, with a focus on building more creative, connected, and resilient communities.



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PORTSMOUTH ARTS & CULTURAL COMMISSION
COLLABORATIONS & RESOURCES WORKGROUP

KAREN ROSANIA

ARTIST

Karen spent more than 30 years working in healthcare before pursuing her lifelong dream of opening her own art studio, Oliveteal Arts. Passionate about both the arts and the Portsmouth community, she served as Co-Chair of the Portsmouth Cultural Plan Subcommittee from 2022–2023. She has valued the opportunity to collaborate with so many dedicated individuals in helping bring the Cultural Plan to life. Karen is happiest when teaching art to students of all ages and has been a longtime art instructor with the Portsmouth Senior Activity Center and several local nonprofit organizations.



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CO-CHAIR

**EMMA
STRATTON**

PORTSMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY —

Emma has served as the Executive Director of Portsmouth Historical Society since 2022. She brings a passion for community engagement and preservation advocacy to her work. With a MA in Museum Studies, she has over 20 years experience working at art and history museums throughout New England and Washington, DC. She is also President of the Board of the Portsmouth Archives Center and a Board member for the NH Center for Nonprofits.



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