

ENFIELD CULTURE & ARTS COMMISSION

Regular Meeting– Tuesday, September 13, 2022

Enfield Town Hall, Scitico Room 6:30 pm

Present

Jason Neely, Donna Hamre, Emily Clifford, Steph MacGillivray, Lori Unghire, Nzima Hutchings, Joyce Bolanos

Prior minutes not accepted due to no quorum.

Old Business:

Mary Keller will be invited to join our October meeting to speak about the Torchlight Parade and how ECAC can support the event this December.

Family Day is this Sunday, September 18. The event runs 11:30-4:00. Steph, Donna and Emily will be at the event. Emily will contact Samantha Brown and Amy Whitbro to confirm our locations and to share our concerns about past years the sidewalk chalk squares being walked on by patrons. We will confirm that there will be chairs and tables available for use. We will have our pop-up tent, sign, swag, mini grant and chalk.

In future meetings, we will discuss the purchase of our own table and chairs for event use.

New Business

Applicants were invited to join us to speak about their experience and their interest in joining the Enfield Culture and Arts Commission.

Nzima Hutchings (pronounced N-Zima)

Commission Introductions followed by questions for the applicants.

1. Have you belonged to any culture and arts groups?
Nzima chairs a 3 day festival in Hartford which included a writing conference, a live stage event, workshops and the festival is open to everyone in New England. She is also involved with UJIMA and a literary Arts Wellness retreat.
2. What about our commission interested you the most?
Building Community, productions, hope to help the commission be more vibrant. Nzima has lived in Enfield since 2001. Her children attended Enfield Schools, participated in sports, Girl Scouts, Enfield Library events. She is looking forward to building community to get to know each other.
3. Sounds like you know what it takes to put on events, what is your availability?
Because of her 3 day festival August and September are her busiest time of the year. She understands the commitment and that it takes work outside of the meetings and is willing to support.
4. Any questions for us?

NZima asked about the stability of the commission, we spoke about the transition and past history of the former boards. Through the most recent transition the Town Council and the Town Manager have an increased attention in our commission which opens up more opportunities.

5. Nzima asked aside from the monthly meetings, what are some of the things that we are most proud of?
 - a. Poet Laureate Position for the Town of Enfield
 - b. Mini Grant program, a flexible way for us to connect with organizations.
 - i. Instrument lending program at the library
 - c. Paul Biscattia concert at the Senior Center
 - d. Family Day sidewalk chalk contest
 - e. Women's club Art Show
 - f. Hanging art gallery at the Pearl Street library
 - g. Participating in the Torchlight Parade
 - h. Festival of Trees at the Library

Joyce Bolanos

Commission Introductions followed by questions for the applicant

1. Do you belong to any culture or arts commissions?

Joyce was on the Arts and Cultural Commission for the City of Hartford, she wrote policy. She has an objective to enhance art throughout the city. Joyce has been in contact with the former commission board members regarding interest in murals in town. She is interested in getting people access to the arts. There are funds available at the state level to apply for. She wants to help to take ECAC to the next level and believes that arts should be integrated with the history of the town. The historical museums and Martha Parsons House should be taught about and Art History should be integrated into the curriculum.
2. How did the murals in Hartford come to be and how could Joyce support us with our Murals?

She said the first step is to identify buildings that are owned by the town, then to find money to support the private sector. There is a lot of potential, we should have a list of volunteers for the Artists who are interested in getting involved.
To bring more art we should have gallery openings in public spaces throughout town using Real Artways in Hartford as an example.
3. How long have you lived in Enfield?

She has been a member of the Enfield community since 2008. She is involved in many ventures in Enfield from being involved with the Enfield Fencing Club, being a farmer who sells garlic at the Enfield Farmers Market and she is a Spanish teacher at Suffield Academy.
4. What is your availability to allow for meetings and events?

Joyce works part time and is available to put any events on her calendar.

Miscellaneous:

We currently have 3 members. We have agreed that NZima and Joyce would be great additions to our commission. Lori will speak with the Town Council to have them appointed as soon as possible. With their appointments that will give us 5 members with 2 remaining vacancies on our commission.

Emily and Steph have been added as administrators to the Facebook page.

Next Event: September 18, 2022 Family Day Sidewalk Contest, Town Green 11:30am-4pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Hamre, Secretary