

HPAC Monthly meeting
11/13/25 HP Library 6PM

Attending:

Amanda Rooms, Irina Radeva, Arianna Astuni, Norma Vargas, John Marron, Amee Pollack,
Sonya Elefante

Via phone: Lianna Zamora

1. Call Meeting to Order
 - a. Attendance
2. Minutes and Agenda
 - a. Approve/update minutes from previous meeting and agenda - approved
3. Old Business
 - a. Status of action items and ongoing topics from previous meeting:
 - i. John to reach out to Mel (?) from jazz band to get invoice
 - John will reach out directly
 - ii. Nomination of secretary or co-secretaries
 - No nomination was made. There will be no secretary for the time being. The group will rotate taking minutes and will explore automated software.
 - b. Discussion of past projects or events
 - i. Scarecrow Contest - People liked them and took photos. Need more ads. All collected. Will deliver gift cards this weekend. We will use duck tape on poles. Well re-use PVC. 10 kits are leftover for next yr. No businesses can advertise on the scarecrows. Liquor and cannabis businesses cannot participate in the contest as per Norma - all businesses have to cater to all ages. A huge thank you to Liana, Amee, and Norma!
 - ii. L&C Youth 10/26
 - Sonya reports class went well. 8 kids and 4 adults - sold out
 - iii. Inventory of current t-shirts - postponed
4. Updates
 - a. Learn & Create
 - 3 programs remaining for 2025 - we need heavy advertising - suggestions were given to promote through Main st, Schools, Library, Kim at community center, Facebook groups
 - Posters were printed at Boro Hall and distributed to the group to put up wherever they can. Harry Glazer will post them in town bulletin boards.
 - b. FLAG (Exhibit Edition) Opening

- Sonya has organized the event to piggyback to a poetry night at Raices. There will be small snacks and drinks served. Remarks will be made. Please everyone attend if you can.
- c. FLAG (2 new sites)
 - One site - in front of MSHP (approved)
 - 2nd site by Irving school - Sonya to email Terri H and copy Norma (pending approval)
 - Sonya will connect with DPW (via Norma) on scheduling once both are approved
 - We'll hold events for make tiny art making - already have the supplies
- d. Poetry Festival
 - Need folding chairs!
 - Judges have been contacted and confirmed. Judges will choose winners (5 categories/prizes)
 - One additional prize "People's Choice" will be public voting after event
 - 2 photographers Tom and Mason will be working the event
 - Sound person is confirmed
 - Pinos has been reserved from 1-9PM to help with set up
 - We'll print out Postcards and put them out for people to write messages to their neighbors
- e. WOU
 - Sonya spoke with Sarah
 - We will sponsor 2 artists for 2025 (\$500 each)
 - We'll help host either Tables of understand or closing in 2026
 - Approx \$1500- \$2000 per year committed to this partnership (pending HPAC budget)
 - **Tables of U - should be co-sponsored with Human Relations commission**
- f. AAYF - re-prints and MCC project
 - A piece of home - MCC - HPAC sponsor 2 decals - up to \$300 APPROVED
 - Re-prints of 2-3 pieces that have come up from sidewalk
- g. New T-shirts - approves designs for new t shirts by local artist Katia Pouleva (same artist as last year)
- h. Post Cards - we'll print and distribute as promotional material
- i. Stipend / use of art - Julia Win Highland Park logo collage - APPROVED \$250
- j. Library Partnership Update- **postponed**

5. New Business

- a. Motions
- b. Review budget status / plan for remaining 2025 budget
 - everyone to send budget ideas for 2026 to Sonya ASAP, as we have to submit budget to the Boro soon.

6. Elections

- Secretary - will be rotating
- Amee Pollack Nominated Sonya Elefante for Chair - all voted Yes
- Amee Pollack Nominated Irina Radeva for Vice-Chair - all voted Yes

7. Action Items

- a. Review action items for the coming month and delegate who is responsible for follow up and determine timeline.

8. Adjournment - 8:25PM

Action Items:

1. John to update group on Jazz money (John)
2. Advertise online and put up posters to promote 3 upcoming L&C programs and Poetry Festival (ALL)
3. Email Terri for FLAG location approval (Sonya/Norma)

Postponed items for this agenda:

1. T-shirt inventory
2. Library Art Partnership

HPAC Meeting 10/9/25, 6:00 PM HP Library

In attendance:

Amanda Rooms, Irina Radeva, Liana Zamora, Arianna Astuni, Norma Vargas, John Marron, Amee Pollack, Sonya Elefante

Guests:

Sarah Ferreira - Division Head of Engagement & Community Development Art Institute of Middlesex

Alfred Dudley III, Rolonda Franklin, Anne Stephen - Potential new members

New Member interest meeting 6-7PM

Regular Meeting 7-8PM

1. Minutes and agenda- approved
2. Windows of Understanding 2026 - *Mobilizing Change and Sustaining Communities*
 - Sarah Ferreira, Division Head of Engagement & Community Development Art Institute of Middlesex came to speak to the group about our continued partnership with WOU
 - Some upcoming projects will be centered around children with special needs, including art workshops and workshops for parents/caregivers
 - Sonya and John will follow up with Sarah about specific program needs and HPAC's contributions
3. Scarecrow (Liana)
 - Members were asked to support our initiatives on social media like, comment, share post about the contest
 - Pick up will be at Norma's house
 - We hang the scarecrows up for 3 wks - Hanging up - date TBD, but members will be asked to help day of
 - Take down will be Nov 6th - members will be asked to help day of
 - Prizes - \$75 x3
 - Winners will be announced on social
4. Poetry Festival (Arianna)
 - Arianna need help with the following:
 - CONTACT Mason Resnick for PHOTOGRAPHY - **John**
 - Other activities at tables?
 - IN charge of tables for poetry books - **CANCELLED**
 - Confirm Pino's reservation for 12/7 - **Amee**
 - Book the judges - **Irina**
 - Make Flyer - **Liana**
 - Oversee Marketing (?)

- MC duties - Arianna, Irina - (Anyone else?)
- In charge of sign in/ w9 for winners - Sonya

5. Learn and Create (Irina)

- Two Programs are already scheduled:
 - 10/26 - Sonya
 - 11/16 - Amanda
- Asked the group to approve one more for \$200-225 - proposal below - approved by all
- In talks to do one more for the year, waiting for a proposal

6. Flag (Sonya) -

- Installed - viewing gallery, still need to plan opening event
- The 2 other FLAGS are waiting locations approval - waiting for DPW to approve and then schedule installation

7. Budget review (Sonya) - At time of meeting Sonya was still in the process of reviewing the budget and calculating unspent money (accounted for/approved vs available). Below is a rough estimate of where we stand as of now for the budget:

- Total budget - \$18,200
- (MINUS) Money spent and encumbered as of today - \$5,200
- **(MINUS) Money already approved for specific projects: \$6,250 - \$7,750**
 - This includes:
 - \$550 Learn&Create (3 programs)
 - \$2500 t-shirts
 - \$2250 poetry fest
 - \$1000 scarecrow contest (\$500 supplies, \$250 prizes)
 - \$500 jazz band (confirm) ?
 - \$1000 WOU - unsure if this will be spent from 2025 or 2026 budget but we technically set it aside for 2025 (?)
- **(EQUALS) Unspent and unencumbered money: \$5,250 - \$6,750**

8. Old business

- Jazz band - John will reach to Mel - we want to pay him in 2025

9. New Business

- Anee proposed an idea to facilitate a Pop-up event for local artists bu having HPAC pay for a space where artist set up tables and sell their art
- Change of leadership:
 - Sonya Elephante will run for Chair
 - Irina Radeva will fun for Vice Chair
 - Secretary or Co- Secretary needs to be filled
 - will Vote Next Month - Nov.

Adjournment:
8 PM

Action Items:

1. Scarecrow contest promotion and engagement on Social Media (**ALL**)
2. Submit one more L&C proposal (**Irina**)
3. John to reach out to Mel - Jazz to get him paid (**John**)
4. Need to nominate Secretaries or 2 Co-Secretaries (**ALL**)
5. Poetry Festival Assignments - (**ALL**)
*contact Mason Resnick- John

Addendum:

Learn & Create Proposal:

Karin Jervert

Workshop Title: Draw Yourself as a Super Hero!

Synopsis: In this drawing workshop we will use simple graphic narrative concepts and drawing activities, to explore the 'super hero' within. How can we see aspects of who we are that are sometimes framed as limitations, as super powers instead? We'll work together to create a sense of confidence, community, and support in our diversities as we use visual storytelling to encourage strength and pride in our differences. Everyone will leave with a visual representation of ourselves as a super hero. All levels of artistic experience are welcome. I will provide some drawing guidelines (like stencils and patterns) for different aspects of a super hero character to trace and mix and match, or, if you are comfortable, you can draw something completely on your own.

Materials: Colored markers, paper, pencils, erasers.

Duration: 1 ½ hours

HPAC Meeting 9/11/25, 6:30 PM HP Library

In attendance:

Amanda Rooms, Irina Radeva, Liana Zamora, Arianna Astuni, Norma Vargas

Guest: Ruth Fishman

Absent: John Marron, Ameer Pollack, Sonya Elefante

Agenda:

1. approve minutes & agenda - approved
2. Queer Quoir (QQ)
 - Continue to promote QQ - Repost and video of the event from elsewhere
 - Thank you to Lianna for continually keeping on top of the postings for this event
 - Arianna will host and direct traffic between rehearsal and performance
3. Arts in Park
 - We'll be spots 248/250 between 2nd 3rd
 - Irina will send an email to clarify details about tabling, activity and supplies
4. L&C Series
 - Sonya will hold a kids one at Env. Center Oct. 26th - needs a helper
 - Amanda - will still do a Zine making - Nov. - will send a proposal to the group - needs a helper. Main goal will be to solidify date so we can secure a space
 - after a request from Arianna, Irina will create a short inquiry google form for people who are interested in doing L&C program in the future
5. Scarecrow
 - Waiting for Main St./DPW to answer, Norma will follow up next week
 - Do we want to think of Alternative project, if this one is not approved on time
6. Comm Center - skip
7. Blm painting - done!

old & new business

- The group briefly discussed current and future membership, and leadership transition. Would be best for leadership to be clarified before we invite new members. So we'll discuss and possibly vote on that in Oct., have an informational sessions (~20 mins in the Nov. meeting). This will allow people who want to join to fill out application and schedule a interview with the Mayor before the end of the year. We have 6 alt spots.
- Halloween art show/dance party - postponed until next year

- Sculpture update - current walkway bumpout is for planter. Library Director has to talk to library board for further approval of possible sculpture - will update us by next meeting. Do we want to pursue it in a different location in town? - Ideas are welcome.
- FLAG - update - both have been ordered, Norma is still waiting for more info about locations
- IM Gallery owner would like a mural in her alley (2026 project?). We'll discuss in future meetings

Adjournment 8PM

Action Items:

1. We'll continue to advertise QQ on social media - (**Liana**)
2. Email about Art in the Park final organization - (**Irina**) - DONE
3. Amanda will send L&C program proposal to the group - (**Amanda**)
4. Need volunteers to help both Sonya's and Amanda's programs - (**ALL**)