



MEETING MINUTES
METUCHEN ARTS COUNCIL (MAC)
July 21, 2025, 7:30pm
At the Metuchen Senior Center

Voting Members Present: Chair Mark Harris, Vice Chair Meg Loftus Suchan, Secretary Deborah Kmetz, Daniel Acosta, Jamie Aderski, Carmen Balentine, Lenore Boyarin, Carolyn Hamming, Terry Kohl, Alexis Sarmiento, John Sharp, Joanne Stern

Auxiliary/Guests/Liaisons Present:

Danny Adlerman, Joel Branch, Gina Coffey, Wendi Richards, Grace Shackney, Dylan Thurston, Alessandra Valea

CALL TO ORDER:

- Chair Mark Harris called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm and acknowledged the Sunshine Law.

MINUTES: Secretary Deborah Kmetz asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. All voting members present at the previous meeting voted to approve.

PROGRAMS/REPORTS:

- Mark Harris:
 - We are looking for programs to support over the next 2 years – spread the word
 - Multicultural Day is being planned for Oct. 4, 2025. Tobi Santagado of Mignolo Dance, in collaboration with the Human Rights Commission, will work to bring in more groups, and events in addition to dance. Since it's at Mignolo, they can have vendors.
 - Borough photo project is off to a great start with almost 3,300 views on the Borough FaceBook page
- Meg Loftus Suchan:
 - PorchFest plans are going well. Houses and performers are set, volunteers needed to keep a MAC presence at each venue. Social media coming soon.
 - Document Management is in the works so future members can see details of what has happened in planning past events. The Borough has approved using Google for document storage.
- Carmen Balentine – Looking at later in October for a blues concert.

LIASON REPORTS:

- Friends of Metuchen Arts (FOMA) Reports:
 - Grace Shackney:
 - JazzFest is on schedule and the press release has been picked up by many news outlets. The schedule is Woodbridge (Wednesday, Sept. 24 at Parker Press Park), Carteret (Friday, Sept. 26 at the Carteret Performing Arts Center), Metuchen (Saturday, Sept. 27 at Metuchen High School) and New

Brunswick (Sunday, Sept. 28 on Livingston Avenue in from of NBPAC).
Performance information available at www.middlesexcountyjazzfestival.com.

- Metuchen Classical series will feature Peter and the Wolf on Sept. 7 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church; a silent movie on Oct. 5 at First Presbyterian Church; and a Peace on Earth concert on Nov. 30, also at First Presbyterian Church.
- Dylan Thurston – Metuchen Jazz for Youth will perform at Hailey's on Aug. 2, 1:30-4pm and may repeat every other month if it goes well. A performance is also planned for Oct. at Mignolo.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Grace Shackney: Metuchen Vibes exhibit opening at FOMA Gallery on July 27, up until Sept. 28. Gallery hours are Wednesdays 6-8pm and Sundays 1-3pm. There will be concerts during some of the open hours.
- Danny Adlerman: Open Mic 70's night up next last Friday of July at the Old Franklin Schoolhouse.
- Grace Shackney: Need volunteers for the Heart Festival in New Brunswick where we usually have a table and sign people up for the mailing list.
- Terry Kohl: Rise Up Community Arts will perform Newsiew Jr. on Friday, July 25, 2pm.
- Alessandra Valea: Metuchen Dance Centre students will perform Peter Pan Jr. at Villagers Theater in Franklin Township Aug. 15-16.
- Grace Shackney: Nunzio Moudatsos will open a music store downtown with recording space and selling records and music-related items
- Carmen Balentine: Friends of Metuchen Library will have an art-themed trivia night Wed. Aug. 13, Carmen will host.

ADJOURNMENT: All business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned by Mark Harris at 8:12 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 18, 2025, at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Kmetz, Metuchen Arts Council Secretary