

Initial formation of committee is as a tight WORKING group of not less than five nor more than 15 members (as per city Charter). Each individual must be a current resident of the city.

Membership and Organization:

Cabot Parsons will chair the committee. Rob Rutigliano will serve as vice-chair. The Committee will be composed of up to fifteen members of the Mayor's selection and will include both artists and non-artists, long term residents and newcomers, and representatives of business including but not limited to (BBA, BACA) and individual artist (BAS) organizations. Also will be sought members of (HCC, DIA and the Main Street Corridor Committee) as well as individuals representing all forms of visual and performance art.

Proposed Mission of Committee

The committee's mission is to strengthen the arts in Beacon in all its facets, and support the art related efforts of the community in all manner determined to be appropriate on behalf of the city, including sponsoring projects, creating ordinance and procedure for public art exhibitions and performances, supporting the efforts of the various arts and arts-related business organizations, representing the city in a larger context throughout the mid-Hudson valley and beyond, working with the city's neighbors on mutually beneficial arts-related activities and providing such technical assistance as is warranted and available for individuals, groups and businesses, and providing a sounding board to city residents on issues related to arts and culture, promoting an understanding of the value of artistic and cultural expression and exchange in a free society as a rich resource to all Beacon citizens, businesses and visitors.

Suggested Initial Tasks

Define the scope of work of the committee

Meet with other city departments and committees and determine mutual areas of cooperation

Create mechanisms to include the community and its various constituencies in both the process and projects of the committee

Identify strategies to realize any applicable sections of the comprehensive plan

Assess the need for any relevant city ordinances or other official municipal documentation, procedure or official language and draft, approve and adopt or send to the mayor and council for such adoption, as required

Prioritize the Committees projects and processes relative to areas of opportunity and current available resources such as talent, locations, events, etc.

Develop a comprehensive art plan – including a plan of action and identify potential resources for any long term projects.

Partner with both art and business organizations and others to create mutually supportive projects that advance the cause of the arts in Beacon.

The scope of the committee may include the following projects:

City as Canvas, City as Stage (Public Performing and Visual Arts; Opportunities and Processes)

Accessibility and the Arts – Public Participation in the Creation and Enjoyment of the Arts, Arts for special audiences (children, seniors), Celebration of World Cultures via the Arts

Arts as Economic Driver: Cultural Tourism, Arts as Light Industry, Promotion of Beacon as Cultural Mecca, Special Needs of Individual Artists working/living in Beacon, Beacon as Center for Regional Art with nearby municipalities (Hamilton Fish Arts Alliance), Art and a Sustainable Culture

Performing and Visual Arts Education for the serious student (adult and youth), emphasis on high level opportunities, apprentice and internships, graduate level residencies, partnering with regional neighbors for a world-class arts education network.

Beacon as national thought leader in sustainable arts development – a living laboratory

In addition an annual open arts forum will be held, the first being within four months of the initial meeting of the committee. This forum will invite regional arts and non-arts related businesses and their trade organizations (GSDCC, BBA, BACA, EDC, DCT, DCAC), arts organizations for individuals (BAS), presenting organizations (The Howland Cultural Center, The Rutigliano Group), community organizations that contain in their programming an arts component (Beacon City Schools, Howland Library, MLK Center, Beacon Community Center, Clearwater, Beacon Sloop Club, Spirit of Beacon Day committee, area churches, synagogues and mosques), city departments involved in arts projects (Public Works, Parks and Recreation) and individual arts groups (and company performance collective, FLYING SWINE, Kick the Dog and True North theatre companies, Howland Chamber Music Society, The Gwen Laster Group and others) and individual artists and arts patrons/supporters to gather together to discuss the various

communal arts-related needs, share ideas for progress, become involved in various committee projects moving forward, network and connect with new resources.

Committee Guidelines

Report to the mayor on a regular basis and periodically to the city council such as within 6 months and then annually, the activities and accomplishments of the committee. The Committee does not maintain an annual operating city budget.

This committee will identify, advise, advocate and at the Mayor's request implement the city's interests in supporting the cultural and individual expression of the arts as they relate to the city's government, residents, businesses and visitors. Special focus is on accessibility of art to all, public participation in the process, public discourse and the role of arts in Beacon particular as an economic driver through both cultural tourism and attraction of new arts-related businesses, sustainable applied arts industry and investment.

This committee is a transparent committee – actively partnering with private arts and business interests and with individuals and groups of individuals producing or promoting the performing, visual and applied arts in and around Beacon.

All committee meetings will be open to the general public, and regular announcements will be made to the various organizations and individuals mentioned above, as well as to the public at large. A section of each committee meeting will be open for public discussion of open issues, particular projects or areas of interest to those in attendance.

All large projects will include a community involvement component, either in additional task force members not on the central committee or in partnering with existing community organizations. Various ongoing functions, such as public art review, will be done in conjunction with committee created review panels, containing EQUALLY both peer (artists, educators, gallery owners, collectors) and community-at-large (residents, business owners, clergy) members, chosen at random from interested parties.

Upon the establishment of the committee's mission, scope of work, suggested ordinances and procedures, and comprehensive art plan, the committee at that time may recommend to the mayor that additional members be added to the committee, and work with the mayor and city administrator to identify and recruit such members. HOWEVER, it is recommended that the committee establish a common green welcome to ALL residents and affiliated parties. While the work of particular ad hoc or ongoing projects may contain a variety of individual participants and organizational partners, the city committee will remain a tight working group dedicated to the management and facilitation of a robust and responsive forum for all.

A Few Notes for Clarification:

What the committee is not....

The committee is not a replacement for all of the other amazing groups, organizations, businesses and individuals who make up the arts in Beacon.

The committee is not the arbiter of all things arts in Beacon, but does have a pivotal roll in providing for the aesthetic as well as practical review of public art projects in the city.

The committee is not the principal funding organization for the arts in Beacon, but can bring significant financial and other tangible and intangible resources to the table for assistance and support. The committee does not maintain an annual operating city budget.

The committee is not the chamber of commerce or economic development task force, but due to Beacon's burgeoning arts industry has influence in promoting these areas.

The committee is not responsible for the promotion of tourism, but due to the large draw of visitors to our city to participate in the arts as visitors to our museum and galleries, audiences for our concerts and plays, or as fellow artists from nearby municipalities searching for kindred contemporaries, also has influence in promoting these areas.

Communication Plan

Inclusive, transparent two-way communication is key to this committee's success.

To that end the committee will –

Post a calendar of committee meetings on the city website

Maintain an informational page of current issues, programs and opportunities on the city website

Make available contact information for all committee members on the city website, and assign each member an area of interest (cultural tourism, arts in education, etc.,) so that persons wishing to bring ideas to the committee between meetings know which committee member to contact

Notify arts related and other interested organizations prior to each meeting with agenda topics and participation opportunities included, so that folks interested in certain parts of the arts scene in Beacon will know in advance whether those issues or programs are being discussed

Make notification of meetings available through announcements on Beacon Citizen Network, the Beacon Free Press and on Municipal Access television

Guarantee all committee meetings be open to the public

Provide open time at each meeting for general discussion by the public in attendance on subjects covered by that particular meeting, or other arts issues of interest

On actionable items, either announcement of said item at prior meeting to give time for community feedback, or delay of action on item till next meeting for same

Make available any documents distributed to the committee either from within or from the general public in a binder to be housed at the Howland Library in the Research Section, available for public view during regular library hours

Hold an annual open arts forum for all interested parties to gather together to discuss the various communal arts-related needs, share ideas for progress, become involved in various committee projects moving forward, network and connect with new resources

Give an annual report to the Beacon City Council on all activities of the committee

Around each major area of interest, develop public programming or projects, panel discussions or participatory exhibits, to encourage community involvement, and if possible broadcast any applicable portions of these events on Municipal Access television

Make available a Speaker's Bureau, initially focused on the work of the committee but also potentially on other arts topics, to address both arts and non-arts organizations and groups of individuals about the arts in Beacon

Make notification of any actionable items referred from the committee through the mayor to city council for review/approval and their placement on city council workshop and meeting agendas for any interested parties to attend

Thank you!