

DATE: November 24, 2021
TIME: 8:59 AM

Belmont Cultural Council
Minutes of August 24 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Meeting Via Zoom

Attending: Vicki Amalfitano (Chair), Jenny Angel, Evelyn Corsini, Volkan Efe, Millie Rahn, Nancy Linde*, Yingchun Ye, Annette Goodro*

Absent: Rebecca Richards, Juliet Jenkins*

* *non-voting members*

- **Draft minutes from 5/10/21 were voted on and approved.**
- **Slate of Officers for 2021-2022 were voted on and approved.**
 - **Co-Chairs:** Vicki Amalfitano and Millie Rahn
 - **Treasurer:** Annette Goodro
 - **Secretary:** Jenny Angel
- **Treasurer's Report**
 - The BCC has a \$7800.00 allocation from the state MCC to award in grants for programming in 2022.
 - BCC has \$619.00 in accumulated, unspent interest.
 - The treasurer suggested a 5% holdback for website and other administrative costs (this was not yet held to a vote).
- **Community Survey Results**
 - There were 193 responses, but Survey Monkey only recorded the first 40.
 - 1/3 of respondents didn't know BCC existed.
 - 1/3 didn't know BCC awarded grants.
 - There was a majority in favor of funding programming targeting families and children.
 - Vicki has updated BCC priorities based on the survey feedback. This document is attached to the end of these minutes (**Attachment #1**).
- **Grants Status and Calendar**
 - Sept 9: MCC is holding an online training to assist prospective grantees in filling out their grant applications. Juliet will publicize this on the BCC website, and Jenny will publicize it on BCC facebook.
 - The grants timeline for 2022 was reviewed.
 - 2021 Grants Update
 - The birdhouse project has requested approval to be pushed to next spring. There were no objections.
 - 9/11/21 Belmont Porchfest is going forward. Organizer Mary Bradley is looking for more volunteers.

- The Sensory-Friendly project at Habitat held 8/18/21 had no participants (Annette was there as an observer).
 - Nancy will find out new dates for Council on Aging programming that has been delayed due to Covid (e.g., the Greek dinner).
 - The Payson Park Music Festival had to reschedule due to weather.
- Review of BCC liaisons to town organizations
 - Film Festival and Food Collaborative: Millie
 - International festivals, including New Moon International Media and looking into establishing a connection to the East Indian community: Yingchun
 - Vicki will follow up with the MCC contact, Timothea, about adding a high-school student as a member of the BCC.
- Outreach to get word out about the upcoming grants deadline
 - Town website, Parents' facebook, Belmont Public Schools: Vicki
 - Belmont Against Racism, Mass Audubon, Benton Library: Annette
 - Council on Aging: Evelyn
 - Attached to the end of these minutes is the prepared press release (**Attachment #2**).
- **Next Steps**
 - BCC will need to meet twice more before the end of the year. Vicki will conduct a doodle poll to determine the dates.
 - The deadline for filing the BCC annual report is 1/15/22.

There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Angel

Attachment #1

Belmont Cultural Council Priorities, updated 8/24/21

It is important to note that the following description of the Belmont Cultural Council priorities may be adjusted during the COVID-19 crisis.

In addition, the Belmont Cultural Council will be waiving "physical venue" requirements due to COVID-19 considerations. All proposals that still include an in-person event or physical gathering must adhere to the Town of Belmont and Commonwealth of Massachusetts COVID rules and regulations. If your project is virtual, please let us know in your application.

The council prioritizes funding applicants from Belmont and cultural events and activities that benefit the Belmont public. Cultural events and projects are defined broadly and include arts, lectures, performances, interpretive science, and humanities. Our July 2021 Community Input Survey indicated that town residents had the greatest preference for community-wide gatherings (festivals, farmers' market activities), the performing arts (concerts and plays), educational programs and events in Belmont schools, public art, and nature, science, and environmental education. The population segments of highest importance were families and children.

Priority is given to events that occur in Belmont, and that are in collaboration with Belmont based organizations. Applicants based outside of Belmont are required to secure the sponsorship of a Belmont public or non-profit organization and include a sponsorship letter endorsing the project which must be attached to the online application as a PDF file. The council places a priority on programs that occur after January of the grant cycle, i.e., January 2022 through December 2022, for the upcoming grant year. All grant recipients are expected to present a publicity plan as part of their application. Field trips and funds for food or drink will not be awarded grants.

Council Guidelines

The application form should be completed online at www.massculturalcouncil.org/applications/lccapp.asp. Please answer questions as clearly, directly, and completely as possible. Describe the project and any collaborators and address the review criteria. The budget is divided into Projected Expenses and Projected Income. These must be equal amounts. You can include in-kind donations -- that is, services, materials or facilities which are provided at no cash cost to you. You may not request grant money for field trips and consumables such as food or drink.

Attachment #2: Prepared Press Release for September 1, 2021



Belmont Cultural Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 1, 2021

Contact: Vicki Amalfitano, Chair, Belmont Cultural Council

E-mail: Vicki.Amalfitano@gmail.com

BELMONT CULTURAL COUNCIL SEEKS FUNDING PROPOSALS

Proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs due October 15.

The Belmont Cultural Council, in line with the Mass Cultural Council guidelines, has set an October 15, 2021 deadline for organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community.

According to Council Chair, Vicki Amalfitano, these grants can support community-based projects in the arts, humanities, and sciences. Past projects include public art (Belmont Art Association Transformer Project,) all-town festivals (including Porchfest), music (in 2018 Cellist Mike Block at the Public Library and Ayla Brown at Payson Park Music Festival), dance (Classical Kathak Indian Dance children's show at the Beech St Center), theater, (Stage Ensemble Theater Unit at Belmont's Town Theater, Science (Mass Audubon Habitat's events at the Belmont Farmer's Market) and more!

The Belmont Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community. This year, the Belmont Cultural will distribute about \$7,800 in grants.

The Mass Cultural Council has scheduled a webinar for Applicants to provide more information on the application process on September 9th from 6 to 7:30 PM at <https://massculturalcouncil.org/event/lcc-grant-application-walk-through/> .

For local guidelines and priorities, previously funded projects, and other information on the Belmont Cultural Council, visit www.mass-culture.org/Belmont Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Councils are available online at www.mass-culture.org