

Belmont Art Association Meeting: April 26, 2023

Location: This Zoom meeting was brought to order by Co-Chair Dari Paquette.

Attendees: There were 11 people present, including Sheila Benedis, Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas (Co-Chair), Bert Halstead (Treasurer and Membership Coordinator), Kay Hudgins, Lauren Palmer-Merrill, Bettina Messana, Dari Paquette (Co-Chair), Catherine Pujol-Baxley, Nan Rumpf, Lisa Thomas, and Jane Wentzell (Recording Secretary).

Business Meeting

1. Lauren Palmer-Merrill reported on the status of the BAA table for artists at the Belmont Farmers' Market this summer. Several artists and artisans have already signed up on our website, and there is still room left in the schedule. The table and tent will be provided. Application forms and details regarding costs and scheduling are now live on the BAA website at:

<https://belmontart.org/2023/03/23/belmont-farmers-market-artisan-booth-2023/>

For questions, email Lauren at: bfmtartisanvendors@gmail.com

2. Utility box update: The deadline for this year's "Transforming Belmont" entries was Friday, April 21st, and Dari expects that decisions will be finalized in the upcoming week and artists notified. Three of the boxes will be sponsored by the Belmont Cultural Council and two additional boxes are funded by private donors. Two of the boxes are located along Concord Avenue in front of the high school; the third is on School Street at the intersection with Common Street near St. Joseph's Church; the fourth is at the intersection of Sycamore and Lexington Streets, on Sycamore. The fifth box will be a redo of the "Dogs of Belmont" box at the corner of Slade Street and Trapelo Road, which unfortunately has not weathered well. Compensation will again be \$500 per box.
3. As has been previously reported, BGA Co-Directors Rebecca Richards and Adine Storer announced their retirement from co-directorship at the end of 2023. Rebecca is now working at the Munroe Center for the Arts in Lexington, and Adine moved to Maine during the pandemic. Meetings are being held to chart a path forward, and volunteers are needed to insure the continued existence of the BGA. Two shows are planned for this summer, and the gallery needs help with them.
4. Reminder: BAA's annual \$35 membership fee was due by the end of January.
5. Kathleen Hagan from the Belmont Cultural Council contacted us to announce another window display opportunity in Belmont Center for the month of May. She has tried to solicit interest from other landlords with vacant storefronts, unsuccessfully. Unlike Arlington and Winchester, Belmont provides no incentive for landlords to fill their vacant storefront windows with temporary art displays. Another possible public art opportunity to consider is painting banners for the jersey barriers in Belmont Center that are used to mark off outdoor seating during the summer months.
6. Member Updates:
Anne Katzeff announced that she will be in a two-woman show with Maryann Hondo at the Old Schwamb Mill in Arlington. Her show is called "Seasons of Light" and will have an opening reception on June 24th from 3-4:30 pm. The show continues through August 26th with a closing reception from 2-3:30 pm. Gallery hours are Tuesday and Saturday from 10 am – 4pm.
Minna Rothman told us that she is in seven concurrent shows across the country and internationally. Locally, one of them is in the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics which goes up in June. There will be a group fiber art show at the BGA in November and December, "When Fiber Speaks: Six Conversations." "Emergence" is in Cambridge from July- September. A small scale traveling fiber art show, "Small Expressions," is on display at various national locations, presented by the Handweavers Guild of America, Inc. from July 2023 through May 2024. "Waterline" will appear in the UK between July- October.
Naomi and Karen Berman Mulligan are participating in Lexington Open Studios next month. Naomi is also teaching at the Arlington Center for the Arts.
Kay Hudgins will have work in the BGA's upcoming Wild: Spring Awakening show between May-August.

Presentation

In honor of Autism Acceptance Month, the BAA invited Lisa Thompson to speak to us. Lisa's presentation was called "Mutual Muses." Lisa is a talented artist, engaged in graphic design, commercial art, typography, collage, and photography, and also helps to share her son Connor's beautiful nature photography work with the world. Connor is a young adult, now 28, on the Autism Spectrum and is a student of art, music, and independent living skills. Lisa told us the compelling story of her own art career, of discovering her son's artistic talents, and how she works cooperatively with him to share his beautiful images with the world on Instagram and Facebook as Spectrum Inspired Photography. While showing Connor's splendid photographs, we learned about the challenges of parenting an autistic child and finding the right form of education for him.

Recording Secretary: Jane Wentzell, 617- 489 - 0412
Edits and additional notes by Dari Paquette