

## **Belmont Art Association Meeting: October 19, 2022**

**Location:** This Zoom meeting was brought to order by Co-Chairs Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas and Dari Paquette, who welcomed new members once again. There were 12 people present.

**Attendees:** Jennifer Dubost, Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas (Co-Chair), Irene Fairley, Bert Halstead (Treasurer and Membership Coordinator), Martha Heller, Grace Julian Murthy, Anne Katzeff (webmaster), Lauren Palmer-Merrill, Dari Paquette (Co-Chair), Minna Rothman, Jill Strait, and Jane Wentzell (Recording Secretary).

### **Business Meeting**

1. Treasurer's Update: Bert is behind due to travel.
2. BGA: "More than Words" continues through 10/31. Next up from 11/4-20 is a show by Paula Pitman Brown and her painting students at the MFA, "The Making of Art and Artists," followed by a group show by i3C artists, "Inspiring Change for the Climate Crisis" from 12/3/22 - 1/15/23.
3. Craft Fairs: Beech Street annual holiday craft fair 11/19 from 9 - 3. There are still three openings if anyone is interested. At the Unitarian Universalist First Church in Belmont, the Social Action Holiday Gift Fair will be on 12/4 from 11 - 3 in the parish hall and upper gathering hall. Participation offers artists the opportunity to market their work at the fair while at the same time supporting either the church's Social Action programming or a charitable cause of their choice that is aligned with UU values. They have room for 22 artisans, and they split the proceeds 50/50 with the artists.
4. ArtLinks Arlington has posted a Call for Artists and Artisans for their pop-up store at the Roasted Granola Café at 1346 Mass Ave in Arlington heights. Submissions are due by 10/31. You must be or become an ArtLinks member to apply (it's free). They have wall space for four artists' 2D work priced under \$250 and four tables for 3D arts and crafts on five Saturdays from 1-3 pm. They are scheduling special events, including art talks, a fashion show, weaving demos, jewelry making, and live music. Plus the café offers delicious food and drinks. This pop-up runs from 11/26/22 - 1/30/23.
5. Dari and Naomi applied for another grant from the Belmont Cultural Council to continue "Transforming Belmont" next summer. They expect to learn if they were successful sometime in January or February.
6. Last year, Juliet Jenkins and Katia Muser did an amazing job organizing the first outdoor Holiday Art Market in the Homer Building parking lot. They have announced that they do not have the bandwidth to do it every year. They have offered to supply all the documents they created along the way if someone else wants to take on the project.
7. Members present discussed continuing to hold meetings via Zoom or in person, or attempting a hybrid type. We do not currently have the technology to manage a hybrid. Those present preferred to continue meeting via Zoom. We have some long-distance members and others with delicate immune systems who would otherwise not be able to participate.
8. Member shows: Anne Katzeff is participating in Arlington Open Studios on 11/12 from 11-5 at Arlington Center for the Arts. Minna Rothman: upcoming shows at Arlington Center for the Arts - "Textiles and Fiber" from February - March 2023 and "Waterline" in Scotland (15 artists from five countries connected via "waterline" collaboration with the theme of the flow of a river). Richard Hill has a show in the Belmont Public Library's Reference Room. Bert and Louise Halstead continue their Iceland photography show in the library as well.
9. Our November meeting will feature a "Show and Share" with members who would like to present what they are working on or have recently completed.
10. Webmaster Anne Katzeff reminded members that she can add their info to the BAA website if it is emailed to her.

### **Presentations**

Tonight's program features three of the four 2022 "Transforming Belmont" utility box artists.

Lauren Palmer-Merrill, with “help” from her six-year-old daughter Bianca, painted the box at the intersection of Pleasant and Leonard Streets. Its theme is “Belmont’s Wetlands,” and it was sponsored by Anne Mahon. Lauren said it took her between 15-20 hours to paint the swan swimming across the front of the box with a background of trees, sky and water, with our state bird, the Black-Capped Chickadee, perched on staghorn sumac on one side, and a bluebird on a cattail on the other side. The back of her box abutted a fence, so she didn’t paint anything illustrative there. Lauren reported that while she was painting the box, people in cars shouted out to her, “We love the boxes!”

Returning box artist Grace Julian Murthy painted the box on the Belmont Center delta, along with the two posts in front of it. In honor and support of Ukraine, the color scheme prominently features a strong blue, and a decorative border of yellow flowers. Black silhouettes feature activities people do on the delta and in Belmont Center, with a variety of ages and ethnic groups included. Last year Grace painted a box in Cushing Square that faced challenges from strong tropical downpours. This year besides extreme heat, her water challenges came from the Town sprinkler system, which directed a strong blast of water right at her box and caused the paint to run. Town officials reconfigured the water spray to avoid hitting the box. Unfortunately, shortly after it was completed, high school kids wrote on the box with permanent marker, including the clever word “vandalism.” Dari witnessed kids sitting and standing on the box and asked them to be respectful of the artwork, which probably did not change their behavior.

Jill Strait painted the box in Waverley Square across the street from Wheelworks Bike Shop. She painted a bicycle with coneflowers in a handlebar basket and gardening books on the seat, on a light blue background. The bike spans two sides of the box, which also has pink coneflowers growing at the bottom, a Bike Path sign, and several birds. Wheelworks was very supportive and brought over a shade tent for Jill to use on a particularly hot day. They partially sponsored the box. Among many public art pieces, Jill has painted four boxes in Alston, a mural on the Minuteman Bike Path, and is a graduate of Rhode Island School of Design. She teaches art at the Munroe Center for the Arts and the Mosesian Center, and for 14 years was a studio assistant to Lisa Houck for public art projects in the Boston area.

Greta Piechota could not be with us. She painted the fourth box, sponsored by the Belmont Cultural Council, located at the intersection of School and Belmont Streets. Dari described Greta’s box, which is a graphic design of a red flower and green leaf seen from different perspectives on each side of the box. A strong white line separates the panels. Greta has a degree in graphic design from Sarah Lawrence College.

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