

Committee for Art and Culture
April 9, 2025 Meeting Notes

Present: Peggy Saporito, Ginny Flowers, Shelli Gates, Jeremy Russell, Paige Griffin, Kelly Wyatt

Winter Markets

Staff reported that the final Winter Market of the season is scheduled for this Saturday. The Winter Markets were very successful and are anticipated to continue in future years.

Art Mast Project

Staff reported that artist Noah Snyder is finishing work on his Art Mast.

Barnes Street Nature Loom Project

Staff reported that the Barnes Street Nature Loom project has been completed. Adam with Access Design is currently working on project signage. Staff expressed hope that community members will begin using the loom and weaving materials soon.

Movies in the Park

Staff discussed upcoming movie programming. Fall movies are planned for second Fridays; however, one movie is scheduled for June 6, 2025, to coincide with the last day of school, in partnership with Outer Banks Hospital.

Summer Markets

Staff reported that three rotating vendor spaces will be offered for the Summer Markets. Following outreach to 2024 vendors, many are returning, resulting in three available spots. The rotating format will allow nine vendors to participate, each attending three or four markets. Staff noted that feedback from rotating vendors has been very positive and that the approach has been helpful for vendors new to markets. The committee agreed this model is something to consider for future seasons.

Waggin' Wednesdays

Staff introduced a new event, Waggin' Wednesdays, to be held at the Satterfield Landing Dog Park. The six-week event series will take place every Wednesday beginning June 25th. Planned activities include small pools, water stations, and dog toys. Committee members expressed support for the new event.

Summer Concert Series

Staff reported that the Summer Concert Series scheduling is nearly complete, with one remaining performance slot. Staff is awaiting responses from potential bands.

Seasonal Staffing

Staff reported that Emma Ortega has been hired as a summer temporary/seasonal employee to assist with programming and events. Committee members expressed positive feedback regarding the hire. Staff noted that the position will help support Emma's coursework, and Paige Griffin has been coordinating with her professor. Staff also noted excitement about the additional support Emma will provide during the busy season and discussed the potential for future part-time staffing if programming continues to expand.

Artrageous Festival

Staff reported that the Town will not host a booth at Artrageous this year. Paige Griffin will attend and volunteer in support roles as needed. Volunteers are still being accepted; many committee members are already committed to assisting other booths.

Summer Programming Overview

Staff provided an overview of 2025 summer programming updates, including adjustments to Family Fun Times. Ongoing efforts to recruit volunteers for markets and events were discussed. Staff noted that assistance with vendor support, including short-term coverage to allow vendor breaks, would be helpful. Potential volunteer sources discussed included Studio participants, Mary Kelly, COA Early College students seeking service hours, church youth groups, and homeschool networks.

Holiday Events

The committee discussed ideas to revitalize Holiday Happenings and increase participation. Limitations related to school choir availability were noted. Staff shared that the possibility of an ice-skating rink had been explored, with an estimated cost of \$36,000 for one week, cannot pursue. Other winter-themed event ideas, including snow-making equipment, were also discussed.

Next Steps and Open Items

Staff noted the importance of continuing volunteer outreach and coordination throughout the season. Committee members were encouraged to share ideas and connections that may support programming and staffing needs.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.