

ANNUAL REPORT of the CULTURAL COMMISSION for the Calendar Year 2024.

Per the City of Bangor Code, Chapter 23, Article III, "Commission on Cultural Development," § 23-20, **Meetings; annual report; quorum:** *"The Commission shall meet at least quarterly and, prior to December 31 of each calendar year, shall prepare and submit to the City Council an annual report outlining its activities during the preceding twelve-month period."*

The Commission on Cultural Development's mission is to promote the development of Bangor as a regional arts center that nurtures the artistic and cultural expression of its diverse peoples, and is authorized to assess Bangor's cultural needs; to develop and maintain a comprehensive arts and cultural policy, assuring that plans and policies are developed with consideration of the needs of the community's future adults, providing them with additional incentive to remain or return to Bangor.

Commission members for 2024: Nina Earley, Chair; Hollie Adams, Vice-Chair; Shane Boyes (*as of May 14*); Sundance Campbell (*as of May 14*); Kelly Chenot; Cody Clark; Kal Elmore; Tristan Greenlaw; Barbara McDade; Samantha Schipani; Lovern Stockwell.

Grant Subcommittee, Chair Hollie Adams

Began discussion on instituting a policy for more equitable use of funds across grant cycles, to be continued during calendar year 2025. Reviewed both spring and fall applications and made recommendations to the full commission.

• Spring 2024 Grant Awardees - Total awarded \$7,179

- Bangor Ballet - \$5,000 requested; \$2,293 awarded for alleviation of administrative costs at Thomas School of Dance and venue costs at Gracie Theatre, both in Bangor.
- Bangor Beautiful, Inc. - \$5,000 requested; \$2,293 awarded for commission of a colorful multi-story mural at 116 Hammond Street depicting the Maine woods in springtime by Maine-based artist, Jared Goulette.
- Maine Academy of Modern Music - \$5,000 requested; \$2,293 awarded for support of the Amplify Bangor program.
- Merrilee Schoen - \$1,000 requested; \$300 awarded for reimbursement of materials & supplies purchased for a one-night pop-up art exhibit at the site of the old YMCA building, utilizing some remnants of the building site & a constructed frame to represent images of demolition, archived images from the 1800s and images submitted by Bangor residents.

• Fall 2024 Grant Awardees – Total awarded \$12,000

- Bangor Symphony Orchestra - \$5,000 requested; \$4,000 awarded for the BSO's Music & Wellness Program, particularly to support offering a free public concert at Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness (WPHW) as a pilot project to further explore the healing nature of music.

- Christopher Packard - \$1,000 requested and awarded for reimbursement of materials & supplies purchased for the Bangor Authors Book Fair & Literary Festival, to be held at the Bangor Public Library.
- Penobscot Theatre Company - \$5,000 requested; \$4,000 awarded for the Maine premiere of Jenny Connell Davis' *Matinicus – A Lighthouse Play*.
- Robinson Ballet - \$3,750 requested; \$3,000 awarded for the production of *Stone Soup*, which will be performed at the Gracie Theatre in Bangor.

ARTober Subcommittee, Chair Nina Earley

The city granted the commission \$2,500 for the fiscal year over the \$20,000 base budget. Nominations were received from community members for the Bangor Arts Award. The jury selected Ben Layman as the winner of the \$1,000 award presented at the opening reception held at Chimera Coffee in October. The ARTober committee updated the format of this opening reception to make better use of their available funding, and utilized additional funds for updated marketing materials.

Cultural Assets Subcommittee, Chair Tristan Greenlaw

- Finalized updates to the story maps in the City's GIS database
- Began discussion on additional projects that could lead this committee in the future

2025 Work Plan

1. Review applications and make recommendations for spring and fall 2025 grant cycles; continue discussion on use of funds across grant cycles and whether to change the schedule of grant offerings.
2. Establish an ad-hoc committee to prepare a budget proposal for fiscal year 2026.
3. Lead projects commissioning art for several of the City's public restrooms, as well as art installations in Pickering Park.
4. Continue to collaborate with area organizations in commissioning additional public art projects.
5. Address other issues as they may arise or are referred by City Council.
6. Work on the 5-year vision plan.