



Western Connecticut
Leadership

A Program of



Arts & Culture Session November 6, 2017

Goals and Objectives

- ❖ To provide an overview of the arts and culture in Western Connecticut
- ❖ To introduce the great richness and variety of arts and culture through guest speakers, performers and tours
- ❖ To examine the economic impact of the arts in our community and the issues, challenges and opportunities facing artists and nonprofit organizations
- ❖ To highlight ways in which individuals can become involved with the nonprofits represented

Important Session Information

Session Leaders

Pucci McGill, *WCL '16*
Humphry Rolleston, *WCL '16*

Advisor

Patrick McKenna, Organizational Development Officer, *Connecticut Community Foundation*

Session Attire

Dressing for comfort is appropriate.
Comfortable shoes are recommended.

Venues

Mattatuck Museum
144 West Main Street, Waterbury

Waterbury City Hall
25 Grand Street, Waterbury

The Palace Theater
100 East Main Street, Waterbury

Directions & Parking

Detailed directions and parking information may be found on the Mattatuck Museum's website (www.mattmuseum.org/visit/getting-here/). Free parking is available in the lots on Park Place behind the museum. There is a small lot behind the museum on the left and ample parking in the YMCA lot to the right behind the playground.



Agenda

- 8:30-9:00 Arrival, Light Breakfast
- 9:00-9:10 **Welcome and Overview**
Pucci McGill, *WCL '16* and Humphry Rolleston, *WCL '16*
- 9:10-10:00 **Economic Impact of the Arts in the State of Connecticut**
Kristina Newman-Scott, *Connecticut Director of Culture*
Amy Wynn, Director, *Northwest Connecticut Arts Council*
- 10:00-10:15 Break
- 10:15-11:15 **Looking Back and Moving Forward at the Matt**
Bob Burns, Director, *Mattatuck Museum*
- 11:15-12:00 **Bringing the Arts to Life in Greater Waterbury**
Robert Cinnante, Executive Director, *Waterbury Symphony Orchestra*
- 12:00-12:45 Lunch
- 1:00-2:30 **Arts and Architecture**
Travel by bus to sites:
Waterbury City Hall
Bob Brenker, Director of Personnel, Waterbury Department of Education
- Palace Theater**
Frank Tavera, Chief Executive Officer, *Palace Theater*
- 2:45-3:30 **Social Change through the Arts**
Calida Jones, Artistic Director, *Bravo Waterbury!*
- 3:30-4:00 **Engaging the Community through Theater**
Ed Bassett, Executive Director, *Phoenix Stage Co.*
- 4:00-4:30 **Investing in the Impact of the Arts**
Emily Mattina, Artistic Director, *Shakesperience Productions, Inc*
- 4:30-4:45 **Session Wrap-up**
- 4:45- 6:00 **Program Closing Ceremony & Reception**

Speaker Biographies

Kristina Newman-Scott

Connecticut Director of Culture



Kristina Newman-Scott is the Director of Culture for the State of Connecticut where she oversees all aspects of the state's programs and services related to art, culture and historic preservation. Prior to this role, Newman-Scott served as the Director of Marketing, Events and Cultural Affairs for the City of Hartford, the Director of Programs at the Boston Center for the Arts and Director of Visual Arts at Hartford's Real Art Ways. Kristina's leadership in the community has earned her several awards and recognitions including being selected as a Hartford Business Journal Forty Under 40, a National

Arts Strategies Creative Community Fellow, a Hive Global Leadership selectee and a 2015 National Next City Vanguard Urban Innovator.

She has been a speaker, guest lecturer and visiting curator at many organizations and institutions across the country; including, TEDx SMU, TX; Columbia University, New York University, The School of Visual Arts & The Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, NY; amongst others. Ms. Newman-Scott serves on the Boards of the New England Foundation of the Arts, the Connecticut Forum and Americans for the Arts Private Sector Council. She was a visual artist, arts consultant and a television/radio personality in Jamaica, where she was born and raised. Newman-Scott moved to Connecticut in 2005 and became a citizen of the United States in 2012. She lives in Hartford, Connecticut with her husband Gordon and their 7 year old daughter.

Contact info: Kristina.NewmanScott@ct.gov, www.cultureandtourism.org

Amy Wynn

Executive Director, Northwest Connecticut Arts Council

Amy Wynn, a resident of Falls Village, has been Executive Director of the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council since it was founded in 2003. The Arts Council serves as an information source for all things cultural for 25 towns and their environs.



Ms. Wynn holds a BFA in Dance from The Juilliard School and a MFA in Performing Arts Management from Brooklyn College CUNY. After her dance career, she worked for national search consulting firm serving non-profit arts and education clients. She then worked for Dance Theatre of Harlem as Director of Administration and General Manager. After seven years, she was invited to take the position as Director of Marketing, Public Relations and Outreach for the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University, where she also taught Arts Management for undergraduates as an adjunct faculty member. Since her move to Falls Village, she has become involved in arts organizations and other non-profit organizations throughout the region on both a volunteer basis and as a consultant.

In addition to her job and volunteer work, Amy chairs the board of the Connecticut Arts Alliance, serves on the CT Arts Council, and is on the boards of the CT Arts Foundation and the Northwest Connecticut Economic Development Corporation.

Contact info: awynn@artsnwct.org, <http://www.artsnwct.org/>

Bob Burns

Director, *Mattatuck Museum*



Robert Burns is the Director of the Mattatuck Museum; a position he has held since 2012. Bob serves on the City of Waterbury Mayor's Art Advisory Council, the Regional Advisory Council at Naugatuck Valley Community College and the Waterbury Community Investment Program. He also serves on the boards of the Hartford Art School Endowment, the Washington Art Association, Waterbury Development Corporation and Main Street Waterbury. Burns has been a juror for the annual member's exhibitions at the New Britain Museum of American Art, the Washington Art Association and the Canton Artists' Guild. He recently curated a group show for Five Points Gallery in Torrington.

Bob joined the Mattatuck following 10 years of service at Olana, a New York State Historic Site and the home of Hudson River School artist Frederic Edwin Church. He has worked in the non-profit sector for over 25 years. A native of West Virginia, Bob has been identified as one of the "50 Most Influential People in Litchfield County" by Litchfield Magazine and received Main Street Waterbury's Community Partnership Award in fall 2016. He earned his Masters of Fine Arts from the University of South Carolina and Bachelor of Fine Arts from West Virginia University. He currently resides in Goshen, CT with his husband, Gary Schiro and attends St. Michael's Church in Litchfield.

Contact info: bob@mattmuseum.org, mattmuseum.org

Robert Cinnante

Executive Director, *Waterbury Symphony Orchestra*

Robert Cinnante is a community-driven arts leader with more than a decade of combined experience as a performer and arts administrator. His appointment as Executive Director at the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra, beginning May 2017, comes after having served as the Statewide Director of Education & Outreach at Virginia Opera.



Previously, Robert was the General Manager of Music for Food, a musician-led initiative for hunger-relief founded by Grammy Award winning violist Kim Kashkashian, a position he held from 2013 to 2015. Cinnante also regularly acts as a consultant to artists and arts organizations, which have included Emmanuel Feldman, D'Anna Fortunato, Sir James Galway, Formosa Quartet,

Benoit Rolland, Triple Helix Piano Trio, and Virginia Commonwealth University's Global Summer Institute of Music. He has also written a number of articles and delivered numerous lectures on a variety of topics surrounding the arts, such as arts education, audience and community engagement, and career preparation for young musicians.

Cinnante is a graduate of the New England Conservatory in Boston, Massachusetts, where he received a Bachelor and Master of Music, studying with Vinson Cole and Patricia Misslin.

Contact info: rcinnante@waterburysymphony.org, www.waterburysymphony.org

Bob Brenker

Director of Personnel, *Waterbury Public Schools*



Mr. Brenker worked in Human Resources and Labor Relations for the U.S. Postal Service for 45 years. In January of 2016, he became the Director of Personnel for Waterbury Public Schools.

Bob was born and raised in Waterbury, and educated in local parochial elementary and high schools. He attended Villanova University. He continues to live in Waterbury with his wife Sharon. They have three sons and one granddaughter.

Bob is a long-fan of the Cass Gilbert architecture in Waterbury. He says, "I grew up in Waterbury and always admired the cluster of buildings designed by Cass Gilbert, but I was afraid to enter the Chase Building. Now, I am in the Chase Building every work day and I feel fortunate to work here!"

Frank Tavera

Chief Executive Officer, *Palace Theater*

Chief Executive Officer of the Palace Theater, since May 2002, Tavera has been an integral part of the rebirth and renaissance of the Waterbury's landmark theater. As CEO, his responsibilities include the governance of the Board of Directors of the not-for-profit corporation, oversight of the operational business plan, implementation of all marketing and fundraising initiatives, management of daily operations, bookings and programming the theater, management of the Palace Theater staff and community relations with all the local arts and business organizations.



Actively engaged in the Greater Waterbury community, Tavera was integral to the creation of the Arts and Culture Collaborative Greater Waterbury, where he served as Chairman. He also serves as Board of Director on the Connecticut Arts Alliance and the Waterbury Public Arts Committee. Additionally, Frank served on the Leadership Council of the Greater Waterbury United Way, the Board of the Waterbury Development Corporation and was the President of Main Street Waterbury initiative.

Prior to taking the position of Chief Executive Officer, he worked at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford where he last served as the Senior Director of Programs, overseeing Programming, Sales, Marketing and Customer Service. Frank lives in Bristol with his wife Deidre and has three children.

Contact info: tavera@palacetheaterct.org, <http://www.palacetheaterct.org/>

Calida Jones

Artistic Director, *Bravo Waterbury!*



Calida is an accomplished musician, social justice advocate and educator who is passionate about using music to change the trajectory of children's lives. Ms. Jones is the Artistic Director of *Bravo Waterbury! (Bravo)*, an El Sistema inspired education initiative of the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra in Waterbury. Over 200 of Waterbury's children have been impacted by *Bavo* through performance attendance and participation in the program.

Ms. Jones's work in the Sistema movement has taken her all over the world including Caracas, Acarigua, Barquisimeto, and Los Caracas all respectively in Venezuela. Ms. Jones also traveled to Campos dos Goytacazes in Brazil where she taught beginner orchestra, and violin methods classes. Ms. Jones maintains an active performing and lecture schedule. She has had the privilege of speaking multiple times at the prestigious Yale School of Music, The Connecticut State Capitol, The Hartt School of Music, and was a presenter for the Suzuki Association of the Americas in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Most notably, Ms. Jones was nominated for the Grammy Music Educator Award in 2013, and was the 2014 recipient of the Father Thomas H. Dwyer Humanitarian Award for her work at Children's Community School in Waterbury, Connecticut. In August of 2016 Calida joined the Board of Directors for El Sistema USA: *A National Alliance of El Sistema Inspired Programs*. Ms. Jones was also nominated and subsequently voted onto the Connecticut Arts Alliance Board in January of 2017. In April, Ms. Jones was a Tedx speaker in San Jose, California (watch the [video](#)). Ms. Jones was a scholar in the 2017 Aspen Festival of Ideas in June of 2017, one of 300 chosen for this prestigious honor of attending the festival.

Calida holds a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Violin Performance from Indiana University of Pennsylvania as well as a Master's Degree in Violin Performance and Suzuki Pedagogy from The University of Hartford's Hartt School of Music.

Contact info: cjones@waterburysymphon.org, bravowaterbury.org

Ed Bassett

Executive Director, *Phoenix Stage Company*

Ed discovered his love of theater while serving in the United States Navy and has been involved with community and professional theater for over thirty years. He is a founding member of the Phoenix Stage Company and serves as the Managing Director. Ed works as Costume Designer for Arabesque Dance & Theatrical Supplies in Waterbury. He also serves on the board of the Connecticut Community Theatre Association and of the Greater Waterbury Arts & Culture Collaborative. He has most recently been seen on stage at Phoenix Stage Company in *Farce of Nature*, *The Butler Did It!*, *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol* and *A Man of No Importance*. He recently directed *Cops* and *Three Murders and it's Only Monday* for PSC, and designed costumes for *Dreamgirls* at Landmark Community Theatre. Ed has been a volunteer in his community since the age of 13 and recently received a Presidential Volunteer Service Award from President Obama's Committee on Volunteerism for service to his community.



Phoenix Stage Company was founded in 2010, with the mission of providing high quality entertainment to our community in a place that allowed area actors, directors and artists to showcase their talents. Since our founding, we have gained national recognition for our work on new plays by new playwrights and we are the most produced community theater in the state with 11 full stage productions each year. We are a one hundred percent volunteer organization with an active volunteer list of over 100 names. Our board of directors is made up of volunteers who are active in our organization; production manager, volunteer coordinator, box office volunteers, and performers. We are known to area performers and production staff as "the happy place", a label we are most proud of.

Contact Info: ed@phoenixstagecompany.org, www.phoenixstagecompany.org

Emily Mattina

Artistic Director, *Shakesperience Productions, Inc*



The founder of Shakesperience, Emily tirelessly guides the company to offering innovative touring productions, including a new program highlighting the culturally and historically rich neighborhoods of Waterbury, CT and starring its youngest residents. In her 15 years of directing, her productions have headlined festivals, including Shakespeare in Library Park, Shakespeare in Hollow Park, Festival! Stratford, Shakespeare on the Shoreline, and Vintage Shakesperience, a tour of Connecticut's wine trail. Emily's educational programs and public performances have received high acclaim and recognition, including enthusiastic reviews, presentations for Connecticut's HOTS Schools, speaking and interviews for UCONN Theatre classes, and guest lectures for her alma mater, the University of New Hampshire.



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Emily has worked as an actor, director, teaching artist, and arts administrator for companies and regional tours based in California, Connecticut, Minnesota, and New York. She consults with other nonprofit arts groups regarding collaboration, outreach, education and positive company culture. She is proudly listed on the Connecticut Office of the Arts Directory of Teaching Artists. The New Haven Business Times named Ms. Mattina among the 2006 "Forty Under 40" for her professional success and community involvement in New Haven County. Ms. Mattina was also named the State of Connecticut's 2015 Elizabeth L. Mahaffey Arts Administration Fellow.

Since attaining her M.A. in 17th Century English Literature with an emphasis on Shakespeare from the University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, England, Ms. Mattina has directed approximately half of Shakespeare's canon at least once. Her favorite ongoing creative endeavor is nurturing her two beautiful children, Thomas Charles and Viola Lucia.

Contact info: emattina@shakesperienceproductions.org, www.shakesperience.org



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Opportunities for further exploration and engagement

Waterbury Arts & Culture Collaborative

The Arts & Culture Collaborative (ACC) was created to strengthen and support the arts in the Waterbury region as a central component of furthering economic and cultural development and to enhance the quality of life for area residents. www.waterburyregionalarts.com

Northwest Connecticut Arts Council

The mission of the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council is to promote the arts and cultural resources of Northwestern Connecticut as integral contributors to the quality of life in the region, to assist all artists and cultural organizations in their efforts to thrive, and to inform the general public about and give access to the arts and culture of the region. www.artsnwct.org

Connecticut Arts Alliance

The Connecticut Arts Alliance was founded in 2005 as an advocacy organization. The CAA was established to ensure that the arts are central to life in Connecticut. The CAA works to foster public education and awareness of the arts, increase funding for the arts, and influence public funding and actions that affect the arts. The CAA strives to promote and underscore the value of all achievements of the arts industry and all the ways they improve our lives. www.ctartsalliance.org

National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts is an independent federal agency that funds, promotes, and strengthens the creative capacity of our communities by providing all Americans with diverse opportunities for arts participation. www.arts.gov

Americans for the Arts

Our mission is to serve, advance, and lead the network of organizations and individuals who cultivate, promote, sustain, and support the arts in America. Connecting your best ideas and leaders from the arts, communities, and business, together we can work to ensure that every American has access to the transformative power of the arts. www.americansforthearts.org.

New England Foundation for the Arts

NEFA works to cultivate and promote the arts in New England and beyond. Programs support artists across many forms of expression and many geographies, connecting them with collaborators and communities, fueling creative exchange and public discourse, and strengthening the creative economy. www.nefa.org.