



Western Connecticut
Leadership

A Program of



Arts and Culture Session November 12, 2018

Goals and Objectives

- ❖ To educate, create interest and expand participant's involvement in the arts and culture in Western Connecticut
- ❖ To introduce the richness and variety of arts and culture through guest speakers, performers and tours
- ❖ To examine some of the new ways in which the arts are presented and engage the public in our area
- ❖ To highlight ways in which individuals can become involved with the nonprofits represented

Premise: A vibrant arts environment deepens civic engagement and community well-being.

Important Session Information

Session Leaders

Dita Carley, WCL '17
Deborah Foord, WCL '17

Advisor

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

Session Attire

Dressing for comfort is appropriate. There will include some walking; 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

Free parking is available in any of the lots on Park Place (behind the museum). Address for GPS to parking is 2 Park Place, Waterbury. Detailed directions and parking information are available at (www.mattmuseum.org/visit/getting-here/).

Agenda

- 8:30 Arrival, Light Breakfast
- 9:00 **Welcome and Overview**
Dita Carley, *WCL '17* and Deborah Foord, *WCL '17*
- 9:10 **Arts Venues and So Much More...**
Judith McElhone, Founding Executive Director, *Five Points Gallery*
Jeffrey Guimond, Co-Founder, Artistic Director, *Ball and Socket Arts*
- Moderated by Humphry Rolleston, *WCL '16*
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 **Looking Back and Moving Forward at the Matt**
Bob Burns, Director, *Mattatuck Museum*
- 11:45 **Bringing the Arts to Life in Greater Waterbury**
Robert Cinnante, Executive Director, *Waterbury Symphony Orchestra*
Musicians: Amy Jones, violin and Kathy Schiano, cello
- 12:30 Lunch
Catered by The Art of Yum – 146 Grand Street, Waterbury
- 1:15 **Arts, Culture and Architecture in Waterbury**
- Travel by bus to:
Waterbury City Hall
Bilal Tajildeen, Program Coordinator, *Connecticut Community Foundation*
- Palace Theater**
Frank Tavera, Chief Executive Officer, *Palace Theater*
- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 **Playing Music, Building Futures**
Students from Bravo Waterbury!
- 3:15 **Foundation Bite: Supporting Nonprofits**
Patrick McKenna, Organizational Development Officer, *Connecticut Community Foundation*
- 3:30 Session Wrap up and Preview of Final Session
- 3:45 Walk to Mattatuck Museum parking areas

Speaker Biographies

Dita Carley, WCL '17

Dita Carley is a graduate of the Painting Program at University of Washington, Seattle, where she studies with Jacob Lawrence. In addition, Dita studied with Wolf Kahn at the Vermont Studio Center. She has exhibited nationally and has displayed her work in private collections. Carley established an arts program for patients at the Children's Hospital in Seattle.

Dita has led a successful career in arts education, holding a long term position at Cold Spring School (New Haven). She has also served as Director of Arts at the Audubon Theater Camp (New Haven), and instructed at Guilford Art Center, Flanders Nature Center, Arts Escape and Brookfield Craft Center as well as in private workshops. Dita teaches at the annual Seedlings Educational Collaborative in New Haven.

Contact info: cheshamstudio@sbcglobal.net

Deborah Foord, WCL '17

Deborah Foord had a long career as a senior executive in investment management, based in New York City and working with institutional investors around the globe. Her current focus is on board service and other pro bono activities in both Litchfield and New York City. She is also a longtime travel enthusiast, mainly on the road less well trod.

As a third generation Litchfield resident, Deborah thought she was well acquainted with Northwest CT. But she is quick to note that participating in the 2017 WCL Program opened up new and rewarding areas of interest and involvement in the region. Several of those areas are features of our Arts & Culture Agenda today.

Contact info: deborahfoord@gmail.com

Judith McElhone

Founding Executive Director, *Five Points Gallery*

Judith McElhone is the founding executive director of the Five Points Center for the Visual Arts, a non-profit 501c3 organization. Located in historic downtown Torrington, the entity includes Five Points Gallery, a contemporary arts venue; the Five Points Hartford Art School Launchpad initiative; and the Five Points Annex, a community-pop-up gallery.

Judith holds an AS degree from Northwestern Connecticut Community College and a BFA and MFA from the Hartford Art School. She is an exhibiting professional artist and a Connecticut Visual Arts Fellow recipient. McElhone was an adjunct instructor at Hartford Art School and Northwestern Connecticut Community College.

Judith was honored as Northwest Connecticut Community College Alumna in 2003. She also received the University of Hartford Alumni Association's 2014 Anchor Award, which recognizes alumni who have distinguished themselves by achieving the highest level of professional and community accomplishments. McElhone has also been named one of the *50 Most Influential People in Litchfield County* by *Litchfield Magazine*.

Volunteer Opportunities: Five Points deeply values volunteers and encourages interested individuals to call or email the gallery for a volunteer application.

Contact info: jmcelhone@fivepointsgallery.org, <http://www.fivepointsgallery.org/>

Jeffrey Guimond

Co-Founder, Artistic Director, *Ball and Socket Arts*

Jeffrey Guimond is an arts administrator, pianist and former tuba player, conductor and chef. He is currently Music Administrator for New York City Ballet at Lincoln Center. Previously he served as Artistic Planning Administrator for New York City Opera, Artistic Administrator for Opera New Jersey, and Director of Administration and Development for the Golandsky Institute Symposium and International Piano Festival at Princeton University. He holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and the French Culinary Institute. Jeffrey is a collector of prints and drawings, from old master to contemporary, and is Trustee for the works of New York and Nova Scotia-based landscape artist Stephen Kuzma.

Volunteer Opportunities: There are opportunities at Ball and Socket Arts for board members as well as skilled advisors. See website for more information - www.ballandsocket.org/support-socketeers/

Contact info: guimond@ballandsocket.org, <https://www.ballandsocket.org/>

Humphry Rolleston, WCL '16

Humphry and his wife Paula (WCL '15) moved to Litchfield in 2014 following his retirement from McKinsey & Company in New York. Prior to McKinsey, Humphry worked for The Economist in both London and New York for 22 years. Since his participation in WCL, Humphry has been a volunteer at the Litchfield Historical Society Museum, the Gertrude Jekyll Garden in Woodbury, KidsPlay Museum in Torrington and appeared in productions of *Spamalot*, *Mamma Mia*, and *It's a Wonderful Life* at the Landmark Theatre Company at the Thomaston Opera House.

Contact info: hdroллеston@hotmail.com

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.

Volunteer Opportunities: The Museum seeks volunteers to serve in several capacities: docent tour guides for school and adult groups; assisting the curatorial department with research; cataloging objects; assisting with archives; office assistance in the education and development departments; and committee members in finance, investment, collections and building/grounds.

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, came 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

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/>

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.