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Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County Launches Monthly One-Hour “Spotlight on Arts and Culture” Radio Program!

NORWALK, CT (June 4, 2014) - The Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County (CAFC) announces a new radio program on listener supported community radio WPKN 89.5FM. The show, titled *Spotlight on Arts and Culture*, is hosted by CAFC’s Marketing Manager, Jennifer Bangser who will delve deeply to reveal what CAFC’s arts and cultural members are creating, thinking and doing around Fairfield County. Airing live the 2nd Monday each month from 12-1pm, the show will explore overall trends in arts and culture. The creation of the new radio show is part of CAFC’s strategy for helping promote the arts and culture sector of Fairfield County. Each month, Jennifer and her guests will target a theme specific to a certain arts and culture sector, ranging from Visual Arts, Theatre & Dance, Libraries, Music, Literature and Lectures, History, and Nature.



On Monday June 9th, tune in to WPKN 89.5FM, from Noon to 1pm., for the next, live *Spotlight on Arts and Culture* program for an engaging discussion about theatre in Fairfield County. Jennifer will be joined in WPKN’s studio, located on the campus of the University of Bridgeport, by Michael Ross, Managing Director of the Westport Country Playhouse, Eli Newsome, Artistic Director of the Bridgeport Theatre Company, and Lou Ursone, Executive Director of the Curtain Call Theatre in Stamford. Following the Tony awards that air on Sunday, June 8th, and the launch of the summer theatre season; this will be a timely and relevant discussion. Topics to be discussed will include how theatres put together their season, what role do the different theatres play within their communities and Fairfield County at large, and how do theaters balance serving an audience and serving the artists? And what’s the future for theatre in the area?

Steve di Costanzo, General Manager of WPKN, approached the Cultural Alliance several months ago with the offer to create the program. Both organizations immediately embraced the idea of further developing their on-going community partnership. As Steve said, "As a 50 year-old,

nonprofit radio station WPKN-FM is always striving to be visible, relevant and engaged in the community. We reached out to the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County to host a community radio show because they are the umbrella organization for arts & cultural organizations in Fairfield County. Their own membership base consists of like-minded groups who WPKN embrace as well and fit within our community station mission and focus of WPKN." Jennifer Bangser echoes Steve sentiments by stating that "This program is a fantastic opportunity to dig a little deeper to give people an understanding of how all these wonderful arts & culture organizations operate and what it takes to bring so many fascinating and entertaining events to the public." Plus, this new live radio program compliments CAFC's weekly drive-time "FCBuzz" promotional feature played every week on WPKN. This 3-5 minute feature promotes events pulled from the Cultural Alliance's popular event website, www.FCBuzz.org; a unified, regional marketing platform for members to post arts and culture events and happenings year-round, 24/7.

The debut of *Spotlight on Arts and Culture* aired on April 14th and featured an interview with Terri C. Smith, Creative Director at Franklin Street Works located in Stamford. Terri joined host Jennifer Bangser and artists Emily Larned, Kerry Downey and Anya Sirota, who discussed the galleries recent exhibit entitled *The Sunken Living Room*. The program explored this highly conceptual exhibit which investigated the most recent economic recession via the concept of the interior design phenomenon of the lightly stepped down or "sunken" living room, popular during the 1970s recession, and the crash of the housing market in 2008

The second show aired on Monday, May 12, where Jennifer led a lively discussion on the mission of libraries in the region. The program posed questions about how libraries are maintaining their relevance, embracing new ways of collaborating and engaging new audiences while continuing to meet the needs of diverse as well as traditional patrons. Jennifer's guests that week were Maxine Bleiweis, Director of the Westport Library, Christine Bradley, Director of the Norwalk Public Library, John Stolis, Community Librarian for the Bridgeport Library, and Erin Shea, Head of Adult Programming for the Darien Library. Links to all previous programs can be found [here](#) in the WPKN archives.

The Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County strengthens the arts and culture sector by providing promotion, services and advocacy. For more information, please contact Jennifer Bangser, Marketing Manager at the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County at Jennifer@culturalalliancefc.org, (203) 256-2329. Or visit the website at CulturalAllianceFC.org. For more information about WPKN, please contact Steve DiCostanzo, General Manager of the station, at gm@wpkn.org, (203) 331-9756.

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