

Fairfield Countys Arts Councils Commissions

Your Name	Name of Council or Commission	Created	Govt?	How do you work with the city/town on community-wide projects?	Budget?	Paid staff?	Services offered?	Other?	Which services are most effective?	How else do you engage?				Other
Razul M Branch	Bridgeport Arts & Cultural Council	2009	No	We manage and support free concert series and arts festivals and work with the city administration for logistical support and services (police, electrical, permitting, and supportive contributions)	Yes	2	professional development		Professional Development	presentations	gallery exhibits	special events	facility rental	
Joanne Kant	Easton Arts Council	1996	No	We do not work with the city	No	2		We sponsor a number of events during the year including a photo show, a member art show, a youth art celebration a juried art show, a theatrical performance, a musical performance, and youth scholarship	All of our events are well attended	presentations	gallery exhibits	special events		
Tatiana Mori	Greenwich Arts Council	1973	No	We partner with the Town of Greenwich in different programs for the community during the spring and summer. We also, work closely with the Greenwich Public Schools and the Board of Education	Yes	3+	mentorship/ advice		facility rentals and school outreach programs	presentations	gallery exhibits	special events	facility rental	
Paige Miglio	Milford Arts Council	1971	No	The MAC partners regularly and year-round with the city of Milford on various projects big and small. The city also supports us with a yearly gift.	Yes	3	facility rental	We also provide mentorship/advice and discounted services to members.	Discounts to members is a good incentive	presentations	gallery exhibits	special events	facility rental	
Laura E. Lerman	Newtown Cultural Arts Commission		Yes	We coordinate with other Commissions and Boards	Yes	0	mentorship/ advice	Grants to organizations that provide arts experiences and scholarships to graduating seniors.	Grants, scholarships	presentations	gallery exhibits	special events		
Susan Wallerstein	Norwalk Arts Commission	2017 (official)	Yes	No simple answer - lots of examples.	Yes	0	mentorship/ advice	Primarily information, connections, referrals, etc.	Information, connections, referrals, endorsement					Public art engagement, hosting meetings @ different venues, etc.
Jennifer DiLaura	Ridgefield Arts Council	1997	Yes	We have worked together recently on marketing and collaborations between NPO's.	Yes	0	mentorship/ advice	Our Artists Our Schools initiative facilitates partnerships between the schools and the creative community. We just started a small scholarship. We hold quarterly meetings with all of the creative nonprofits in town. We hold an awards ceremony each year for volunteers. We coordinate groups advertising. We hold networking events for individuals interested in the arts.	They are all effective to varying degrees.					
John Varamo	Stamford Arts & Culture Commission	2017	Yes	The commission is staffed by the Economic Development department.	No	1	mentorship/ advice	Grant Review / regranting.						Working on this
Bruce Hirsch	Stratford Arts Commission	20 years ago	Yes	Planning and participation	Yes	1	mentorship/ advice		Mentoring and financial support		gallery exhibits	special events		
Emily Aeson	Trumbull Arts Commission	1977	Yes					Community entertainment: arts, performing arts, Festivals,			gallery exhibits	special events		
Cynthia Armijo	Weston Commission for the Arts	1992 (approx)	Yes	We submit a plan for the coming year to our town Select Committee and business manager that includes a budget against multiple projects. We coordinate with the other cultural organizations in town to build a calendar and to share expenses.	Yes	0		Exhibitions, concerts, art classes	In terms of attendance, our concerts do well.		gallery exhibits	special events		Shared sponsorship of other orgs events
Nancy Diamond	Westport Arts Advisory Committee	1994	Yes	WAAC advises the First Selectman on arts policy. WAAC also will be a "community partner" with other Westport arts organization for their events	Yes	0	mentorship/ advice	Maintenance of Town extensive art collection Networking among arts organizations	Maintenance of art collection	presentations		special events		Development of an art tour app
Beth Schneider	Wilton Arts Council, Inc.	1976	No	Most interaction with the town has been in relation to venues for events.	No	0		WAC organizes events that promote participation in the arts.	We have been most successful with our annual photography exhibit (FOCUS), which has 3 divisions (youth, high school and adult). It encourages a wide range of photography, and the exhibit is a favorite with both photographers and the viewing public.					Given the significant decline in volunteers and difficulties securing gallery space, WAC has had to curtail its activities in recent years.

Most effective?	Data base	How large?	How categorized?	How often updated?		Two biggest challenges? Why facing these challenges now?	Two recent successes? Why now?	How would a better relationship with the Cultural Alliance benefit your council/commission?	How would a better relationship benefit the Cultural Alliance?	
all of them	Yes	350	artist, supporter	Every month		Funding sources and lack of additional administrative staff.	Fundraising an almost 6 figure fund to support arts, cultural and tourism efforts within the city. Our proven track record of well attended, successful events and consistent programming.	Direct assistance with accessing larger funding sources to accommodate support staff and property acquisitions to house artist studios, events and businesses.	Communication, collaboration and regular networking to connect us more closely.	Bridgeport Arts & Cultural Council
All of our events are well attended, but we could use better attendance for the youth events	Yes	300	Artists and event attendees	Every year		People to join the board More help with our events. We are a very small group for all the events we do every year	Our musical event is usually SRO Our Member art show is always well attended	Now that we have no local newspapers anymore we could use help with Publicity	Help the commission fulfill its duty to the community	Easton Arts Council
gallery exhibits, facility rentals	Yes	5,200	members, financial supporters, artists, businesses, sponsors, non-members	Every month		Financial support - Members and Patrons are hesitant to give as they used to in the past	We had two fundraisers: Art to the Avenue and Arts Alive: Art to the Avenue: we sold art, various medias, sizes and prices Arts Alive: we created an art happening and sold many tickets to the event	Cultural Alliance helps us by advertising our events to a wider audience.	Advisory to other organizations that will want to partner in similar projects that GAC might develop.	Greenwich Arts Council
facility rentals bring in new audiences and creates awareness	Yes	450 active, upwards of 1000 archival	n/a/	Every month		1) Board building and development 2) Growing the budget, to hire new staff and provide raises	1) Renovations to both venues/Grants & sponsorship 2) Growing awareness/new marketing director & rentals	We are new to the Cultural Alliance and are eager to explore as well as become better acquainted with other venues and organizations	The MAC hopes that our relationship would help bring patrons along the 95 corridor and train lines pushing tourism to each other	Milford Arts Council
Special events	No					Attendance at special events and publicizing events. We have competition for our events and the local daily paper publishes less and less.	Attendance at a arts reception. We had three artists and each had a following. Number of students applying for a scholarship. Word of mouth.	We need mentoring in more sophisticated social media and fundraising. Perhaps on a remote basis?	The Cultural Alliance's success is based on the success of its members. We know the arts is an economic engine but it doesn't happen in a vacuum.	Newtown Cultural Arts Commission
Hard to say	No	Members & friends list of about 60	This and prior questions seem to relate more to councils than city commissions	Other (please spe	As needed	Executing strategic plan, succession planning	Becoming an official commission Mobile app Poet laureate	?	?	Norwalk Arts Commission
	Yes	approx. 50 NPO's and other town support. Working on building an artist database.	starting to work on that.	Other (please spe	as needed; u	lack of funds, lack of council members who have time.	Getting the town to recognize that the arts are the economic driver - the emphasis on retail is waining. Group marketing - it is cost effective.	This gathering is a great first step. Hearing what others are doing. Being able to brainstorm ideas.	Knowledge of what is going on around Fairfield is of utmost importance. Being the source of that information helps everyone.	Ridgefield Arts Council
	Yes	107	By art discipline: performing, visual, etc..	Every 6 months	Still building	Getting a budget and establishing our long-term goals+ building Awareness	Creating a database of city-owned art and dispersing a \$100k grant to various Stamford-based arts organizations.	Seeing what other commissions accomplish can help us refine our goals.		Stamford Arts & Culture Commission
Special events	No	N/a				Public participation and interest. Diverse family activities	Pumpkin festival and monthly showcases. The former because of child involvement and the latter because of cultural interests.	Joint participation with some activities. Attract more people and get better exposure.	Sharing of the diverse pool of talent that we have.	Stratford Arts Commission
Community events	No					Town support is necessary. Lack of support	The Trumbull Arts Festival and the reading of the Declaration of Independence were well supported by the towns people			Trumbull Arts Commission
Programs that include children and families	Yes	300+. And growing	Individuals, families, artists,	Every month		Communication with our community. It has gotten better and we are sharing resources in town with the other orgs. Social media and street signs are the main way we get the word out. The challenge is getting people to help get the word out	We have had great turnouts at our last two artist exhibitions. They were more broadly advertised and we collaborated with other rigs rather than doing it all by ourselves	We tend to be very locally focused. It would be great to bring more arts experiences into Weston.	We have a very close relationship with many of the 200+ artists in town!	Weston Commission for the Arts
presentations: TEA Talk	Yes	200	n/a	Every year		Volunteer time: some people overcommitted; others not willing to help Art maintenance: mold issue in a school	TEA Talk Otocast Lots of effort by committed team accomplish both	Assistance in project grant sources Dialogue re: workshops/speakers offered	WAAC can be a communications conduit to other Westport orgs	Westport Arts Advisory Committee
In the past, WAC was very effective with monthly art exhibits at a local restaurant.	Yes	150	member level and interest	Every year		Lack of volunteers and venues for events	WAC's annual photography exhibit regularly attracts 120-150 exhibiting photographers. Photographers love it because it is so well organized and the venue is so visible to the public. There is also a very festive reception for the photographers and public with live music, which always draws a good crowd.	The one area that we struggle with is getting the word out to youths and high school students for them to enter their photographs. However, this is not likely that the Cultural Alliance would have any better entrance into the school systems to make students more aware.	Learning what other organizations have done to cultivate their volunteer pool.	Wilton Arts Council, Inc.