

## PORTSMOUTH CULTURAL PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE

Suzanne Danforth is a native of Portsmouth, having lived in Portsmouth on and off since 1964. As a Speech-Language Pathologist at Massachusetts General Hospital she specialized in neurology and has extensive experience in program development. Danforth believes arts and culture make up the lifeblood of a city. She volunteered at Strawberry Banke Museum for three years and is a member of the Portsmouth Historical Society.

Jeffrey Cooper, woodworker and maker of fine furniture, has resided in Portsmouth since 1982. He is serving as Secretary of the subcommittee and as an advocate for artists who create tangible works of art and finding ways to provide robust support to artists who create physical projects. Cooper has served as a member of Portsmouth Listens and the NH Furniture Masters Association among other groups.

Gerardo Gonzalez has lived in Portsmouth since 2018 and brings a background in organizational leadership and business development to the team. He describes himself as having “a strong penchant for arts and culture in general” and believes that influencing arts participation can lead to a transformative experience.

Robin Lurie-Meyerkopf has lived and worked in NH since 1980. Her experience includes grant writing, promotion/marketing and her self-described passion for volunteerism. As a volunteer for the Portsmouth Historical Society, she manages the Walking Tour program. She also speaks for the experience of small business owners, as the owner of South Street and Vine.

John Mayer is a non-profit professional and local history advocate who lives in Portsmouth. He has worked as a museum curator and executive director for museums in the Northeast and has experience building collections, developing exhibits and offering programs focused on local history and the urban environment. John is interested in connecting people to their community, building a vibrant arts and cultural environment and supporting initiatives for youth.

Karen Battles has resided in Portsmouth for 4 years. She brings a background in graphic design and as the owner of a small creative business to the subcommittee. Prior to moving to Portsmouth, she served on the Newburyport (MA) Preservation Trust Board and helped establish the annual Preservation Week celebration there. Karen is particularly interested in making the case for the importance of the creative economy. She is also a member of the NH Art Association as a mixed-media artist.

Russ Grazier, CEO of Portsmouth Music and Arts Center, is also a professional musician, composer and teaching artist. He served on the Art Speak group for six years, including two years as chair. He has extensive experience in the strategic planning process for many organizations in Portsmouth. Russ describes himself as a firm believer in the importance of Portsmouth's creative economy. He leads several community committees including the Portsmouth Arts and Nonprofits Committee as co-chair, Greater Portsmouth Chamber Collaborative, Seacoast Jazz Society, the Portsmouth Clipper Band Reunion Committee and the PortsmouthNH400 Grand Parade Committee.

Ellen Fineberg has lived in Portsmouth for nearly 40 years. She brings a background in management positions and as consultant to nonprofit and community organizations to the team. She served on the previous Cultural Planning Committee in 2002 and has a passion for history and commitment to arts, culture and community. She volunteers for the Portsmouth Historical Society, Portsmouth Athenaeum, Portsmouth's Public Art Review Committee and Strawberry Banke Museum.

Karen Rosania, current co-chair of the CPS, moved to Portsmouth in 2021. She is an artist and owns Oliveteal Arts. Previously she spent 32 years in healthcare. She has a self-described passion for Portsmouth and the arts and notes that she is "honored to have this opportunity to help shape the future arts culture for the city." In addition to her work on the subcommittee Karen teaches art classes at the Portsmouth Senior Activity center and Arts In Reach. She is also an active member of the Seacoast Newcomers Club.

Emma Stratton is the Executive Director of the Portsmouth Historical Society and has over 15 years of experience in the museum sector across the Northeast. As a member of the subcommittee, she plans to assist in advancing the dialogue around the critical role of cultural organizations in Portsmouth and increasing support and engagement in culture and the arts. She also serves on the Blue Ribbon Archives Committee and is secretary to the Board of the Eventide Foundation.

Tom Kaufhold has resided in Portsmouth for 30 years and brings his background as a Business Systems Analyst to the team. As a former member of Art-Speak, he seeks to assist in the preservation of the cultural history of Portsmouth in relation to the arts as part of the fabric of Portsmouth. Kaufhold is the founder of Seacoast NH LGBT History Project and a member of Seacoast Gay Men.

Alan Chace, co-chair of the CPS, has lived in Portsmouth for two years. He is a former US Navy officer and now does privacy consulting. He has done extensive work with arts nonprofits throughout southeastern Massachusetts and is serving on the subcommittee, as he has as a world traveler, to be a part of his new community.

Amanda Kidd-Kestler is the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Art Association (NHAA), and is a practicing visual artist with a studio in York ME. She was a member of the Worcester Arts Council for two years and participated in community input sessions to help develop the Worcester Cultural Plan. She believes that the arts are an important ingredient to healthy communities. She would like to preserve access to the arts in a community that is becoming unaffordable for many working families.

Jason Goodrich's family has called Portsmouth home since the early 1800's and is a realtor with Good Living Seacoast Realty in Portsmouth. He serves as a trustee for the Seacoast Repertory Theater, as a member of the Portsmouth Arts & Non-Profits Committee as well as the Cultural Plan Subcommittee.