


Young leaders to be focus of cultural summit

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Leadership will be the next topic of of the Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition's Rising Tide Series that addresses issues facing arts and cultural organizations.

The so-called cultural summit titled "Inspiring Leadership" will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday at Groton Public Library. There is no charge for attendance.

The meeting will focus on the need for improving board governance and increasing the diversity of organizational leadership in the region.

"Southeastern Connecticut has a diverse population that is not adequately reflected nor represented on boards and commissions," Wendy Bury, the cultural coalition's executive director, said in a statement. "A strong and diverse board is vital to an organization's audience and program development as well as long-term sustainability."

Bury said she believes many local organizations could benefit from the energy and perspective of younger members not being recruited for boards. Consistent board recruitment, engagement and management are critical to creating and maintaining an effective board, she said.

The summit will include a panel of young leaders talking about their experiences on boards. A second panel features experienced board members who will share best practices for board development, engagement and management.

The first panel will include Chris Soto of Higher Edge, Kia Baird of Kia B Music and Keith Turner of McCue Mortgage Company. The second panel features Lisa McGinley, co-chair of the Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition; Robert Mills, president of Norwich Community Development Corporation; Gary Lakowsky, chairman of the Smith-Harris House Commission, and retired Capt. Andrea Marcille, president of the Coast Guard Alumni Association.

Between the 45-minute panel sessions, the summit will offer a half hour "speed dating style" match-up session for area nonprofits to learn what young leaders could add to their boards.

For required advance registration, go to www.culturesect.org (<http://www.culturesect.org>).

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