Arts & Culture Outlook 2020
Elizabeth Shapiro (Liz)
Director of Arts, Preservation & Museum * Elizabeth.Shapiro@ct.gov

• 20 Years as Director of the Sharon Historical Society, Sharon, CT
• Peer Advisor for the Peer Advisor Program, Office of the Arts
  • Governance, strategic thinking
• 6 Years Director of the Connecticut League of History Organizations
• Started with the DECD under Kristina Newman-Scott as Director of Operations, SHPO and Museums, June, 2017
• Interim Director of Culture, August 2018-April 2019, permanent position May, 2019 – but change of title to “Director of Arts, Preservation & Museums
  • SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office – 8 staff)
  • Office of the Arts (5 staff)
• Four Museums (6 permanent staff, 7 seasonal)
  • Prudence Crandall Museum, Canterbury
  • Henry Whitfield Museum, Guilford
  • Eric Sloane Museum, Kent
  • Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine, East Granby
Strategic Directions....

- READI Relevance = Equity, Access, Diversity, Inclusion
- Social Justice and the Arts – currently developing partners with Re-entry services, DOC, Reentry Hall of Change, School to Prison pipeline (possible one day convening on this topic in fall/winter)
- Decentralization of *some* grants
- Increasing focus on the Creative Economy
- Cultural Districts
- AEP6 – Americans for the Arts economic impact study partner (gears up in 2021)
- Office of the Arts next Strategic Plan, beginning 2021
Office of the Arts (COA)

Staff

• Hiring to replace Adriane Jefferson – REGI, Poetry Out Loud, READI Talks/Music Conference, Arts Work Force
  • Expect posting in March
  • Position called “Program Associate 1”

And speaking of AWI...

Is now accepting Intent to Apply letters – through Friday, February 28, 2020

More information (including videos) at:
https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Arts-Culture/Professional_Development/Arts-Workforce-Initiative/How-To-Apply
(Search “Connecticut Office of the Arts AWI”)
Changes to Grant Programs

- Sun setting the Project Grant (FY 2020, approx. $271,000 allocated)
- Adding additional funding to Arts Education grant programs
- Addition of an Arts and Social Justice (permanent name TBD) grant line
  - Focused on projects that are collaborations between an arts organization, educational organization and/or community organization; designed to identify a social / community problem and use the arts to determine solutions to that problem
  - MORE ABOUT THIS TO COME
Arts Day @ the Capitol will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

In partnership with Connecticut Arts Alliance [https://ctartsalliance.org/](https://ctartsalliance.org/) and COA Designated Regional Service Organizations

A day of exhibits by arts organizations & artists, meeting and talking with legislators, and networking

50 Exhibitor tables will be available

More info about registration to come!
Office of the Arts (COA)

Your Questions?

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