December 2022 Conference

Thrive!

Cultural Coalition
serving southeastern & northeastern CT

CultureSECT.org

Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center
THANKS to our THRIVE! 2022 Event Sponsors

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Welcome - For the third time, those involved in creating, promoting and supporting arts, culture, and history in eastern Connecticut are together for one big event - THRIVE!

We are thrilled to see you IRL (in real life) today. THRIVE! is packed with inspiring speakers, presentations by your colleagues, and opportunities to connect with peers and resources. Thank you for being here.

This event, centered on HEALING, is especially needed as we recover from the pandemic, continue to experience racial and social injustices, and face on-going economic challenges.

We are grateful to our partners here at the inspiring Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center. Thank you for welcoming us to this space and for sharing your lived experiences.

Today, let’s learn from each other and work together to find new opportunities to support recovery of our industry, strengthen the region’s economic and community health, and celebrate the resiliency of eastern Connecticut’s creative community.

Together we THRIVE!

Sincerely,
Wendy Bury, Executive Director

CULTURAL COALITION
serving southeastern & northeastern CT

CultureSECT.org
GLOBAL CITI NORWICH'S BANK STREET BLUEPRINT PROJECT

Connections to histories, places, and primary source images and documents

Inquiry-based activities to teach CT history, civics, and geography

Grants to support humanities projects and institutions

Learn more at cthumanities.org
ABOUT US

The Cultural Coalition, is an independent, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization providing programs, services, and events for the arts and cultural businesses, entities, and artists that make up the creative community.

We are a free membership organization for 600 registered partners - from sole proprietors, individual artists and small volunteer-run organizations, to large museums, tourist attractions and arts centers.

In the nine years since inception, we have grown to serve 42 municipalities in eastern Connecticut.

We work directly with the government, including municipal elected officials, economic development staff, state and local legislators to support and advocate for the creative economy.

The Cultural Coalition is eastern CT’s Designated Regional Service Organization (DRSO), a “field office” for the CT Office of the Arts, Department of Economic & Community Development.

Our mission is to improve the economy, vitality and quality of life in eastern CT by supporting the arts, cultural and creative community.
Everything we do is with the greatest of care.
A hub of artistic exploration and risk-taking, the Eugene O’Neill Theater Center develops new work and new voices in the American Theater. Be a part of the creative process when you visit our idyllic seaside campus!

JOIN US FOR OUR WINTER CABARET SERIES FROM DECEMBER 15TH-18TH!

WATERFORD, CT • WWW.THEONEILL.ORG

IS A PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE CULTURAL COALITION AND THANKFUL FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AND DIRECTION IN FULFILLING OUR COMMITMENT TO AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY.
OUR CORE VALUES

CONNECTING - arts, cultural and creative individuals and entities to build on respective strengths and create successful partnerships

COLLABORATING - among arts, cultural and creative individuals and entities to facilitate innovative solutions and opportunities

COMMUNICATING - with patrons, organizers and beneficiaries of arts, cultural and creative entities and individuals to promote opportunities and convey the sector’s impact

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Provide Industry Support
Advocate & Educate
Foster Community Engagement
Contribute to Economic Development
Advance Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Anti-Racism
Support Economic & Social Recovery

Cultural Coalition GOALS

Coal
A Better Way Forward

We put philanthropy into action to ensure a healthy, thriving, sustainable Eastern Connecticut with greater equity for all.

Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut

68 Federal Street, New London, Connecticut 06320
www.cfct.org | 860.442.3572
A New Museum Experience is Coming in 2023

Slater Memorial Museum looks forward to reopening in early 2023 following its Roof Restoration project with a brand-new exhibition experience featuring never before seen world-class wonders, all under one roof. Visit slatermuseum.org to see exclusive updates and follow the progress.

108 Crescent St Norwich, CT 06360 • 860-425-5563, museum@nfaschool.org
Join us for our 2023 season!

**Gypsy**
First Time at Goodspeed!
*April 28 - June 18*

**Summer Stock**
A New Musical Based on the Classic Film
*July 7 - Aug 27*

**The 12**
A Bold New Musical
*Sept 8 - Oct 29*

**Dreamgirls**
A Motown-Inspired Musical
*Nov 10 - Dec 30*

*Season Tickets on sale now!*
860.873.8668 • goodspeed.org
The Garde Arts Center exists for you... and because of you!

UPCOMING LIVE EVENTS:

**breezeline**

**2023 WINTER CINEMA SERIES**

**JANUARY THROUGH APRIL**

Co-sponsored by Safe Futures, Secor Auto Group, Sawyer Law Firm, The Shops at Mohegan Sun, The Farmer’s Cow Café & Creamery, Stars to Stem, Blu-Prints Unlimited, Inc. and Hall Communications

**DISNEY’S WINNIE THE POOH**

SUNDAY, 3.12.23 | 3PM

**KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD**

“TROUBLE IS... 25TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR”

SUNDAY, 3.26.23 | 7PM

**AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH**

**DAVID FOSTER & KATHARINE MCPHEE**

THURSDAY, 5.18.23 | 7:30PM

**BRIAN REGAN**

FRIDAY, 6.23.23 | 8PM

VISIT GARDEARTS.ORG/EVENTS OR SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE EVENTS AND TICKETS:

The Garde Arts Center is the recipient of the League of Historic American Theaters’ 2022 Outstanding Historic Theater Award
THRIVE! CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:00 - 9:00  Registration - Coffee & Connections
  Staffed Resource Tables *(Group Entrance Atrium)*
  Attendee Info Swap *(Auditorium Lobby)*

8:40 - 8:55  Gallery Talk with Angel Beth Smith *(Museum Gallery)*

9:00 - 9:15  Welcome & Introduction *(Auditorium)*

9:15 - 10:00  Opening Session: What Healing Means from the northeastern woodland culture perspective *(Auditorium)*

10:15 - 11:15 Breakout Sessions *(attendees choose one - descriptions on pg. 13)*
  Pandemic Learning Lessons & Impact in our Communities *(Fleet Room)*
  Addressing Racial and Social Justice through Arts & Culture *(War Theater 1)*
  Best Practices for Artist Self-Advocacy and Healthy Partnerships *(War Theater 2)*

11:30 - 12:30  Morning Panel Discussion: Building Local & Municipal Support for the Creative Economy *(Auditorium)*

12:30 - 1:30  Lunch Buffet - Community Building & Conversational Activities *(Gathering Space)*

1:30 - 1:45  Staffed Resource Tables *(Atrium)*
  Attendee Info Swap *(Auditorium Lobby)*

1:45 - 2:15  ‘Cultural Intelligence” (CQ) Workshop Informational *(Auditorium)*

2:15 - 3:15  Afternoon Panel Discussion: Cultural Community Building & Healing *(Auditorium)*

3:15 - 3:30  State Troubadour Performance & Closing Comments *(Auditorium)*

All Day  Resource Tables *(Atrium)*
  Attendee Info Swap *(Auditorium Lobby)*
  “The Indigenous Peoples Project: The Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Women” exhibit *(Museum Gallery)*
PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS & SPEAKERS

Resource Tables - Atrium (staffed from 8:15-9:00am and 1:30-1:45pm)
Visit with representatives from program partner organizations and event sponsors. Materials available. (see Resource Table list p.14)

Attendee Info Swap - Auditorium Lobby
Pick up information, brochures and materials shared by fellow THRIVE attendees from across eastern Connecticut. Handy tote bag provided.

Gallery Talk & Art Exhibit - Museum Gallery
“The Indigenous Peoples Project: The Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Women” exhibit on view all day. Attend a short gallery talk focused on the “divine feminine,” the importance of women in tribal history, and how this translates into modern society. 
Speaker: Angel Beth Smith, Creative Services Manager, Public Affairs, Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center

Welcome & Introduction - Auditorium
THRIVE co-creators welcome attendees and set the intentions for the conference centered on a theme of Healing.
Speakers: Wendy Bury, Executive Director, Cultural Coalition and Josh Carter, Executive Director, Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center. Yootay Singers share the Honoring Song

Opening Session - Auditorium
Tribal representatives share the stage to provide insights into what healing means from the northeastern woodland culture perspective. 
Speakers: Michele Scott, Tribal Councilor; Josh Carter, Executive Director; and Nakai Clearwater Northup, Outreach & Education Manager, Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center
BREAKOUT SESSIONS
(attendees choose one)

Pandemic Learning Lessons & Impact in our Communities - Fleet Room
A discussion of how some in the arts and cultural community embraced innovation and reinvented themselves during these difficult times. How do we assess and learn from these lessons? In what way will they impact the future of how we serve our communities?
Speakers: Eileen Donovan, Director of Learning & Engagement, Lyman Allyn Art Museum; Diane Barcelo, Artist, coordinator PIVOT exhibit; and Scott Wands, Director of Grants & Programs, CT Humanities

Addressing Racial & Social Justice through Arts & Culture - War Theater 1
“Sankofa” is an African word from the Akan tribe in Ghana, meaning “go back and fetch it” or “the past serves as a guide for planning the future.” Some communities are publicly honoring BIPOC history through art and culture. What does it mean to do this work, what are the challenges, what is the impact, and how can it be done in an authentic way?
Speakers: Adam Bowles, Pastor of Castle Church, Norwich Jubilee Project; Shiela Hayes, Public Art for Racial Justice (PARJE), Norwich NAACP, Sankofa Education & Leadership; and Emida Roller, Artist

Best Practices for Artist Self-Advocacy and Healthy Partnerships - War Theater 2
Drawing from the theme of ‘healing,’ this session will present some of the ways we have developed practical tools for artists to improve partnerships, collaborations, and work environment. There will also be time to open the conversation up to the room for attendees to share their own experiences as a way to heal from extractive relationships while simultaneously building community and solidarity with one another.
Speakers: Molly Rideout and Elizabeth Moy, Assets for Artists, Mass MoCA; Angel Beth Smith, Artist, The Indigenous People’s Project; and Dot Burnworth, Artist, Sawmill Pottery
Morning Panel Discussion - Auditorium

Building Local & Municipal Support for the Creative Economy
This session presents how and why arts and culture could and should be at the forefront of healing our communities. How does government infrastructure support the creative community? How can Connecticut’s new Cultural Districts be a vehicle?
Speakers: Elizabeth Shapiro, Director of Arts, Preservation & Museums, CT Office of the Arts/State Historic Preservation Office, Dept. of Economic & Community Development; Felix Reyes, Director of Economic Development & Planning, City of New London; Cierra Patrick, Economic Development Manager, Planning & Economic Development, City of Groton; Cynthia van Zelm, Executive Director, Mansfield Downtown Partnership; Kevin Brown, President & Executive Director, Norwich Community Development Corp.; and Lisa Konicki, President, Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce

Lunch Buffet, Community Building & Conversational Activities
- Gathering Space
Menu: Assorted Wraps, including vegetarian/gluten free, Pasta Salad, Apple Pecan Salad, Chocolate Chip Cookies and beverages.

Conversation prompts placed on the tables: “Eastern CT’s READI 2030 Vision” and “Identifying Local Native American History In Your Town”

RESOURCE TABLES - Atrium
CT Humanities - cthumanities.org
New England Foundation for the Arts - nefa.org
CT Women’s Business Development Council - ctwbdc.org
Assets for Artists/MASS MoCA - massmoca.org/assets-for-artists
Office of Congressman Joe Courtney (CT-02) - courtney.house.gov
Cultural Coalition’s Funding Booster Program - cultureSECT.org
Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center - pequotmuseum.org
Chelsea Groton Bank - chelseagroton.com
Garde Arts Center - gardearts.org
PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS & SPEAKERS

‘Cultural Intelligence’ (CQ) Workshop Informational - Auditorium
Representatives from the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center outline their new Cultural Intelligence (CQ) Workshops. The primary areas of focus: Culture-focused Knowledge, Trauma-based Knowledge, Historic Knowledge and Emotional Intelligence are each presented from a Native American perspective. These four learning components are added to an understanding of the science behind, and the potential impacts of, a modern focus upon Cultural Intelligence.

Speaker: Michael Thomas, Mashantucket Pequot Tribe

Afternoon Panel Discussion - Auditorium
Cultural Community Building & Healing
This session outlines what cultural community building and healing look like in our region. Panelists will discuss what is needed to move the needle and what needles we are trying to move. Who is actively engaging in equity centered work and reparations, and what does that mean? How do you create authentic partnerships? What is our collective call to action?

Speakers: Joshua Carter, Executive Director, Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center; Kala Farnham, CT State Troubadour; Kolton Harris, Program Manager, CT Office of the Arts; Swaranjit Singh Khalsa, Sikh Art Gallery; Kia Baird, Outreach & Community Impact Coordinator, Cultural Coalition

Performance & Closing Comments - Auditorium
State Troubadour, Kala Farnham
Wendy Bury, Cultural Coalition
Joshua Carter, Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center
We’re proud to put everything we have into everything we do!

It feels good to know that the time, energy and money we put into our local communities helps make the places we all live and work stronger.
CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF THE ARTS

INSPIRING A CULTURE OF CREATIVITY ACROSS CONNECTICUT

CT.GOV/ARTS
Mitchell is a place where students build new strengths and push boundaries in a close-knit community that supports every student in finding their own path.

We believe arts and culture help build the foundation for meaningful, lifelong learning. Our kaleidoscope of learners — students with diverse backgrounds and experiences — enjoy self-expression, gain confidence and find their paths to a richer life through creative and cultural pursuits, both on campus and in the community.

Discover.Mitchell.edu | 860-701-5000
437 Pequot Avenue, New London, CT 06320
Annual support (2022) for the Cultural Coalition comes from our Funders & Benefactors:

And current members of our Supporting Cast:

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Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

◆

PATRON ($2,500 - $4,999)
Robert G. Youngs Family Foundation
We believe community giving offers change & hope which continues to empower our commitment. It establishes trust and a unified culture that appreciates the positive impact we have on both adults and our youth.

Federally insured by NCUA
FREE REGIONAL CALENDAR OPEN TO ALL OF EASTERN CT

Find, share, and add your upcoming events

CULTURESECT.ORG and CORE-ECT.COM
CULTURAL COALITION

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CONNECT
COLLABORATE
COMMUNICATE
A community is never complete until all pieces are in place.

Norwich Public Utilities is proud to support the Cultural Coalition of SECT and THRIVE! 2022
onStage

Celebrating the Grand Reopening of the
Athey Center for Performance and Research at Palmer Auditorium

Soweto Gospel Choir
“Hope – It’s Been a Long Time Coming”
Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022   7:30 p.m.
Athey Center, Palmer Auditorium

Silkroad Ensemble
“Uplifted Voices”
Friday, Jan. 27, 2023   7:30 p.m.
Athey Center, Palmer Auditorium

Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE
“The Equality of Night and Day”
Friday, Feb. 10, 2023   7:30 p.m.
Athey Center, Palmer Auditorium

Big Dance Theater
“The Road Awaits Us” and “Cage Shuffle”
Friday, March 31, 2023   7:30 p.m.
Athey Center, Palmer Auditorium

Connecticut College, New London, CT
For tickets and information call 860-439-ARTS (2787) or visit onstage.conncoll.edu
Come experience the world’s largest Native American Museum and discover the story of the Pequot people, their connection to their environment, hardships and their resurgence.

PEQUOTMUSEUM.ORG | 860.396.6910
110 Pequot Trail, Mashantucket, CT 06338