

City of Middletown Commission on the Arts (MCA)



Mission Statement

The City of Middletown Commission on the Arts (MCA) is a municipal agency. Recognizing the essential value of the arts and artists in the cultural, educational, social and economic vitality of Middletown, the Commission supports artistic excellence, fosters cultural development through the arts, and increases public understanding of, participation in and support for the Arts in Middletown, contributing to an improved quality of life for all citizens, enhancing the image of the City and meeting the needs of its varied constituencies.

Overview of Commission

The City of Middletown Commission on the Arts and Cultural Activities was established by City Ordinance in March of 1972 and revised in 1992. It is known today as the City of Middletown Commission on the Arts (MCA). It is now comprised of thirteen Commissioners: two ad hoc Members of the Common Council and eleven citizens from the community who are appointed for three-year terms by the Mayor.

The Commission conducts its business through monthly meetings generally held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall or other locations within the City. The administration of the Commission's business is conducted through the Mayor's Arts Office by Kisha Michael, Arts & Culture Coordinator.

For more than forty years, the Commission has maintained a program of encouraging interest and participation in the arts by providing services, resources, information and events to and for artists, organizations and the general public.

Today, the Commission is an active and effective participant in City life. Middletown was the first in Connecticut to be named one of the "100 Best Small Arts Towns in the United States". This distinction is made possible by a broad base of community support from the City, volunteers, businesses, institutions, corporations, organizations and artists.

Maintaining close links with local arts & culture organizations, Connecticut agencies and the Connecticut Office of the Arts; the Middletown Commission on the Arts *seeks to enhance and support development of artistic and cultural endeavors in the community with programs and services*. These programs and services are made possible by City tax dollars as appropriated by the Common Council and supported by government grants and contributions of local businesses, corporations and individuals.

Summer programs include Kids Arts Camp Program; Summer Sounds Concerts on the Green and the annual Fireworks Festival. Arts organization and artist grants are available through the MCA Matching Funds Grant Program. For more information, please visit or call the Arts & Culture Office at:

City Arts & Culture Office

245 deKoven Drive
Municipal Building, Room B-11
Middletown, CT 06457-3460
Tel: 860.638.4510 Fax: 860.638.1949
arts@middletownct.gov www.middletownct.gov
Kisha Michael, Arts & Culture Coordinator

2019-2020

Commission Members

Mayor Ben Florsheim

Cassandra Day, Chair; Charlotte McCoid, Vice-Chair; Pamela Steele, Secretary; Barbara Arafteh; John Basinger; David Bauer; Franca Biales; Julia Faraci; Lee Godburn; Joyce Kirkpatrick; Crystal Laffan; Cheryl Anne Hale, Poet Laureate; Neely Bruce, Music Ambassador

Ad Hoc Members : TBD