

## Committee on City Services and the Northampton City Council

### Committee Members:

Chair: Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge

Vice-Chair: Councilor Karen Foster

Councilor Rachel Maiore

Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr.

### MEETING AGENDA

**Date: November 2, 2020**

**Time: 4 p.m.**

Virtual Meeting

The November 2, 2020 City Services Committee meeting will be held via remote participation. The public can follow the committee's deliberations by joining the virtual meeting by phone or computer. The meeting will be recorded for later broadcast on Northampton Open Media (Channel 15) and uploaded to the Northampton Government Video Archive on YouTube.

Live public comment will be available using telephone call-in or video conferencing technology beginning at 4 p.m.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR CALLING IN OR JOINING THE MEETING

Join the virtual meeting: <https://bit.ly/3e359mJ>

For telephone call-in, call:

+253 215 8782 US

+301 715 8592 US

**Meeting ID: 928 4070 8217**

**Participant #: #**

**Password: 287889**

1. Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call
2. Announcement of Audio/Video Recording  
This meeting is being audio/video recorded.
3. Public Comment
4. Minutes of Previous Meetings
  - A. Minutes of October 5, 2020

Documents:

[10-05-2020\\_City Services Committee.pdf](#)

**5. Presentation by Sarah Bankert of Collaborative for Educational Services on Grant Project "Redesigning Power Structures"**

Documents:

[Resdesigning Power Structures - CES Presentation.pdf](#)

**6. Items Referred to Committee**

**A. 20.132 Appointments to Arts Council and NHA - referred by City Council  
October 1, 2020**

**Arts Council**

**Kent Alexander**, 174 Island Road, Northampton, Ma

Term: October 2020-June 2023

*To fill a vacancy*

**Northampton Housing Authority- Board of Commissioners**

**Jeff Jones**, UFCW Local 1459, Organized Labor Representative, 76 Woods Road, Florence, MA

Term: March 2020-February 2025

*Reappointment*

Documents:

[20.132 Appointments to Arts Council and NHA.pdf](#)

**7. New Business**

**8. Adjourn**

Contact: *Marianne L. LaBarge*  
mlabargeward6@aol.com  
413.584.8937



**Committee on City Services Organizational Meeting and the Northampton City Council**

Committee Members:

*Chair: Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge*

*Vice-Chair: Councilor Karen Foster*

*Councilor Rachel Maiore*

*Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr.*

**Meeting Minutes**

Date: October 5, 2020

Virtual Meeting

**1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

At 4:03 p.m., Councilor Marianne LaBarge (Chair) called the meeting to order. On a roll call, Councilors LaBarge, Foster, Maiore and Quinlan were present.

**2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDING**

Councilor LaBarge announced that the meeting was being audio/video recorded.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**4. MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2020**

Councilor Quinlan moved to approve the minutes of July 20, 2020. Councilor Maiore seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

**5. DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE - PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Presentation by Recreation Department Director Ann-Marie Moggio

Due to a miscommunication, Director Moggio was not present. Councilor LaBarge proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

**6. ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

A. **20.117 Appointment to the Arts Council - referred by City Council - 9/3/2020**

**Arts Council**

**Michael Abbatiello**, 161 Main St., Leeds, MA - **Councilor Maiore**

Term: September 2020-June 2023

*To fill a vacancy*

She had another lovely conversation with Michael Abbatiello, Councilor Maiore reported. He is the technical director at the Academy of Music (AOM) and has a long background as a

professional dancer. He is really excited. He has worked his way up, this is kind of what he's been grooming to do for a few years. She thinks he's going to be a great addition to the Arts Council.

Councilor Maiore moved to forward the appointment of Michael Abbatiello to the Arts Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Foster seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

**B. 20.127 Appointments to Various Committees, referred by City Council - 9/17/2020**

**Arts Council**

**Ashlynn Cradic**, 386 Bridge St., Northampton, MA - **Councilor Quinlan**

Term: September 2020-June 2023

*To fill a vacancy*

**Conservation Commission**

**Jennifer Smith**, 24 Audubon Road, Leeds, MA - **Councilor Maiore**

Term: September 2020-June 2023

*To fill a vacancy*

**Disability Commission**

**Kathy Murri**, 50 Laurel Park, Northampton, MA - **Councilor LaBarge**

Term: September 2020-June 2023

*To fill a vacancy*

**Human Rights Commission**

**Susan MacDonald-Bolanos**, 1 Chapin Way, Unit 7517, Smith College, Northampton, MA - **Councilor Foster**

Term: September 2020- June 2022

*To fill a vacancy*

**Planning Board**

**Janna White** - **Councilor Foster**

*Full Member*

Term: September 2020-June 2022

*To fill the unexpired term of Euripedes de Oliveira*

**Chris Tait**, 46 Upland Road, Leeds, MA - **Councilor Quinlan**

*Associate Member*

Term: September 2020- June 2021

*To fill the unexpired term of Janna White*

He had a chance to speak to Ashlynn Cradic Friday for a few minutes, Councilor Quinlan shared. He is pleased that she is a younger person who wants to become involved in the city and who brings some passion and expertise to the group she wants to join. They spoke specifically about her work booking events in the area - some of her work in college had to do with film festivals and gallery events - and he asked how that translated into her work on the Arts Council. She mentioned that the experience planning and promoting those events and doing community outreach for them is something she has a lot of pride in and is able to do really well. She has had a lot of opportunities through some of her projects to work as part of a team in both leadership roles and as a member. He asked if there was one event she could make bigger, what it would be, and she mentioned the Northampton film festival as something that could be done as a drive-in event in the time of COVID.

Councilor Quinlan moved to forward the appointment of Ashlynn Cradic to the Arts Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Foster seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

**Jennifer Smith, Conservation Commission**

Ms. Smith said she's been wanting to serve for a while in that position as it's been a lifelong interest, Councilor Maiore shared. She was one of the founders of Crimson and Clover Farm. She seems very grounded in the minutia of what it takes to conserve land, has a lot of skills in that area and is very excited to be a part of it.

Councilor Maiore moved to positively recommend Jennifer Smith for appointment to the Conservation Commission. Councilor Foster seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

**Disability Commission - Kathy Murri**

She had a lengthy talk with Kathy Murri, Councilor LaBarge reported. She is very interested in people with disabilities and thanked her for reviewing her application. Her interest in the world of accessibility started a long time ago when she was a student at Hampshire College pursuing a degree in elementary and special education. Massachusetts had just passed and was implementing Chapter 766. She did her Division III senior project on mainstreaming and completed an internship at Belchertown State School and Northampton public schools. After graduation, she worked at Oak Hill School in Hartford with multi-handicapped deaf and blind preschoolers and then went on to be a special needs coordinator at a project head start in Springfield. She was self-employed before coming to her current position as Director of Finance and Operations at the Montessori School of Northampton. A few years ago, a friend of hers started having trouble with his hands and balance which was eventually diagnosed as a motor neuron disease. She became certified as a caregiving consultant and caregiving facilitator and began moderating online chat groups. The research she was doing to find accommodations for him as his illness progressed motivated her to both start a Facebook page where some of those ideas are featured and pursue an ADA coordinator certification which she completed this August. Her desire to learn how ADA works in the real world and to share whatever expertise she has is what led her to pursue appointment to the Disability Commission. She loves sitting on the committee and learning about the challenges individuals face and the innovative solutions which are possible. She believes Northampton should be a place where everybody can be safe, participate and enjoy everything the city has to offer. She is a strong believer in universal design and creating avenues for universal participation. Building this is beneficial to the large boomer generation which is experiencing new limitations - sensory, degenerative and physical - at a rapid rate due to aging and illnesses.

She asks, "Has the city asked its residents what accommodations they would like to see and what barriers to accessibility they experience?" If so, is that information used to inform city decisions? She would like to see the city have a mechanism for addressing the impact of any new programs or sweeping changes on the lives of residents with disabilities.

Councilor LaBarge said she is definitely positively recommending Kathy Murri for appointment to the Disability Commission. Councilor Quinlan seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

**Susan McDonald-Bolanos**

Councilor Foster said she spoke to Susan McDonald-Bolanos over the weekend. She echoed what Councilor Quinlan saw of Ashlynn, that it is really exciting to see people who are younger

stepping up to serve on boards and commissions. Susan is actually a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student at Smith College. She lives on campus year round and is majoring in economics and government and looking for opportunities to get involved in local government. She studied in China when she was younger and was especially touched by the resolution condemning xenophobia and anti-Asian sentiment in the wake of COVID-19. She is very invested in human rights issues and looking to see how she can serve Northampton.

Councilor Foster moved to forward the appointment of Susan McDonald-Bolanos to the Human Rights Commission with a positive recommendation. Councilor Maiore seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

### **Janna White – Planning Board**

Councilor Foster said she talked to her last week. Ms. White's appointment would be to go from an associate to a full member. She has been an associate member for a few years and really loves it. She's learned a lot and something she's really been reflecting on is focusing on public input and planning. She has been really considering how to solicit public input from people who may not necessarily be accessing meetings through traditional channels and acknowledging and hearing that input even if decisions don't ultimately make everybody happy. (She is very much aware that it's not possible to make everybody happy.) What's great about Janna is that she is a renter; she lives in a multi-family house in town and so represents a different demographic from the traditional homeowner. She mentioned that very often on the Planning Board they will see a lot of interest around trees, parking and multi-families. She's excited about going from an associate to a full member.

Councilor Foster moved to positively recommend the appointment of Janna White to the Planning Board as a full member. Councilor Quinlan seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

### **Chris Tait – Planning Board**

Councilor Quinlan said they spoke over the weekend. On Thursday, he had a chance to talk to Carolyn Misch, and she spent about 10 minutes on the phone explaining the difference between a full member and an associate member. Chris has 15 years as a licensed civil engineer and so has presented to planning boards on the other side of the table as an applicant. His experience in site design, Stormwater management, permitting, etc. gives him not only an understanding of the process but of what's behind the process. One thing that gave him a brief moment of pause is that Chris is an employee of Baystate Health as a project manager. He said he might have to recuse himself if Baystate Health were an applicant. Chris sent this application into the city well over a year ago. He was interested in either the ZBA, Planning Board or Conservation Commission and now finally a spot has opened. He is really committed to trying to get involved in the city.

Councilor Quinlan moved to forward the appointment of Chris Tait to the Planning Board as an associate member with a positive recommendation. Councilor Maiore seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The committee has two new appointments referred out October 1<sup>st</sup> - Kent Alexander to the Arts Council and Jeff Jones to the Northampton Housing Authority. Councilor Foster volunteered to interview Kent Alexander and Councilor LaBarge said she would interview Jeff Jones.

Councilor LaBarge asked councilors to put their thinking caps on about who they would like to see come in.

Councilor Quinlan noted that, similar to the Recreation Department, it seems to him like senior services are limited as to the services they are able to provide out right now. He said he's wondering what they are offering city seniors.

Councilor LaBarge said she would try to get Marie Westburg and Ann-Marie Moggio. She would like to get the DPW to come in, Councilor LaBarge said. She knows in talking to the director that she laid off quite a few people. Ms. Krutzler said she would try to get her to come in.

Councilor LaBarge proposed having Director LaScaleia at 4 p.m. and Ann-Marie Moggio at 4:20 p.m.

Councilor Foster asked if there's been an update from the mayor's office on the information request regarding the demographics of people serving on city boards.

Mrs. Krutzler said she wasn't sure if she should be making a request for this information to the mayor's office at this point or presenting an offer by the committee to collect it themselves. Councilor Foster said she feels comfortable contacting chairs of boards and commissions herself if the mayor's office is not able to take on the task. She is interested in collecting some data on socio-economic status in addition to age, race and gender. She suggested adding the question of whether board members own or rent.

Councilor Maiore mentioned the Collaborative for Educational Services (CES) is administering a grant to collect some of this information. She suggested having Sarah Bankert of CES come to make a presentation before pursuing the information request with the mayor's office. Councilor Foster agreed with the idea of inviting a representative of the collaborative.

Ms. Krutzler said it hasn't typically been under City Services purview to pursue information from outside agencies. Councilor LaBarge said she thought City Services' charge was strictly department heads throughout the city.

Because the grant is relevant to a city service it feels very relevant to her, Councilor Foster said. Quoting from the council rules, Councilor Quinlan noted that the jurisdiction of City Services is "Matters related to the activities and operation of municipal government." It doesn't preclude them from talking to anyone, he noted. He stated his opinion that this is a matter related to the activities and operation of municipal government.

Members agreed to invite Sarah Bankert to the November meeting. They are comfortable holding off on the information request until they have spoken to her, they decided.

## 7. Adjourn

There being no further business, Councilor Foster moved to adjourn. Councilor Quinlan seconded. The motion carried 4:0 by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

*Prepared By:*

*L. Krutzler, Administrative Assistant to the City Council*

413.587.1210; [krutzler@northamptonma.gov](mailto:krutzler@northamptonma.gov)



# “Redesigning Power Structures”

A MDPH Community Health Funded project, administered by the Collaborative for Educational Services

[mahealthfunds.org](http://mahealthfunds.org)



**collaborative.org**



## Information about the fund (from [mahealthfunds.org](https://mahealthfunds.org))

The Massachusetts Community Health and Healthy Aging Funds (the Funds) are committed to disrupting and removing barriers to health – structural and institutional racism, poverty, and deep power imbalances – through community-centered policy, systems, and environmental change approaches. We provide the resources to enhance the capacity of multi-sector collaboratives to authentically engage residents and and work together so that everyone has the highest quality of life possible in Massachusetts.

The Funds are an initiative of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and were created as part of a landmark revision of the [Determination of Need](#) (DoN) regulations by DPH in 2017.



# Purpose

“Redesigning Power Structures” will work collaboratively to address the social determinants of health, health inequities, and structural racism by intervening at the level of **governance**, or decision-making to significantly increase the role that **historically and currently under-represented groups**, including youth, will play in local and regional policy-setting processes.

We will accomplish this by:

1. Supporting under-represented groups/individuals to engage with and become decision-makers and policy-setters in their communities, and
2. Supporting partner agencies and municipalities to shift their culture, policies and practices to be more welcoming and inclusive of the communities they serve.



# Assumptions - just a few to start

We are stronger and healthier as a society when we have full participation in decision-making by the people most impacted by the issues

We surface more effective solutions when people most impacted by the issues are part of the change-making process

Aspects of our culture fragment and segregate groups such that we need support to learn how to work together across difference- in identities as well as differences in power

People most impacted by issues already know what is wrong and what to do about it, but they need resources to move to action

When we allow power to be concentrated in the hands of a few, our collective health suffers.



# What will the work be? Some possibilities:

**Develop partnerships** with individuals, groups and organizations interested in being part of a long-term effort to shift culture and practice.

**Offer trainings**, learning opportunities, peer modeling and mentorship, and other methods that support a community of practice working towards the same goals.

**Develop pathways** that individuals, groups and organizations can follow-- guideposts to help them understand how to foster greater inclusivity and equitable governance.

**Learn, act, reflect, repeat...**



# Year 1: Our timeline in development

July 1 -- Dec 31, 2020

- Hiring process
- Determine best methods of engagement during Covid-19 and formulate plan based on that
- Identify pilot projects to continue to nurture
- Assessment of what's already happening, best practices, models and frameworks to apply

Jan 1 -- June 30, 2021

- Partnership convening and strategic planning process - modeling inclusive governance!
- Wrap up assessment and use to inform strategic plan



# Potential Impacts

- **Increased representation and decision-making power** by adults and youth who are most impacted by health inequities to serve on municipal and non-profit governance structures
- **Stronger and more health-protective social environments** with significant improvements in relationships, support, norms, cohesion, social capital, and community empowerment
- **Impacts on policy, systems, and environmental changes** that better reflect the desires of people with lived experience of a health/social condition
- **Shared power models within organizations**
- **Effectively addressing the root causes of poor health** due to a shift in organizational and governmental cultures that are more informed and responsive to community needs.



# Potential partners

Municipalities

Nonprofit Boards/agencies

Health care Boards/agencies

Informal community groups

Individuals



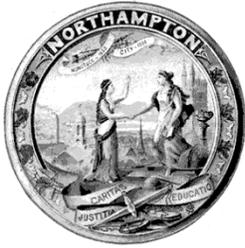
# **Please be in touch if you'd like to get involved!**

Sarah C. Bankert, MPH

Collaborative for Educational Services

(413) 588-5581

[sbankert@collaborative.org](mailto:sbankert@collaborative.org)



# MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ

City of Northampton

Office of the Mayor

210 Main Street Room 12

Northampton, MA 01060-3199

(413) 587-1249 Fax: (413) 587-1275

mayor@northamptonma.gov

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DATE: October 1, 2020

TO: City Council

FROM: Mayor David J. Narkewicz

**SUBJECT: Appointments to Boards, Committees, and Commissions**

Please find the attached appointment to City Boards, Committees, and Commissions:

**Arts Council**

**Kent Alexander**, 174 Island Road, Northampton, Ma

Term: October 2020-June 2023

*To fill a vacancy*

**Northampton Housing Authority- Board of Commissioners**

**Jeff Jones**, UFCW Local 1459, Organized Labor Representative, 76 Woods Road, Florence, MA

Term: March 2020-February 2025

*Reappointment*



# Northampton Arts Council application

7 messages

**Kent Alexander** <jkentalex@gmail.com>  
To: Mayor@northamptonma.gov

Mon, Aug 31, 2020 at 4:28 PM

## Application for Appointment to Boards, Committees and Commissions

City of Northampton Application for Appointment to Boards, Committees, and Commissions

Please return the completed form to: [Mayor@northamptonma.gov](mailto:Mayor@northamptonma.gov) or David J. Narkewicz, Mayor 210 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060

First Name	Kent
Last Name	Alexander
Title, if applicable	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Address1	<a href="#">174 Island Rd.</a>
Address2	<a href="#">174 Island Road</a>
City	Northampton
State	MA
Zip	01060
Home Phone	(413) 455-5724
Work Phone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Cell Phone	(413) 455-5724
Occupation & Place of Employment	anti-racism & workplace culture consultant -- Self-employed
Email	<a href="mailto:jkentalex@gmail.com">jkentalex@gmail.com</a>

Are you a Northampton resident?	Yes
Years Lived in Northampton	3 years
Age	60 - 69
Sex	Male
Racial / Ethnic Background	Black/African American
Boards and Committees	Arts Council, Council on Aging
Please list "other" board or committee of interest	Human Rights Commission
What skills and experience will you bring to this committee assignment?	<p>I am an anti-racism and workplace culture consultant. I currently serving a third-year term as the equity and inclusion advisor for ValleyCreates, a Barr Foundation funded initiative of the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. This initiative seeks to make equitable arts funding throughout the Valley.</p> <p>Within this role, I facilitate DEI conversations and lead group activities to provide advice and feedback on ways to be more inclusive with both programming and the artist applicant pool; design inclusion-based rubrics for prospective innovation grantees; as well as design and co-facilitate DEI-threaded activities for funded organizations who desire to become more equitable.</p>

Pronouns: He/Him/His

***PLEASE NOTE:*** *In order to live a more balanced life, I tend to answer email on Monday through Thursday.*

*"Revolution is based on land. Land is the basis of all independence. Land is the basis of freedom, justice, and equality." ~ Malcolm X*