

## East 40 Advisory Committee

26 April 2024

Zoom Link: <https://northampton-edu.zoom.us/j/91361085534>

### March Minutes

Participants: Kelly Allen, Alex Brands, Carol Burns, Robin Cunconan-Lahr, Adam De Paul, Catarina di Maria, Rachael Gorchov, Kegan Hilaire, Josh Holloway, Holly O'Connor, Bill Smith, Gina Turner, Cindy Vojnovic, Rodney Weems, Alex Zuniga

### Agenda:

- Lenape Conference Update  
Rooms are reserved in the dorms; Gina and Carol are working with Marketing to get registration page up; communication plan is created and in progress; speakers are identified. Estimated budget of \$16K; general registration of \$50, student fee of \$25, sponsor registration of \$75, can also give a donation.
- East 40 Classroom Update  
Bill met with Dr. Ruth, Marc Singer (provost), and Christine Pense (dean). Building is being delayed; zoning issues are being addressed to align with the rest of the campus, and current buildings need to be permitted correctly with Bethlehem Township Board of Commissioners (estimated timeframe: two-three months). Location has not been finalized. Revised building plans are above original budget; may have options for additional funding through Institutional Advancement and/or donors. Adam shared info about Phipps Conservatory as a possible resource for funding options.
- Farm Market  
Will run Wednesdays, 10-2 from May 22 – Oct. 30. Blackbird Farms is the lead vendor with several additional vendors (coffee, baked goods); Kegan serving as aggregator. Future expansion can include student info/creators and/or

community organizations. Adam offered that Lenape Nation of PA would be available as a community resource. Carol will send everyone marketing collateral to share.

- East 40 Residencies (Rachael)

Three residents have been chosen: Anne Lipos (writer/poet – NCC employee), Sasha Phyers-Burgess (photographer), and Mike Lorenz (musician). Rachael's exhibit "Face to Face" at Soft Machine (105 Ridge Ave., Allentown) will close on Saturday, May 4 (she'll be there from 3-4 pm this Saturday; 4 pm on May 4 for walk-through).

- Community Education

Kelly met with Audree Chase (associate dean of CE) re: East 40 taking more of a lead with related classes. There's interest but needs to 'go up the chain' – Jim Dunleavy will be interim leader of that division starting July 1. Goal is to get programming that is more robust and transparent, also with better communication/marketing.

- Coordinator Update

This is still on hold, also funding questions so not sure about fulfilling this position.

- Native Plant Sanctuary

Good Growers (student club) are converting one of the former Community Garden spaces to a native plant garden. Edge of the Woods Nursery has provided information; will be going on Tuesday to make initial purchases. Eventually will expand to 2-2.5 acres with walking paths, signage, small ponds (source: rain water collection, may need pumps eventually).

- Summer Solstice

The summer solstice is Thursday, June 20 at 4:15 pm (officially) – we will be planning the official time and schedule, and sharing that info.

- Clay Research and Kiln Tech

Cindy and Kelly are working to develop the process/recipe for the clay body, using clay from the East 40 acreage. Goal is to have students create their own clay body, craft their pottery, fire it, and possibly glaze it with wood ash, all at

NCC. Dave Graham is working as the Kiln Tech but has limited availability; would like to get someone on board who can run monthly firings, use the space for their own work. Want to be able to offer high school students opportunities to professionalize their work. Kelly is working with Melanie Lino (From Lino) as she is exploring opening a new café and she'd like to source mugs from BIPOC/women-led resources but they don't exist.

- Marigold Ceremony

There are a lot of individual community garden efforts going on throughout the community – Rodney is attempting to bring them together for common support and community building. He has invited Kelly to be a part of the Umoja Unity Garden's Marigold Ceremony in the fall (part of Day of the Dead traditions, connections with African communities). Dead marigolds are burned in a ceremony, with sharing of personal stories about ancestors. (Next year's National Endowment for Humanities' theme is storytelling.)

Catarina shared about Mexican holiday focusing on art about the sun – possibly for the Summer Solstice event. Possibly share marigold seeds at our event? Could be a bridge to Marigold Ceremony. Adam offered support of the Lenape Nation, and his own interest of the NEH programming.

- Fall Meetings, First Fridays at 10:00

This is the last meeting of the semester; Kelly will send out invites for fall. Should we continue meetings in the summer – Kelly will consider (drop him an email if interested).

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Questions:

Take aways:

Decisions made: