

## East 40 Advisory Committee

1 September 2023

Zoom Link: <https://northampton-edu.zoom.us/j/93484556298> [April Meeting Minutes](#)

Participants: Kelly Allen, Carol Burns, Cindy Vojnovic, Alex Zuniga, Robin Cunconan-Lahr, Rodney Weems, Cathie Given, Alex Brands, Abby Michelini, Gina Turner, Adam De Paul, Catarina Di Maria, Evi Kim, Rodney Williams, Holly O'Connor, Kegan Hillaire, Doug Smith

### Agenda:

- Introductions
- East 40 Classroom Update
  - 5 applicants – 3 proposals – awarded to Re:Vision, specializing in architecture that works with the environment/green building; contract went to them last week. Anticipated January 2025 opening. Seven years in the making. Early exploratory phase – will talk with this group, and also community and students, for input into design.
- Restructure Part-time Position
  - E40 Manager – currently vacant; hard to fill all those multiple roles with one person. Alex Zuniga may be a possibility to handle grounds work/admin for volunteer initiatives. We hired a kiln manager, former student Dave Graham.
- Programs on Pause
  - Compost: NCC had a Sustainability Committee; E40 absorbed this (scraps were coming from Sodexo/Moravian Academy)
  - Volunteer and Service Learning: Perhaps Alex Zuniga can handle this; have projects prepped so a manager can handle for when volunteers are onsite.
- New Deer Fence
  - There are currently two community garden areas with a 4' livestock fence around them. Housing developments nearby have pushed deer onto our site. A deer fence will be installed around one garden, increasing the footprint to absorb both garden areas. The former garden area will become home to native plants to bolster pollinators.
- Residency
  - Andrew Storck – As of end of July, no longer fulfilling his residency

obligations. (NEW POLICY: 2/3 of payment by Aug. 1; 1/3 when show is put up the following fall)

- Abby Michelini – Her residency is essentially complete; we are waiting on materials so we can push to our project to the public. Her poetry is website up, featuring 9 poems. Signs are being created for the poems; each will have a QR code to push to her website where she reads the poem.

Autumn Equinox will be offered on Friday, Sept. 22 from noon-3 at which time we will debut the East 40 Poetry Walk.

- Amanda Thackray – She is cataloging plants/identifying those that can be made into paper; e.g. thistle fluffs/used rainwater and ash. She's working on workshop ideas and her show for next summer. This also includes working on a grant for a summer project that will include BASD K-12 students.

- Moving Forward

- Timeline – not “Summer” academic calendar but use a seasonal calendar. So it will run from Summer Solstice - late June into Autumn Equinox; lets us stretch time into fall semester to allow for more student engagement. Perhaps a paid intern to help manage the residencies?

- Rachael Gorchov – Rachel is now back from leave; we're discussing how she can be more involved in the summer residency program – perhaps managing the open call and working closely to plan show and student engagement piece.

- Cindy's Community Education Workshop Sept 15-17

Cindy's May workshop was a “huge success” – looking forward to this next one (there are still spots available).

- Cindy's Show (6 Sept, 3-5pm)

From Cindy: I have a video companion to my exhibition that is running on the TV in Communications Hall, and also on the home page of my website (scroll down a little) <http://www.cindyvojnovic.com> that features the East 40 as well as me doing my work there.

- Community Partnerships

- Bethlehem Area School District: working with Jaime Bloss, art teacher at Spring Garden and lead teacher for all elementary art teachers. We're creating programming for educators' professional development; e.g. clay harvesting/processing, Cindy's workshop, reduction fires.

- Lenape Nation of PA: new provost, Marc Singer - wants to be involved when we engage with community partners; wants to meet with Kelly, Adam, and Brian Alnutt to create an Indigenous Studies concentration which will be

part of the global studies program

- NAACP: new partnership through Rodney's work – he approached Kelly about creating a Unity Garden. Per Rodney's proposal: this is a community garden commemorating the importance of gardens to enslaved people and the post-slavery period. Includes plantings of significant plants, herbs, flowers ("sweet"), food to donate / cook. He likened it to a "garden seder"; all plants have symbolic meaning.  
<https://umojaunity.org/about-2/>
- Touchstone (Saturday, Sept. 30, 10-12:30; onsite from 10:30-noon)  
Partnering with Touchstone Theatre to present a workshop, [Seeds and Stories from the Land of the Lenape](#) as part of Festival UnBound. Will include Adam, Shelly, Abby and Amanda.
- Events (not mentioned above)
  - Hosted Goat Yoga yesterday – 70 attended - "squeals of joy"
  - New Student Orientation for dorm students – brought for tour – thought it would be groups of 20 but they came all at once, so it was over 120 students. Per Kelly: "beautiful and terrifying"
  - Block Party (Friday, Sept. 22, 4:30)  
NCC Human Resource Dept – ends at 8? Wine and beer til 8 pm
  - Autumn Equinox (Friday, Sept. 22, noon-3)  
East 40 Poetry Walk debut /campfire / s'mores / all welcome

Eight class visits (and counting) for Fall Semester

Module / workshop visit – 2 art classes and General Ecology

Blackbird Farm

- Kegan has hired someone to clear area (3.5 acres), turn over ground – put in rows of cover crops
  - Breaking Ground
  - Return of the Farm Market – spring hoping to reopen
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Questions: (Cindy) breaking ground for building – can we harvest clay at that time? Yes, need some kind of carport cover for clay for storage. (Robin) point person for classes that come out? Could that be part of assortment of PT folks – budget is limited. Get students/volunteers to “adopt” parts of E40 programs?

FT Project Manager – position approved but not budgeted

Take aways:

Gina – Unity Garden broken ground; Rodney come to Black Student Union/Pan-African Caucus; Kelly will connect via email

Holly – Indigenous Studies concentration in Global Studies / keep in touch – maybe funding for faculty development of curriculum

Kegan – we will get to see a farm “at ground zero” – maybe hire someone to coordinate between farm/school. Working to get drone footage so we have record of farm development.

Decisions made: