

PRESS RELEASE

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www.somervilleartscouncil.org

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and the
Somerville Arts Council present...



ARTBEAT FESTIVAL
July 10-18, 2020
Somerville, citywide

About ArtBeat: The festival is very much ON, albeit in a different form this year—over the course of 8 days, we'll have virtual performances and safe real-life happenings.

We believe art plays a more crucial role than ever, in promoting community, supporting our collective mental health, and providing a means for expression and protest. This year the festival theme is “Chance,” which explores all things fluky, unexpected and unplanned. The theme—and our beautiful graphic, designed by Paula Champagne—turned out to be more timely and poignant than we could have imagined.

A concise day-by-day schedule coming soon:
www.somervilleartscouncil.org/artbeat/2020

SAFETY: All aspects of the festival will strictly follow Covid-19 Safety protocol. Much of the festival will be virtual; yet when visiting installations or if you “chance” upon a happening, wear a mask and respect social distancing. SAC staff will also be on site when necessary to ensure safety protocol is followed.

Music

About: This year we partnered with local music venues to bring you some top-notch music—in a way that supports the music ecosystem of our city. Musicians will perform in clubs (following strict safety protocol; no audiences); the Arts Council will pay the performers and clubs, to help support them and their staff. We'll then share the footage—gathered at ONCE Virtual Venue, the Jungle and the Burren—online for the whole community to enjoy.

ArtBeat Kickoff Zoom Dance Party w/ Saucy Lady x ONCE VV

July 10, 8pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87452752346>

YT: https://youtu.be/RnIjv8_ztvA

Head to ONCEVV and get down with neighbors you've never met before in the comfort of your own living room! Turn your cameras on, decorate your space, throw on a costume — or, just come as you are and show off your moves. We've got Saucy Lady spinning records she's found by happenstance during her digs at record shops all around the world. Ranging from funk, soul, boogie, house, disco, jazz funk and beyond, you may hear some tunes you've never come across. Ride the groove to experience this soulful dance adventure.

ArtBeat Takeover at ONCE VV

July 11, 8pm Head to ONCE VV for a full evening of rock

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89540550532>

YT: <https://youtu.be/WKICPTJrAf0>

NEW AURA (Headliners)

This psychedelic rock band usually produces a sprawling, revolutionary reverb with 3 guitarists, bassist & drummer. In the midst of this pandemic, they instead come to you performing as a duo with sounds that will swell within one's soul, unite alien & familiar hearts, and open your minds eye.

GRACE GIVERTZ

Grace Givertz is a Boston based indie folk singer songwriter. Grace is a multi-instrumentalist who uses her honest lyrics to bring a refreshing sound to folk. Born and raised in Jupiter, Florida, Grace has been writing songs and performing since she was eleven years old. Grace has performed at many Boston venues including Great Scott, Club Passim, ONCE Ballroom, opening for favorites like Lucy Dacus and Neyla Pekarek (The Lumineers).

THE MYSTERY

The Mystery appears--but can never be solved. Manifesting in the form of guitar, loop pedal, cheap theatrics, words, and vox, The Mystery's "songs" are divined by forces greater than earth or death or life or time or infinity or Chaos and brought into a form commonly understood to be sound. The Mystery's first release, Eternity Without Limits, is on Bandcamp.



Top to bottom: Lady Saucy, New Aura, Grace Givertz, & the Mystery

ArtBeat Music, cont.

ArtBeat Takeover at Burren Backroom feat. DANIELLE MIRAGLIA

July 14, 8PM

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83463057125>

YT: <https://youtu.be/OZsqRfwOTM>

Danielle Miraglia comes armed with a strong steady thumb on an old Gibson and an infectious stomp-box rhythm with tunes ranging from heart-felt to socially conscious that will move both your heart and hips. In Fall of 2020, Danielle will be releasing “Bright Shining Stars” - a solo acoustic folk/blues record that highlights her one-woman-band sound, including some originals and covers paying homage to influences like Big Bill Broonzy, Bob Dylan, Janis Joplin and more. Danielle was voted 2019 New England Music Awards “Female Performer of The Year.”



Amy Kucharik “99 Bottles” Crowdsourced Video

July 15, 8pm; link coming soon at www.somervilleartscouncil.org/artbeat/2020

Kucharik will debut “99 Bottles,” a crowd-sourced music video using images provided by local artists and community members. Each artist was given a subject to depict based on her lyrics. The lyrics are about longing for connection and taking a chance on finding it by placing a message in a bottle. The song draws inspiration from the classic “99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall” as well as the Police song “Message in a Bottle.” This work was created especially for ArtBeat and includes the work of over 20 local artists!



Aaron Emmanuel

July 16, 7pm; <https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleArts>

Part of the Somerville Arts Council’s ongoing Home Alone Art Series Presents: Musician and Activist, Aaron Emmanuel. Soulful poetry and soulful singing set to dense musical tapestries for your heart and minds.



ArtBeat Takeover at the Jungle feat. OPTIC BLOOM

July 16, 8PM

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81684248571>

YT: <https://youtu.be/j5RVuolbfUA>

Optic Bloom is a queer “future soul” duo comprised of Flowerthief and Dephrase. They recognize music as a spiritual technology and harness its transformative capacity to explore trauma, identity, and liberation.



3NITY at Arts at the Armory

July 18, 8PM; link info. coming soon.

3NITY means the uniting of 3 cultures based on our roots and influences from Africa, the U.S. and Latin America, and breaking barriers and fighting for the voice of our people. Our music represents who we are as Latinas--women, immigrants, artists, activists and beauty. 3NITY is more than just a band; it is a latin female movement that is working towards amplifying latina voices within a very male-dominated and sexist music industry. 3NITY is the first Latin all-female band in the Boston area; this version of the band will be Zahili Zamora (Piano), Irisley Gómez (Bass) and Zayra Pola (Percussion).

Chance the Drummer (a.k.a., Marcus Santos)

Three “Chance” Performances throughout the festival

Marcus Santos will pop up by chance at three different hidden locations around town during ArtBeat week. We’ll have people holding signs to encourage passersby to keep moving and respect social distancing. Walk, talk, dance and keep moving with Marcus’ Afro beats. From Brazil to West Africa to the USA, enjoy these beats and our streets.

Top to bottom: Danielle Miraglia, Optic Bloom, Aaron Emmanuel, Marcus Santos.

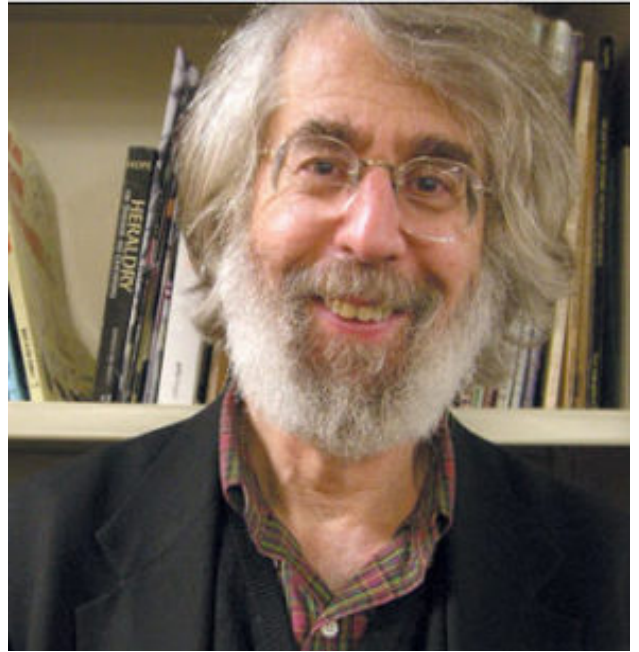
Poetry

Poetry Readings through YouTube Playlist

Monday, July 13: Release date! Available for viewing any time after 7/13

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4T_QGnLf5gsdcl9z-GNXVZJfAQS_27y

Somerville is a city of excitement and diversity in many areas, not least of all in the arts. As poet laureate of the city, with the help and encouragement of the Somerville Arts Council, Lloyd Schwartz invited 21 of Somerville's most accomplished and beloved poets to each read a poem of their own and a poem they love by someone else, to show the rest of the world that in Somerville we both care deeply about poetry and are also very good at it. The Poem readings will be featured in the Somerville Arts Council YouTube Channel as a Poetry Celebration Playlist. A poem to chance upon, for whenever you need it.



Poetry on the Path, featuring Ross Gay

July 10-18, Bike path, between Cedar Street and Davis Square

Look for a poem titled "A Small Needful Fact," written by nationally acclaimed poet Ross Gay, to be painted on the bike path by local artist Nancy Anderson. We thank board member Robert Smyth for selecting the timely poem, which quietly and powerfully reflects the Black Lives Matter movement.

Ross Gay is the author of three books of poetry: *Against Which*; *Bringing the Shovel Down*; and *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*, winner of the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award and the 2016 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award. Ross is a founding board member of the Bloomington Community Orchard, a non-profit, free-fruit-for-all food justice and joy project. He has received fellowships from Cave Canem, the Bread Loaf Writer's Conference, and the Guggenheim Foundation. Ross teaches at Indiana University.



Poetry on the Path, featuring Somerville Poets

July 10-18, Bike path, around Davis Square

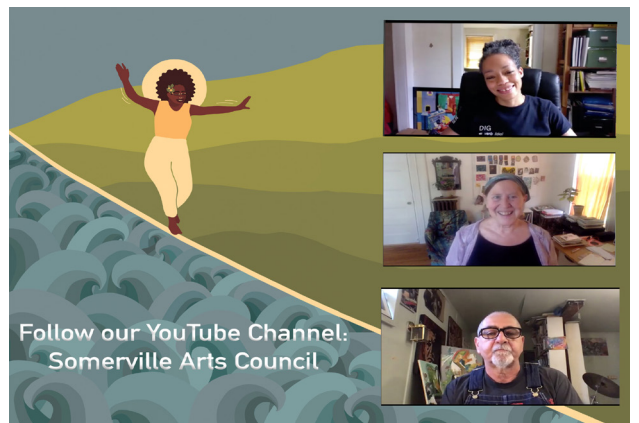
Poet Laureate Lloyd Schwartz collected a dozen or so poems, all penned by Somerville poets. We're putting them on lawn signs to be installed throughout the Davis Square area, around the bike path. So while you're strolling through the area, we hope you'll take a moment to enjoy a poem and recognize our city's prodigious talent.

Theater

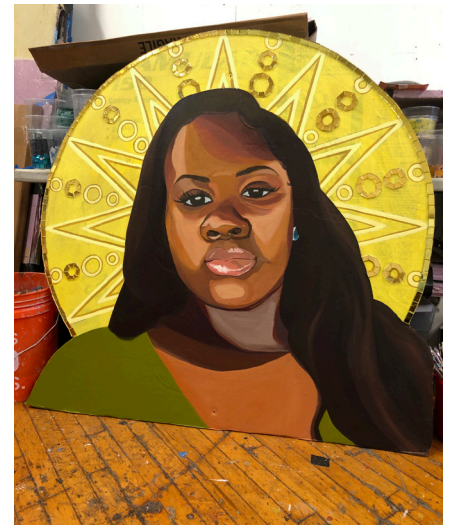
Chance in Theater with Theatre@First

Fri., July 17 at 7pm; www.theatreatfirst.org/

Theatre@First will be presenting "Chance in Theater," an evening of monologues, short scenes, and stories from behind the scenes all having to do with the theme of chance. Various members of our community will be presenting. Theatre@First is an all-volunteer community theatre based in Somerville, MA. Founded in 2003, we fill a vital niche in the vibrant Davis Square arts scene. *This event will be collecting donations for Black Lives Matter.*



Top to bottom: Poet Laureate Lloyd Schwartz curated the YouTube Poetry Playlist; Poet Ross Gay's poem, "A Small Needful Fact," will be featured on the bike path; a few of the local poets you'll hear on the YouTube Poetry Playlist.



Art Installation, Exhibits, Murals (various locations)

A Game of Chance: The Exquisite Corpse

Inside Out Gallery, CVS windows, Davis Square; through July 21

Stephanie Vecellio and Kathryn Geismar, two SAC grant recipients, created this exhibit playing on the Chance theme and using a method called the exquisite corpse, a technique invented by surrealists in the early 1900s. In a traditional setting, one person draws a head, folds the paper, the next artist draws a body, repeats the fold, and a third draws the legs/feet. The paper is unfolded and the whole body is revealed.

Twenty-four Somerville artists volunteered. Each artist was randomly assigned a body part to draw without seeing the other parts. The organizing artists delivered drawing kits, containing only markers, a pencil, and bristol board, to each artist's home. The project began just before the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent quarantine, and was shaped by the events in which it unfolded. Once all the drawing were collected, they were combined to become complete bodies, created by...chance.



Chance for Change pop-up art exhibition

Kenney Park, Davis Square, a four-hour exhibit you may stumble upon by chance

What does "chance" mean to you? The Exhibition "Chance for Change" will be showcasing how different artists are using "Chance" as a theme for dialogue and self expression. The show will feature the work of: muralist David Fitcher, who collaborated with young artists--Megan Barnes, Xerxes Butt, and Anthony Araujo-Araujo to make Protest Art for the Black Lives Matter movement and for recent protests; photographer Vanessa Leroy (B & W image at right), and our ArtBeat designer, Paula Champagne. Whether it is using creative skill as a statement or as a way to self reflect and process our emotions, chance is interpreted here as a catalyst for change.

BLM Floral Installation

Main traffic island, Davis Square

Using a variety of greenery and bright flowers, Danielle Harris will create a floral installation to spell out "BLM" in the heart of Davis Square. The piece aims to show solidarity and union as a community comes together to support Black Lives Matter. "Flowers represent a thing of beauty in this world," says Harris. "I wanted to show just how beautiful all black lives are."



Top left: Exquisite Corpse exhibit at the Inside Out Gallery, Davis Square; top to bottom: Two works to featured in the "Chance for Change" Pop-Up Exhibit; flowers will be the medium in Harris's BLM installation.

ArtBeat Installations and Exhibits, cont.

A Chance to Rest Mural

Mural to be painted July 10-18; South Street Farm, 198 South Street

Groundwork Somerville debuts a new mural at South Street Farm to help celebrate ArtBeat! It will be painted all during ArtBeat week. The Groundwork team decided to interpret this year's ArtBeat theme of "Chance" as it relates to the environment. So they came up with: "A chance to rest" theme, which explores what happens when the earth is given an opportunity to breathe and rest. The design process involved asking the public questions like: What does urban green space mean to you? How can we take ownership of and care for our climate? How has COVID-19 impacted your ability to be in nature? This new mural is a partnership between Groundwork Somerville and the Somerville Arts Council.



Upcycle Fence by the Beautiful Stuff Project

July 3-18; Corner of Cross Street and Pearl Street

As a special ArtBeat project exploring the many ways we are all coping with the pandemic, the Beautiful Stuff Project has been engaging the community (as they always do!) to create a shimmering wall of upcycled CDs that is being installed on Cross Street in East Somerville. Participants are each asked to decorate one old CD; these small works of art are then attached to a fence to create one large community creation. If you'd like to participate, there are four socially-distanced outdoor art-making sessions left; otherwise, come on down to East Somerville to check out the Upcycle Fence from July 12-July 30—where trash becomes creative treasure!



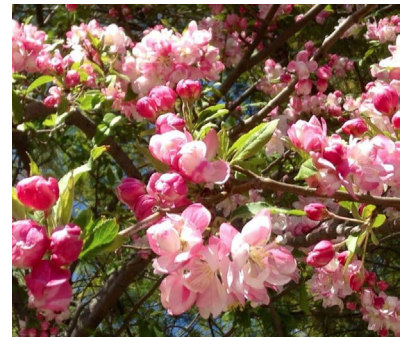
Decorate a CD to be part of the project, attend an artmaking session:

Friday, July 3, 2:00-3:00, Foss Park

Monday, July 6, 11:00-12:00, Davis square behind the T station

Wednesday July 8, 2:00-3:00, the community path behind Lexington Park

Sunday, July 12, 10:00-11:30, pick up market, 15 Garfield St, East Somerville



Pollination Is (a Game of) Chance

July 10-18; Somerville Community Growing Center, 22 Vinal Ave;

www.thegrowingcenter.com

The Somerville Community Growing Center, is the city's favorite volunteer-run green space. As part of ArtBeat 2020, the Center will install an art/science exhibit, Pollination Is (a Game of) Chance, on its street-side fence. The exhibit will feature large sculptures of pollinators made out of willow branches and fabric, and placards that passers-by can read that explain the element of chance in the pollination process. The exhibit will be on view from Saturday, July 11th to Saturday July 18th. The exhibit is designed by Liza Kitchell with the assistance of Amy Mertl and Claire O'Neill, the Center's resident pollinator experts. For more information on the Center, visit the website at www.thegrowingcenter.com.



ArtBeat Virtual Craft Market!

July 10-31; www.somervilleartscouncil.org/artbeat/2020

ArtBeat artisans and crafty companies are coming to a home near you this summer with our Virtual Craft Market. Artists from the Greater Boston area and beyond such as, Allison Glick Ceramics, Stella Marie Soap, Little Man Originals, Hathaway Ceramics, Luna Pines, Absolutely Creations, My Urban Kitchen, Heart at Work Jewelry, Stone Street Tye Dye, Sturtevant Illustrations (among others) will be showcasing their wares on the SAC website. It has been a tough year and you deserve to treat yourself. Buy a bauble from the fine selection of crafts and help support local artists.

Top to bottom: South Street Farm will debut a new mural to help kick off ArtBeat; expect to see a big fence covered with decorated CDs at "Upcycle Fence," and over at the Growing Center, check out the "Pollination Is (a Game of) Chance" display; ceramics for sale at our virtual craft market.

Kid-Friendly Happenings

By-Chance Concert with Phil Berman

Sun., July 12 at 10:30am

www.philberman.net

Join us for traditional American children's music, bilingual world children's favorites, and original children's compositions with a twist. LCC Fellowship awardee Phil Berman performs by-chance, interactive virtual children's concert as part of ArtBeat 2020. Participants at home will roll a standard six-sided die to determine what song will be performed next, and another six-sided die to determine a wild card factor i.e. the instrument, how fast/slow it is performed, an emotion or energy, etc. This will culminate with a flip-your-own-adventure type musical story where children can flip a coin to determine how the story plays out.

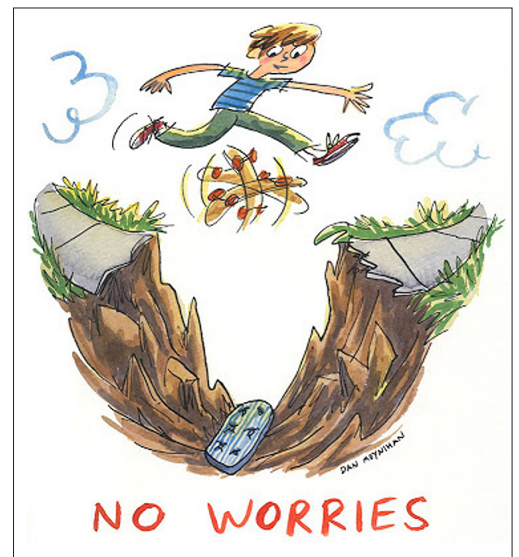


Cartooning by Chance with Dan Moynihan: Choose Your Adventure!

Tues., July 14 at 11am

<https://www.danmoynihan.com/>

Learn to create, draw, and choose your own unique story with illustrator and cartoonist Dan Moynihan. In this virtual drawing workshop, participants are invited to contribute to each scene of the story as well as draw their own version at home. At the end of the session, all are welcome to share their creations of chance.



Sock Monkey Circus with Honey Goodenough

Wed., July 15 at 10:30 am

<https://www.puppetshowplace.org/sock-monkey-circus/>

Sock Monkey Circus is a full circus performed in miniature! This performance features the magical talents of the host "Funny Honey" and her clever monkeys, who are trained to juggle, dance, and swing on a flying trapeze! All this while traveling in their very own circus train car that converts into a miniature stage. This circus can be featured outside to interact with spectators, or also featured on a stage for a more formal presentation. These silly monkeys continually outsmart our host, all while performing a variety of circus routines. Everyone is welcome to monkey around with the Sock Monkey Circus!

Somerville Storytellers w/ Somerville Public Library

Thurs., July 16 at 11am

www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/kids/somerville-storytellers-video-storytimes

Check out Storytime with the Somerville Public Library, a collection of tales from your favorite Somerville Storytellers! For ArtBeat, audiences will take a literary journey that explores the theme of "chance." The Somerville Storyteller program is a collaboration between the Somerville Media Center and the Somerville Public Library. The goal is to promote storytelling within the community.



Top to bottom: Phil Berman, Dani Moynihan and Honey GoodEnough of Sock Monkey Circus.

Dance

Projections, FB Live Streaming, Chance Encounters

Street Dances

July 13, noon-1pm: <https://www.facebook.com/events/966932607090636/>

July 14, noon-1pm: <https://www.facebook.com/events/324386555402428/>

July 16, noon-1pm: <https://www.facebook.com/events/617949925487554/>

July 17, noon-1pm: <https://www.facebook.com/events/617949925487554/>

Performances that will happen by “chance” and then be shared with the public via FB live: www.facebook.com/SomervilleArts

Street Dances is a pop-up dance experience starring YOU Somerville! Artist Emily Beattie will be hitting the streets during ArtBeat Week to capture the street scene and try to engage the public to show off their dance moves.

[Blend]

July 15; 8:30pm: <https://www.facebook.com/events/889475381787642/>

July 18; 8:30 <https://www.facebook.com/events/748072909295849/>

Two performances happening at an undisclosed location to be streamed via FB live: www.facebook.com/SomervilleArts

As a special ArtBeat project led by video/dance artist Callie Chapman, is a dance and media performance/installation which combines original dance and live video mixing visuals to create otherworldly images. Contributing artists include: Junichi Fukada, Sara June, Adrienne Hawkins, Cassandra Martin, Alli Ross, Rising Step and Papa Sy.

redirect and progress

July 16, 6pm: <https://www.facebook.com/events/584053338973619/>

July 18, 6pm <https://www.facebook.com/events/589859241962697/>

Two performances happening at an undisclosed location to be streamed via FB live: www.facebook.com/SomervilleArts

Redirect and Progress is a performance crafted in and for an outdoor space, by dance artist Lonnie Stanton. At highlighted locations dancers explore their surroundings under the lens of one of 3 human experiences: GRIEF, ADAPTABILITY, & HOPE. Each of these human experiences will coincide with a particular spot on the route. Therefore if the audience lingers in one location they will see vignettes of the same theme, or follow for an arc of all three emotions. These 3: grief, adaptability, and hope have become necessary and present in recent months: during the Global pandemic and now additionally, while embracing a long overdue global social justice movement.

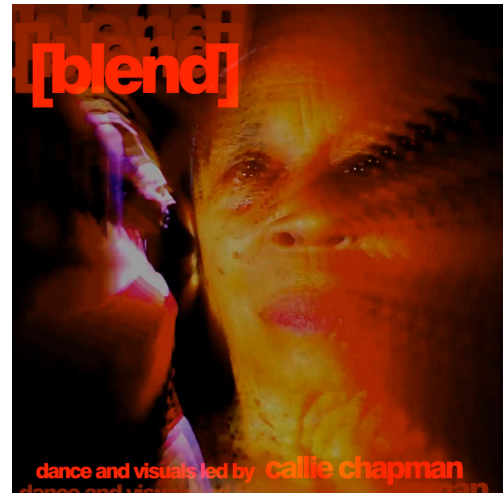
All We Have Left

July 15, noon-1pm: <https://www.facebook.com/events/604938610133933/>

July 17, 6-7pm: <https://www.facebook.com/events/638692800188833/>

Pending a performance space the performance will feature three isolated performers working in tandem and a film component as well. Stay tuned for more details on SAC website.

All We Have Left by artist Liana Percoco is a performance installation activating vacate storefronts in Somerville that wonders how our bodies have adapted expressively during months of social isolation. When allowed to engage publically, how do we now perform what is no longer normal/socially appropriate/safe, but once was? Secured behind glass partitions of storefronts, three performers invite you to observe and engage intimately; distantly.



Top to bottom: [Blend], “redirect and progress,” and “Street Dances.”

Interactive Activities

Take a Chance on Seeds

Sat 7/11, 10 am - 1 pm, Native Pollinator Garden (Community Bike Path at Highland Rd)
Sat 7/18, 12 pm - 3 pm (Chuckie Harris Park, 3-17 Cross Street East)

Did you know that the Somerville Garden Club maintains a Native Pollinator Garden? It's filled with plants that feed native butterflies, bees, wasps, beetles, and flies. These insects keep our local food chain healthy and help sustain our ecosystem. We'd love to share some native wildflower seeds with you! Plant some seeds and let chance decide what pops up. Stop by and get a free seed packet at the following locations and times:

Flora & Fauna: Chance Chalk Challenge

July 10-18, All over town! www.mysticriver.org

Join the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) on a quest to discover the plants, animals, and other wildlife right in Somerville. Here's what we'll do...Use chalk to depict your favorite Mystic plant or animal, and post the picture online tagging the Mystic River Watershed Association and Somerville Arts Council. Check out MyRWA's instagram on Monday, July 13th to see chalk designs of Mystic wildlife. We'll be posting our drawings from Blessing of the Bay and Draw Seven Parks in Somerville—but we'd also love to see all your drawings! Throughout the week we will also share educational information about animals found on the Mystic. Not sure what animals can be seen locally? Head here for ideas and lots more information about the project: www.mysticriver.org

Virtual Caricatures by Alejandro

All week; <https://caricaturesbyalejandro.com>

Alejandro is a top caricature quick-sketch artist based in Boston, MA. Since 2004, he has been seen doing sketches through the greater Boston area, specializing in live traditional and live digital caricatures. He loves his work. This year, for ArtBeat, he wants to share his love of drawing by drawing of caricature of YOU—all from the comfort of your own home through ZOOM. Catch him during the week to see a live demo of his work. Then, make an appointment for yourself and share the fun with friends and family. Suggested donation.

Scavenger Treasure Hunt with Buzzroar Interactive

July 10-18, around Davis Square

For details on how to participate, on July 10, visit: www.somervilleartscouncil.org/artbeat/2020

I spy with my little eye... a treasure hunt! Do you enjoy riddles, adventure and an epic game of chance? If the answer is an enthusiastic YES, join us for a super secret scavenger treasure hunt. Buzzroar Interactive will draw clues via chalk drawings; participants are then invited to explore the wilds of Davis Square to find these clues using the official ArtBeat treasure hunt map!



Top to bottom: Somerville Garden Club's "Take a Chance on Seeds" activity; Mystic River Flora & Fauna Chalk Challenge, Caricatures by Alejandro