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October 25, 2023

Heather Shand
City Council President
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Councilor Shand and members of the Newburyport City Council,

I'm writing to you today regarding an artist requested extension of the current permit for use of the "Pop Up Park" on Merrimac Street. Since early June, the Firehouse Center for the Arts has been hosting the Newburyport Arts and Culture Shanties program in this location. We are grateful that City Council granted us permission to use this space in an unorthodox manner throughout the summer and, I think we can all agree, this has been a great use of the space. Aside from adding color and vibrancy to the street-scape, the location was able to continue to serve as a place for residents and tourists alike to visit, grab a bite to eat (especially during Yankee Homecoming!), and support local artisans in a unique way.

With construction beginning late in the summer, the Shanties provided a cleaner view in our downtown versus the chain link fence and have continued to be a topic of conversation throughout the community. At one point, there was an artist from North Carolina that was staying in Marblehead for the summer and happened to walk past the Shanties – she immediately rented one for the following weekend! All this to say, the Shanties have provided a positive impact in their current location and have added a vivacity to an otherwise underutilized area.

With this in mind, and at the request of several artists, the Firehouse Center for the Arts is requesting to continue using the space through **December 29, 2023**. With the Newburyport Chamber of Commerce hosting beer garden events – and their hope of using the shanties – along with the desire for a winter market within the downtown area, this seems like it would be a win-win for all parties. There are enough restrooms to accommodate and the Chamber of Commerce has provided electrical access for lighting, etc. If approved, the Firehouse would provide propane heat towers (like you see at outdoor dining) to accommodate the changing weather.

We are grateful for the consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

With thanks,

John F. Moynihan
Executive Director

Attachments:

Updated Certificate of Insurance
Letters of Support from local artists



CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)

10/19/2023

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

IMPORTANT: If the certificate holder is an **ADDITIONAL INSURED**, the policy(ies) must have **ADDITIONAL INSURED** provisions or be endorsed. If **SUBROGATION IS WAIVED**, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, certain policies may require an endorsement. A statement on this certificate does not confer rights to the certificate holder in lieu of such endorsement(s).

PRODUCER Eastern Insurance Group LLC 233 West Central St Natick MA 01760	CONTACT NAME: SELECT DEPARTMENT PHONE (A/C, No, Ext): 800-333-7234 E-MAIL ADDRESS: CSR24CL@easterninsurance.com	FAX (A/C, No): 781-586-8244
	INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE	
INSURED SOCIFOR-01 Society For The Development of Arts & Humanities of Greater Newburyport Inc Firehouse Center One Market Square Newburyport MA 01950	INSURER A : AmTrust International Underwriters DAC NAIC # 57399	
	INSURER B : Mount Vernon Fire Insurance Co NAIC # 26522	
	INSURER C : Ohio Security Insurance Co NAIC # 24082	
	INSURER D :	
	INSURER E :	
	INSURER F :	

COVERAGES

CERTIFICATE NUMBER: 42422290

REVISION NUMBER:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

INSR LTR	TYPE OF INSURANCE	ADDL INSD	SUBR WVD	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFF (MM/DD/YYYY)	POLICY EXP (MM/DD/YYYY)	LIMITS
C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUR GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLICY <input type="checkbox"/> PRO-JECT <input type="checkbox"/> LOC OTHER:	Y		BKS56739503	8/11/2023	8/11/2024	EACH OCCURRENCE \$ 1,000,000 DAMAGE TO RENTED PREMISES (Ea occurrence) \$ 300,000 MED EXP (Any one person) \$ 15,000 PERSONAL & ADV INJURY \$ 1,000,000 GENERAL AGGREGATE \$ 2,000,000 PRODUCTS - COMP/OP AGG \$ 2,000,000 \$
	AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO <input type="checkbox"/> OWNED AUTOS ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULED AUTOS <input type="checkbox"/> HIRED AUTOS ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> NON-OWNED AUTOS ONLY						COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident) \$ BODILY INJURY (Per person) \$ BODILY INJURY (Per accident) \$ PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident) \$ \$
B	<input type="checkbox"/> UMBRELLA LIAB <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCESS LIAB <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE DED RETENTION \$			XL2562625	10/15/2023	8/11/2024	EACH OCCURRENCE \$ 1,000,000 AGGREGATE \$ \$
A	WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ANY PROPRIETOR/PARTNER/EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER EXCLUDED? (Mandatory in NH) If yes, describe under DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS below	Y/N	N/A	TWC4287185	8/25/2023	8/25/2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PER STATUTE <input type="checkbox"/> OTH-ER E.L. EACH ACCIDENT \$ 100,000 E.L. DISEASE - EA EMPLOYEE \$ 100,000 E.L. DISEASE - POLICY LIMIT \$ 500,000
B C	DIRECTORS & OFFICERS Liquor Liability			NDO2550272K BKS56739503	2/17/2023 8/11/2023	2/17/2024 8/11/2024	OCCURRENCE 1,000,000 AGGREGATE 1,000,000

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES (ACORD 101, Additional Remarks Schedule, may be attached if more space is required)
 NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY CIVIC CENTER/THEATER.
 The City of Newburyport is included as additional insured on the General Liability where required by written contract.

CERTIFICATE HOLDER**CANCELLATION**

City of Newburyport
 60 Pleasant Street
 Newburyport MA 01950

SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS.

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

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It cannot be underestimated the benefits of simply meeting and working beside other artists for the duration of a weekend (or more). At first glance, it appears this program is for the artists to sell their work - but the benefits extend far beyond that and in many directions.

This program has an entrepreneurial nature allowing the artists to work together as a team to support the space (by bringing flowers, playing music, or setting up games for kids) and collaborate together to make the best possible experience for the customer, community, and families. Doing something for the community in itself has a substantial and inherent value that has been a pleasure to witness every weekend. Meeting other artists like John, Linda, Eve, Gina, Deb and more who so passionately love this community and want to give back gave me a renewed faith and energy about the work that I do and the importance of sharing it. I spoke with hundreds of people - many of them who weren't there to buy anything - but simply wanted to talk - talk about art, inspiration, beauty, even personal hardship - some just to engage with culture in silence for a short time. Art is healing and this is proof.

The unique structure and forum feel of this space is a draw over other types of exhibiting options because not only does the space allow such collaboration, but it depends on it. I have made new friends of these artists across many different mediums that I have learned from and will be incorporating their support and suggestions into my business. In fact Deb (who is a charcoal artist) made a beautiful suggestion about my work in August and I now have a whole new line of business as a result. We are in different mediums and yet her advice was invaluable. Each weekend's success is based on the skills and interest of the artists there - so each weekend is also a new and fun opportunity to be creative together in how the shanty experience is executed.

This unique collaboration opportunity also makes an interesting draw for the customer who will come back each week and have a different and new experience. After about a month of participating I noticed repeat customers coming back and checking on what's new or coming back to buy a piece they had been contemplating the week before. On a Sunday, I decided to stay throughout the rain. I had 10-15 Newburyport customers come even in the rain to look at what I was offering and give a nod of support and encouragement.

I could see momentum beginning where the community makes the shanties a weekend stop on their list to see what's new and support the artist through rain (light rain) and shine. I had a half dozen or more customers asking me if the market would be extended through the holidays remarking how festive and fun the space would be with music and twinkly lights - perfect for families out doing their holiday shopping with cups of cocoa in hand. I couldn't agree more.

I am a full-time artist so this type of work very literally puts food on the table for my family. With the rain each weekend I didn't always make big sales - but I made big connections with future clients that will add up over time and translate to meaningful business for me that isn't transient but lasting.

I genuinely appreciate this market as an opportunity for artists to grow with each other and the community. I give my full support to extend the season through the fall. Programs like this need to be protected and I am just so grateful I tripped across it one day this summer while visiting Newburyport.

Sophia Diana Creations

I was one of the artists that rented a shanty this past August. It was my first opportunity to sell my art outside of family and friends and it was a great first experience as I move from hobbyist to professional artist.

Encouraging an ongoing artist marketplace in an art minded city such as Newburyport is such a great idea! I know it is still in its "grass roots" phase but it is an idea that should be encouraged. Even the way it has changed and grown from June to October of this year with some additional advertisement, the umbrellas, artists choosing to extend their # of participating weekends, etc shows how the firehouse has listened to the suggestions of participating artists as well as the enthusiasm of some of the artists to see this idea reach its potential.

If you decide to add an extended season or special holiday market, I would love to participate.

Deb Hewey

As a previous shanty renter, I am writing to voice my support for an extension of shanties scheduling.

I had a very successful few days in the shanties, this past summer, and would love another opportunity to show and sell my work there!

Seeing as the holiday season will soon be upon us, and given Newburyport's draw for tourists, holiday shoppers, etc., it seems like a no-brainer to add to the downtown's bustling and festive nature by having the wonderful shanties up and running!

Thank you for considering the possibility of having the shanties be part of the Fall and pre-holiday activities in downtown Newburyport.

Sam Kimball

Thank you for the opportunity to exhibit my work at the Shanty installation. I had robust sales, even with sprinkles and some rain. Almost everyone commented on how great it was to casually shop and look at original art and photographs while going to lunch or dinner; many were already shopping for the holidays and asked if I would be there for the holiday season.

I would commit to any extension you can offer to exhibit in the shanty, and I would love to book the season next spring. This unique program provides:

- Shoppers and residents have a unique variety of artistic goods
- A showcase of local arts
- Places to sit and play with the games and enjoy the lovely atmosphere of Newburyport.

Gina Tzizik Studios