

Lowell Cultural Council

Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2026

Attending: Brendan Conroy; Erin Duffey (Administrator); Beth Noel; Meghan Rourke; Jack Traphagan; Bethanne Welch

Absent: Timmy Al-Muntafik; Rona Gofstein; Kshitij Karke (KK)

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 PM.

1. 2026 Council-Initiated Program

- Beth Noel reached out to Hive Market about partnering on a vendor market- this is pending confirmation from leadership at the Hive.
- An alternative idea (distributing funds to festivals hosting their own markets) was discussed at the February meeting. Erin reached out to Greg Torrales (Mass Cultural Council) who advised that distribution of funds to various festivals would be considered granting outside of the funding cycle.
- The tentative market dates are **September 20th, 2026** or **October 3rd, 2026** - this is pending confirmation from Hive Public Market.
 - This date was chosen to avoid conflict with these:
 - Lowell Irish Festival (Sept 12)
 - Lowell Kinetic Sculpture Race (Sept 19)
 - Latinx & Hispanic Festival (Sept 26)
- A Sunday date is a possibility if the Hive is able to accommodate artisan vendors during the Farmer's Market.

2. Volunteer Fair Presence

- The Volunteer Fair is **Saturday, April 11.**
 - Beth N. will be setting up and at the table from 9:30AM-11AM.
 - Bethanne W. will volunteer from 11AM-1PM.
 - Additional members who are willing to attend should reach out to Beth.

3. Review and signature of grants.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00PM

END