

4.4 Provide an Arts and Culture Program for Youth Old Lyme and Lyme, CT August 2021

The Towns of Lyme and Old Lyme recently created a summer youth arts program through their Sustainable CT Teams and in collaboration with multiple organizations in both towns. The program was developed after careful consideration of an inventory of current and previous programming, roundtable discussions of stakeholders and providers, and determination of funding.

This action was completed using the Equity Toolkit and has been written up for both towns under Action 1.1: Optimize for Equity.

The Towns of Lyme and Old Lyme are natural partners for regional offerings for youth. Students of both towns attend Regional School District #18 (Lyme-Old Lyme Public Schools) and both towns are served by the Lymes' Youth Service Bureau ("LYSB"). The Chair of Sustainable Old Lyme has served as a Sustainable CT mentor for the newly-formed Sustainable Lyme Committee.

In discussions between the Sustainable teams of both towns, it was determined that Action 4.4 would be an excellent choice to complete in partnership. It was also determined that we would do so with the Equity Toolkit as one of our guiding frameworks.

To simplify this narrative, the joint effort will be referred to as **Lymes Creative Arts (LCA)**, a name created later in the initiative in collaboration with the students we are serving.

Through the Equity Toolkit process, LCA identified its programming target to be youth in grades 6-12, as programming for younger children was deemed much more robust. The potential for helping local youth manage stress through arts activities in a social environment was deemed essential as the pandemic passed its 12-month mark.

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4.4.1.a: PROGRAM INVENTORY

The first step taken by the LCA representatives was to identify arts and culture program providers in Lyme and Old Lyme. This early identification allowed us to approach program providers with two requests: (1) a list of their recent and planned arts & culture programming for our inventory (2) an understanding of their interest in creating new arts & culture programming for youth.

Program providers were considered from three categories: the regional school system with classroom offerings and afterschool programming; nonprofit organizations including our libraries, PTOs, arts organizations, and youth service bureau; and businesses in Lyme or Old Lyme offering lessons in dance, music, and the arts.

The inventory (excel sheet) is included in our application.

Our inventory showed us there were very few if any low-cost, summer arts programming options for youth in grades 6-12.

4.4.1.b ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

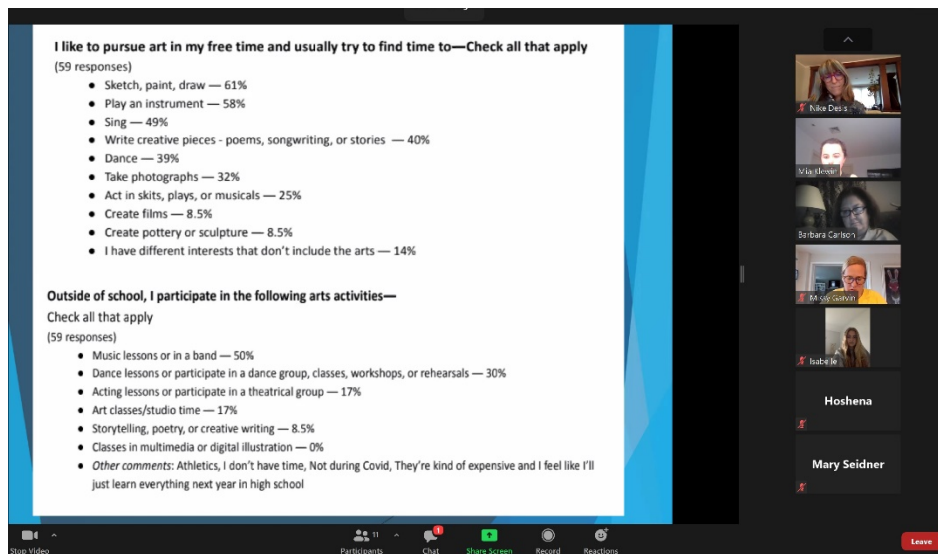
In preparation for our roundtable discussion with program providers, we surveyed students in grades 6-12 to determine what arts programs they have taken part in; their interest in future arts programming; personal barriers to participating in arts programming (e.g., family finances, available time, confidence in talent); and, importantly, their interest in creating new arts programs by participating in the roundtable. The online survey took place from March 18- 26, 2021. The survey, described more completely in Action 1.1 and whose results are included in this application, helped us identify youth to include in our roundtable discussion.

<https://lymeline.com/2021/03/survey-now-open-for-students-to-share-interests-in-summer-arts-help-develop-this-years-programs/> Additionally, the Old Lyme Library's Youth Librarian recruited several students from her Youth Council to participate in the roundtable.

The first of two roundtable discussions took place via Zoom on March 31, 2021. Participants included the Director of Curriculum for Lyme-Old Lyme Schools, a local professional musician/program provider, an artist/art educator, the youth librarians for both towns, the youth service bureau director and its youth program coordinator, the LCA representatives from each town's Sustainable team, and five students interested in being part of our process. Nine students responded positively to participating in this process (six from the survey and three from the library youth council), but some were unable to attend the roundtables. A presentation of survey findings and the inventory of existing programs were shared with the roundtable participants. Key Steps and Ideas that came out of the meeting were as follows:

1. Regardless of the programming, it is important to alert students to programming options through channels they use, such as Instagram, Snapchat, posters on the walls of the school hallways, and the school texting app "Remind." Students find it hard to know what arts offerings are out there. Some rely on their parents to notice offerings through channels parents pay attention to (Facebook, newspapers, parent emails) but not every student has that advantage, nor may a parent know a student's growing interest in arts or music.
2. Programming should be created in a way that will support students who do not feel talented or confident enough to typically participate. Ideas to address this included offering one-on-one time with teachers or mentors, offering "true beginner" classes rather than just "beginners welcomed," and offering workshops or programs in relaxed, stress-free settings rather than in a classroom.
3. Students are interested in Mentoring/or Being Mentored. Find ways for students to mentor younger students in the arts; find college-aged students home for the summer to mentor high school artists. There was also some interest from high school students in being mentored by older professional artists.
4. Workshops should provide ways to drop in or commit to some but not all sessions. Students find committing to a multi-week program can be stressful when balanced

against jobs and other commitments. Consider ways to have students committed to participating, with the understanding that it is okay to not make every session.



The first roundtable discussion took place via zoom and included a presentation (with PowerPoint in screen share mode) of the research findings.

Next steps were identified as:

1. Program providers were to take the student input from the March 31 roundtable and determine what programming could be offered during the summer months, which was deemed the appropriate time of year for our offerings. Programming during the school year competes with sports and other activities (in fact, several students could not participate in our roundtables because of after school spring sports practices and theater group rehearsals). Program ideas generated during the roundtable included a one-week theater camp, ukulele workshop, arts studio, voice program, and a drop-in music program such as a drum circle.
2. The Sustainable Old Lyme and Lyme teams were to consider funding for these programs so that scholarships or low-cost attendance would lessen barriers to participation. Sustainable CT matching funds were to be investigated, and LCA would discuss scholarships further with the youth service bureau.
3. A second roundtable would be held April 8th to look at progress to date and to hear more ideas from the students on creating and promoting this program.

The second Zoom roundtable took place April 8, 2021. Two additional participants joined this roundtable: the middle school music/band teacher; and, the youth programming director of the Lyme Academy of Fine Art, which in addition to its adult intensive fine arts courses holds youth art academies each summer. Each participant brought excellent insight and advice to the group. For instance, the middle school music teacher noted that if a ukulele workshop were to be offered, it would need to focus on contemporary music rather than classic renditions in order to entice students to sign up for a summer workshop (this was specifically addressed as noted below).

4.4.1.c EDUCATION PROGRAM CREATION

Following the second roundtable the LCA began to create a list of possible offerings for the summer months, including workshops we believed would round out our “arts & culture” offerings, such as creative writing. Having our needs documented also allowed us to recognize offerings around town that we could proactively promote to youth. For instance, the local land trust was offering an all-ages sketch day at one of its preserves and we could ensure students knew about that opportunity while we also pursued a youth-only version of the program.

Although our list of ideas included an array of programs students were interested in, we were unable to nail down instructors for every possible offering. This was in part a result of “pandemic burnout” by a number of potential providers. Secondary school teachers who would make great workshop leaders (particularly in areas such as creative writing and theater workshops) needed a summer break from teaching after the stressful pandemic school year. Some nonprofit organizations, recovering from a year of low program income and reduced staffing, were not in a position to offer in-person programming for things like a drum circle. In our roundtables we determined students also had “zoom burnout” and were not interested in participating in workshops remotely during the summer. The student concept of drop-in sessions for many programs was also limited, as locations such as libraries had limited room capacities and needed to know in advance who planned to attend any given program (due to ongoing pandemic precautions; the Old Lyme Library did not have in-person indoor programming during the summer). The mentorship concept was postponed until possibly 2022 when there would be more sufficient time to train mentors without the added strain of the pandemic and the precautions that went with that. Although a voice program was deterred because of the pandemic restrictions on projecting singing voices, a teen open mic was held outside until deemed appropriate indoors at a later date.

However, these did not keep our initiative from being robust. Our education plan had the following characteristics:

Summer Programming for Youth Grades 6-12: Most programming would be offered for all students from grades six through twelve, although several would be more specific, such as the Wirework Jewelry Making for middle school students, and the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts Pre-college Academy vs Middle School Academy.

Outdoors when Possible (pandemic precautions): A Comics Workshop with Author Cara Bean was held on the front lawn of the Old Lyme-PGN Library, a four-week arts studio (medium of choice including sketching, painting, watercolor) took place at a variety of picturesque locations including Gillette’s Castle, Tiffany Farm, and the Essex Steam Train Station (transportation offered). In other “work arounds,” the Old Lyme-PGN Library offered take-home art-making kits to any youth who wished to pick up the kit from an outdoor display at their entryway.

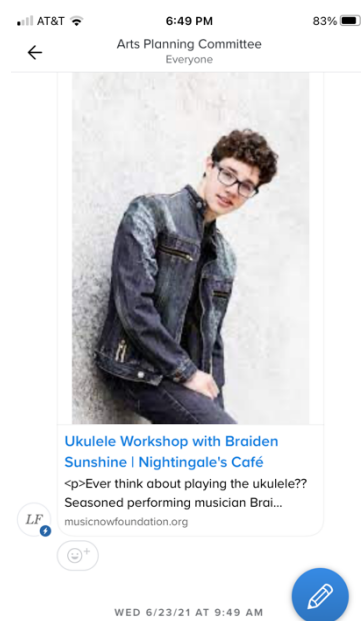
Low and No-Cost Programming: It was determined that grant funding for the summer arts programming was available through the American Rescue Plan. LYSB was the distributor of the local funding and could grant workshop leader stipends, scholarships for students in need, and program supplies. This allowed us to offer low and no-cost programming to students, breaking

down the financial barrier to participation for some students. Providers could consider a nominal fee to ensure students valued the registration and attended at least one session. For instance, the Outdoor Arts Studio, hosted by Lyme Parks & Recreation, charged students \$10 total for an 8-session art program; and the Ukulele Workshop hosted by Nightingale's Acoustic Café also charged \$10 total for 4 one-hour sessions (scholarships for both \$10 fees were available.)

Offered at a Variety of Times and Weeks during the Summer: Timing for programs was carefully considered so that students could attend more than one program. Rather than offer a week with a menu of options, workshops were given throughout the summer, typically late in the day for teenagers. Program providers working collaboratively to plan programming meant conflicts were avoided in both offerings and time slots.

Low-Stress Offerings Among the Mix: Students in our roundtables expressed an interest in doing “fun art,” rather than striving to improve skills related to their academic music or art pursuits. One example given by an 11th grader was that she would rather have fun this summer learning the ukulele than working to improve her skills in her “serious instrument,” the flute. Although there would be offerings such as the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts Pre-College “Classical Bootcamp,” other workshops would provide low-stress ways to explore the arts with a flexible commitment to attending all sessions. The Comics & Doodling Workshop by Author Cara Bean included drawing exercises to intentionally reduce anxiety, boost confidence, and build playful problem solving strategies.

Programs Offered by Young Adults When Possible: This was more difficult to secure, as many college students had internships or jobs lined up for the summer. However, the LCA Ukulele Workshop was led by Braiden Sunshine, a Lyme resident/UConn student who is also a professional musician and finalist on NBC's *The Voice*. The workshop was offered before Braiden left on a concert tour in July.



Screenshot of the Remind App

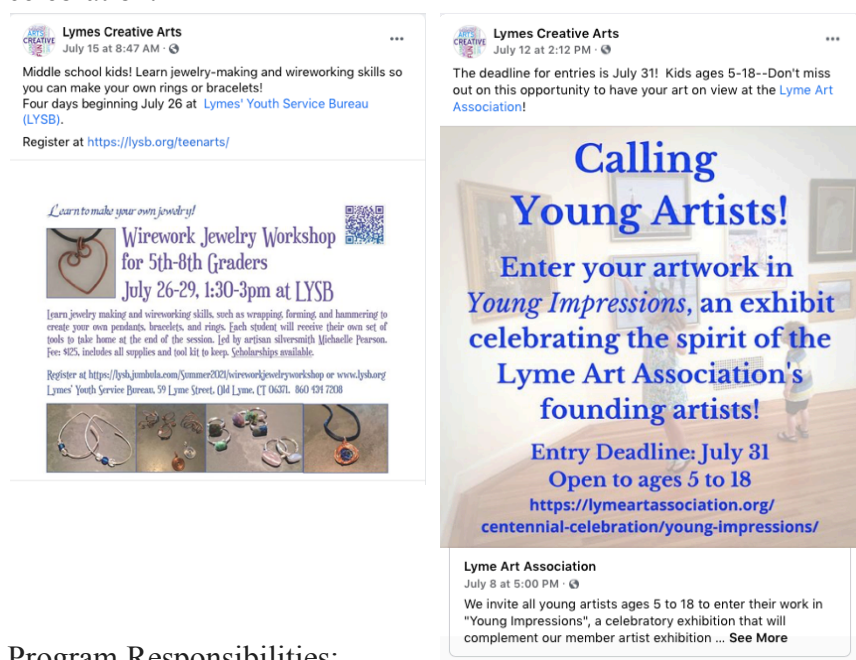
Beginners Should be Embraced and Offered Opportunities to Feel Confident: Although we were unable to offer beginner specific programming this summer, several of our offerings were unique enough that students were often on even footing, such as newly learning the ukulele, or exploring new art mediums in the art studio classes. Offering workshops to a broad age group ensured multiple levels of ability would be participating. The nature of the workshops was low stress/summer fun, with instructor feedback provided when sought.

Programs Marketed to Students Directly as well as to Parents: An important part of our promotion strategy was utilizing the phone app “Remind.” This app is used by teachers and students in our school system as a communication platform integrated with text messaging. Students and parents are comfortable using the app for updates throughout the school year. We promoted directly to students who signed up for our Remind communications about new offerings and what workshops had seats left.

Our LAC Student Advisory Committee promoted programming through their own social media channels and word of mouth, and posters were put up around town with QR codes linking viewers to our webpage.

But what continued to bring registrations (especially for younger students) was direct marketing to parents through our Facebook reach and publicity.

Connected to the Larger Community: As other community members learned about our summer initiative, new opportunities arose. A jeweler who resides in Old Lyme offered a wirework jewelry workshop for middle school ages. The Lyme Art Association, celebrating its 100th anniversary during August, reached out to Lymes Creative Arts to help promote and encourage our participants to create a work of art for a youth art show newly planned for their centennial celebration.



Program Responsibilities:

Lymes Creative Arts Co-Leads: Seek out programming/workshop leaders; facilitate promotion including student collaboration on naming the initiative; maintain Facebook page; create with Sustainable CT fellows post-attendance surveys; distribute surveys and analyze results

LYSB Director: Oversee and manage budget including paying invoices; manage and update webpage of offerings on LYSB/TeenArts

Old Lyme Library Youth Librarian: Programming; work on logo design and poster design with students as available.

Program Leaders: Manage registrations and attendance list; refer students to LYSB if scholarships seemed appropriate; provide programming; send post-workshop survey.

Lymes Creative Arts

Middle & High School Students Summer 2021

CARICATURE WORKSHOP

June 22-25, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Ages: for Grades 7-11

Instructor: LOLHS Art Department Head and Teacher William Allik

Learn the basics of caricature drawing! We will begin by studying and memorizing the proportions of a standard human head. We will then analyze the way various celebrities and fellow students vary from these proportions, magnify those differences, and create recognizable cartoons. Strong interest in drawing required; pencils and paper provided. *This program is funded through Lymes' Youth Service Bureau.* Fee: free

TAKE HOME CRAFTING KITS

Begins the week of June 21; Ongoing

Ages: Grades 6-12

The Phoebe will continue to distribute free arts and crafts activities via its curbside pick-up carts. New projects for this age group every other week, help yourself! Look for projects like: Hanging Art Mobile, Soft Sculptures, Bud Vases, Sun Printing... and a playful DIY for dogs too! [Visit the Library's calendar](#) for the release date of each kit. *Provided by the Old Lyme-Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library.* Kit Fee: Free

UKELELE WORKSHOP with BRAIDEN SUNSHINE

Thursdays, June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 2021, 3:00-4:00 pm

Location: Nightingale's Acoustic Café

Ages: Middle and High School Students

Ever wanted to learn how to play a musical instrument?? The ukulele is an inexpensive and easy to play instrument that can provide hours of enjoyment with a small investment of time. Learn to play simple songs that will provide a foundation for years of exploration and pleasure. Emphasis is on enjoyment and almost anyone can be successful. No experience required. Use your own uke or one of ours (let us know if you will be borrowing an instrument). Instructor Braiden Sunshine is a seasoned performing musician and finalist on "The Voice."

This program is funded through Lymes' Youth Service Bureau. Participant Fee: \$10

OUTDOOR STUDIO DRAWING AND PAINTING FOR TEENS

Tuesdays, July 6, 13, 20, 27, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Thursdays, July 8, 15, 22, 29, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Location: Various around Old Lyme and Lyme

Ages: Grades 6-12 (Beginners to those preparing college portfolios)

Instructor: Artist and Teacher Kristen Thornton

Join Kristen for a relaxed en plein air style class. We will be meeting at a new location each week to draw and paint with the medium of your choice. Get more experience with your favorite medium or try something new while being instructed and guided how to use the materials to make a finished piece. You may pick one day a week or get additional time on your piece and come to both days at the same location. We will be meeting at locations such as the DEEP Ferry Landing State Park, Studio 80+ Sculpture Grounds, and other scenic areas around Lyme and Old Lyme. A back-up location for rainy days will be announced. Upon registration, a suggested list of materials will be provided to you. *This program is funded through Lymes' Youth Service Bureau.* One-Time Participant Fee: \$10 Advanced registration required, drop-ins are welcome, but must bring own supplies)

OPEN STUDIO: THE ART OF 3D SCULPTURE

Tuesdays – July 6, 13, 27, 6:00-7:00 p.m.; July 20, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Location: Lyme Public Library

Grades 6-12 (Beginners to those preparing for college portfolios)

Instructor: Artist and Teacher Kristen Thornton

Kristen will provide guidance as you use a variety of available materials to create 3D pieces of art. Learn how to work with both additive and subtractive forms of sculpture with materials like wood, Styrofoam, clay, cardboard, and various natural materials. *Presented by Lyme Public Library.* Participant Fee: Free (Open to both Lyme and Old Lyme students)

MUSIC CLUB

First Session: July 7, 2021 at 3 p.m.

Location: Nightingale's Acoustic Café

Club Advisor: Professional Musician Dan Stevens

Like to play guitar? Sing with friends? Working on your percussion? This summer music club is what its participants make it. Join Ramblin' Dan Stevens to decide together what you'd like to do and how often. Music sessions, mentoring, jamming together, songwriting, music instruction, finding inspiration from other artists ... we'll decide as a group what is of interest and plan the summer to keep musical interests active. *This program is funded through Lymes' Youth Service Bureau.* Participant Fee: Free

WIREWORLD JEWELRY WORKSHOP

Monday, July 26 to Thursday, July 29, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Lymes' Youth Service Bureau

For students entering grades 5 to 8

Have you ever wanted to make your own jewelry? In this class, we will explore basic jewelry techniques and wireworking skills, such as wrapping, forming and hammering. Using a variety of tools, beads, copper wire, and silver-plated wire, we will create 4-6 jewelry projects, including pendants, bracelets, and rings. Each student will be able to take home their tools at the end of the session, so they can continue crafting jewelry at home. Led by artisan silversmith Michaelle Pearson.

(*Note: students with a Copper or Nickel allergy should not take this class) Fee: \$125, including all supplies and toolkit to keep. Scholarships available through LYSB.

COMICS & DOODLING WORKSHOP with Author Cara Bean

Friday, July 30, 1:00 p.m. (rain date July 31)

Cartoonist Cara Bean will lead participants through drawing exercises intended to lessen anxiety, boost confidence, and build playful and problem solving strategies. No prior art experience is required! She'll also teach us about her own creative process: getting past drawing roadblocks, how to tell a story in a few words, and other in's and out's of drawing comics. Cara Bean is the cartoonist of Let's Talk About It: A Graphic Guide to Mental Health (2020). Each participant will receive a Doodling Kit prior to the program. No prior art experience is required. *This program is funded through Lymes' Youth Service Bureau.* Participant Fee: Free (Open to both Old Lyme and Lyme students)

PRE-COLLEGE ACADEMY at LYME ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

Weekly Sessions Beginning June 28

Location: Lyme Academy of Fine Arts

High School Students ages 14 to 18

The Pre-College Academy classes offer students with beginning to advanced level art training, a series of courses and workshops designed to foster creativity, build artistic skills, portfolio development and personal vision. Structured as one week sessions, classes include the fine art traditions of drawing, oil painting and sculpture. All Pre-college programs are taught by exceptional college faculty.

DRAWING: June 28 to July 2, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

ILLUSTRATION: July 5 to 9, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

WORLD BUILDING: July 12 to 16, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

OIL PAINTING: July 19 to July 23, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

SCULPTURE: July 26 to July 30, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ANIMATION: August 2 to 6, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

CLASSICAL BOOTCAMP: August 2 to 6, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Pre-College Academy Tuition: \$375 (Classical Bootcamp Tuition: \$425). Scholarships and financial assistance may be available through LYSB for Lyme and Old Lyme students (contact LYSB to inquire).

MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMY at LYME ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

Weekly Sessions beginning July 5

Location: Lyme Academy of Fine Arts

Middle school students, ages 11 to 13

The Middle School Academy "Apprentice" program offers one-week full day workshops concentrating on a famous artist from history. Students, inspired by featured artists: Frida Kahlo, Alberto Giacometti, and Leonardo da Vinci, will create their own work reflecting the disciplines, skills and talents specific to each master. The Apprentice program is a fun, hands-on studio opportunity to make real art while learning about real artists and historically significant art movements.

FRIDA KAHLO: July 5 to July 9, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ALBERTO GIACOMETTI: July 12 to July 16, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

LEONARDO DA VINCI: July 19 to July 23, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Middle School Academy Tuition: \$325. Scholarships and financial assistance may be available through LYSB for Lyme and Old Lyme students. (Contact LYSB to inquire).

TEEN OPEN MIC NIGHT

Last Friday of Every Month, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Nightingale's Acoustic Café (Outdoor lawn during pandemic restrictions)

Teen Open Mic Night is a place for young musicians to come and play music (whether original or cover) to an audience of like-minded young artists. Sets are two songs or 8 minutes per person, rotating through signups. Open Mic is strictly acoustic; please, no electric guitars or drums. A sound system and microphone will be provided – just bring your instrument and bring a friend! All are welcome. The café will be open during the session. *Sponsored by Music Now Foundation, Inc.* Suggested Donation at the Door: \$5 Sign-up to perform when you arrive.

4.4.1.d IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Implementation Plan was as follows:

Timeline:

May 1: Financial Plan in Place. Stipends determined for providers of the Ukulele Workshop, Music Club (this was cancelled due to lack of signups), Outdoor Arts Studio, and Comics Workshop. Scholarships were put aside by LYSB for Lyme-Old Lyme students in need. The school system would directly pay its faculty who led the caricature class. It was determined if students needed financial help in buying art or music supplies the program would provide these supplies as well. LCA and LYSB later determined it would provide art supplies to all students in the Outdoor Art Studio program to encourage trying new mediums.

May 10: All Programming Identified and Workshop Descriptions Written. If new programming was identified after this date (this was the case with our Wireworks class) it would be added to the listings webpage directly by the LYSB Director.

May 10-20: Initiative Named “Lymes Creative Arts,”
The Old Lyme Library Youth Librarian planned to work with her youth group to design the logo.



May 19: Lymes Creative Arts Facebook Page created

May 20-30: Poster Created Collaboratively (see addendum). Posters included a QR code linking to the LYSB online listing of programs

May 20-30: Online Registration Forms Created

June 1: LYSB.org/TeenArts goes Live, providing the programming information and links to registration forms

June 1-5: Posters Printed and Distributed in the two towns

May-June: Publicity: Press Release Distributed, articles published in Lymeline (our local e-newspaper), Lyme-Old Lyme Events (the quarterly municipal magazine), the school system's newsletter and website news, and each town's First Selectman's office. Lymeline article: <https://lymeline.com/2021/06/lymes-creative-arts-kicks-off-summer-arts-and-music-programs-for-students/>

June 18: Last day of school in Lyme-Old Lyme Public Schools

June 22-25: First arts workshop (Caricature Drawing)

June-July: Programs were promoted to families throughout the summer via the Lymes Creative Arts Facebook page which would often be shared by the Old Lyme Arts District Facebook Page, as well as shared to key Facebook groups—Women of Lyme and Old Lyme, People of Lyme, and People of Old Lyme—with a much broader community reach. The Library and LYSB promoted activities on Instagram. Students involved in the programming promoted on their personal Instagram and Snapchat accounts. Remind posts continued when there was a push to increase enrollment in given workshops.

July: A survey of students who attended programming was created with the help of our Sustainable CT Fellows. The survey sought to understand if barriers to participation were broken down. Program leaders were asked to share the survey with students who participated.

August 6: Last day of arts programming (Outdoor Arts Studio, Lyme Academy's Pre-college Animation and Pre-college Classical Bootcamp)

Budget:

Our Budget included the following:

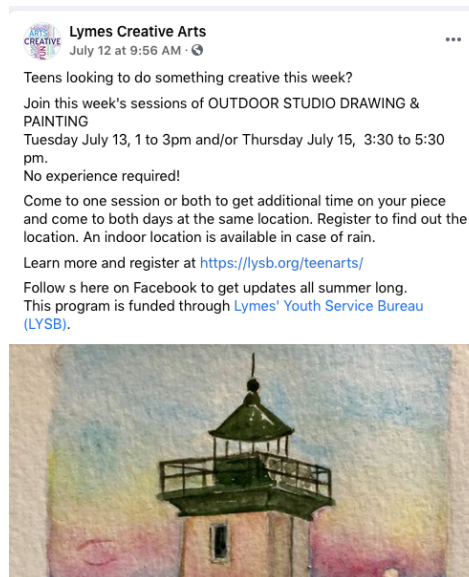
Stipends to Workshop Leaders: \$2200
 Scholarships to Lyme-Old Lyme Students Needing Assistance: \$240.00
 Program Supplies: \$548.01

A letter of Funding Proof is provided in the addendum of this narrative.

Outcome:

There were approximately 722 Lyme-Old Lyme Students in grades 6-12 this past year, with that enrollment dropping to 687 in the coming school year. We had the following numbers attend Lymes Creative Arts programming during the summer of 2021:

Caricature Drawing:	3
Ukulele Workshop:	5
Outdoor Arts Studio:	16
3-D Arts Studio:	9
Comics & Doodling	19
Wirework Jewelry	5
Lyme Academy:	12 Lyme and Old Lyme students among their regional enrollees; three L-OL students took multiple sessions.

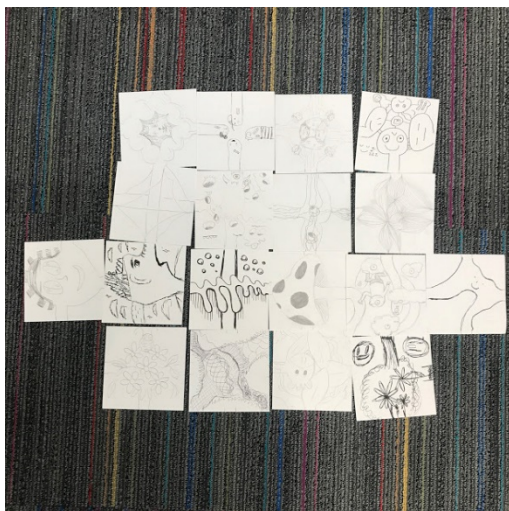


The Old Lyme-PGN Youth Librarian reported the following success in the Library's Cara Bean Comics Workshop:

"We had 19 attendees plus quite a few adults who either sat with us or lingered nearby or in the library. There were 7 boys, [and five] raised their hands when Cara asked if anyone had made comics before."

"We sat outside on the lawn in the shade and used comic books and graphic novels as our drawing pads. Cara gave each of us a copy of one of her comics "Why Draw," a limited edition full color sticker, and what she makes and calls an "on purpose crappy sketchbook" with upcycled materials. Kids started drawing in them as soon as they received them :) And it all fit right into the kit we were offering (a drawing pen, a mechanical pencil, blank paper, a novelty eraser, and a mini booklet describing how to make mini books to draw in!)"

"Cara led us through a very mindful but simple drawing exercise- for example, to start, we drew ovals over and over again to help center and ground us. Then we moved on to wavy lines- which was "taking a dot on a walk." She noted that "comics are actually really deep inside of all of us as the picture world was one of the first languages we speak..."



The four-week Ukulele Workshop proved to be a fun, stress-free time for students. Several middle school students participated all four weeks and may join the ongoing Ukulele Circle now held for youth two Saturdays a month at Nightingale's Acoustic Café, a venue run by the Music Now Foundation.

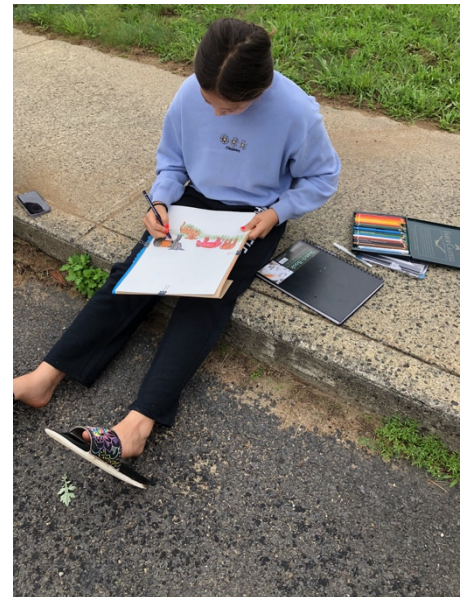


The four week/eight session Outdoor Art Studio grew in attendance as friends spread good reviews via word of mouth. Kristen Thornton, artist/educator and leader of the Outdoor Studio shared:

"The Outdoor Art Studio went progressively better as the kids told their friends about it, who then registered to join as the weeks continued. We had more juniors [11th graders] than I would typically get during a summer break, and it was wonderful to have a group of boys participate! The kids were of all skill levels, and because they could choose whatever they wanted to – drawing, painting, watercolor – no one seemed uncomfortable... you could try something totally new to you, or do something you were very comfortable with. Because it was "try what you like" there was no sense of worry about what others were doing, it was a very accepting environment. We picked locations as we went, and one week it occurred to me that going to the Essex Steam Train would give them an interesting challenge as 'the other side of trees and landscapes' which proved fun. Transportation worked out great. When we were indoors at the Art Academy [during inclement weather] I did encourage them to explore with painting on the easels. At that point, everyone seemed comfortable and confident to explore. Interestingly, the one student who seemed hard on herself was one of the most talented in the group. This summer session lit up in several students the idea of coming together to make art, and some said they would now be coming to the art studio program at the Lyme Library [held Tuesday evenings during the school year]."



Students brought their sketch supplies to Gillette's Castle for one of the Outdoor Studio sessions. In another session they sketched cows at Tiffany Farm of Lyme, and later filled in color and detail.

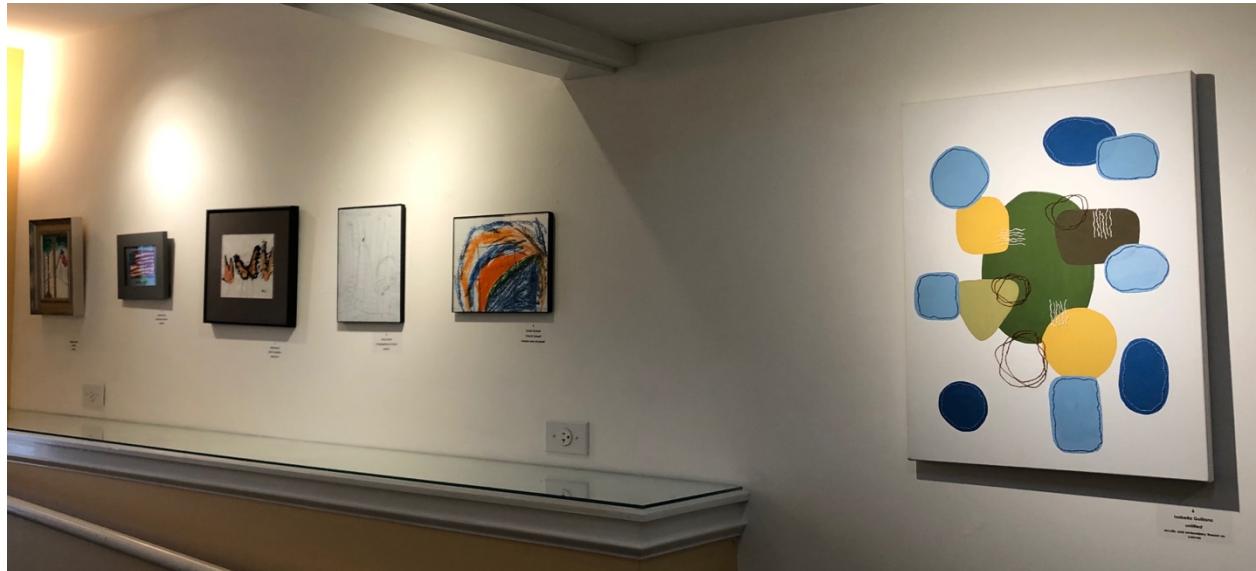




The Lyme Academy of Fine Arts provided the Outdoor Studio an indoor location in case of rain, taken advantage of twice during this seemingly rainy summer.

Kristen, who also leads the Lyme Library Art Studio, continued, *“The 3-D Studio held at the Lyme Library was also great, the kids were able to explore sculpture, which was new for several of them. We also were able to work together on the community birdhouse project. Kids who had never been during the school year to our art studio are now excited to continue participating when September comes.”*

The Lyme Art Association received over a dozen submissions from local youth for its Young Impressions Centennial Art Show. The pieces were hung in the gallery during August 2021 and enjoyed by all who attended the Art Association's Centennial celebrations.



Two Primary Successes came from the Lymes Creative Arts Initiative:

1. **By Youth, for Youth**: Listening to students and including them in the planning and implementation led us to having programming that best met students' needs. Understanding how to best reach students, what sort of "low stress" programming they most wanted, and the best timing of programs was only possible because of the inclusion of youth in our co-creative planning process.
2. **Collaborative Synergy Across Two Towns' Multiple Organizations**: Lymes Creative Arts brought together the Lyme-Old Lyme Schools, Lymes' Youth Service Bureau, the town libraries, and various arts organizations and providers. This allowed Lyme and Old Lyme, as small towns, to provide complementary rather than competing programs for middle and high school students. We created a one-stop website for all summer arts programs in the two towns regardless of which organization provided it. This collaborative partnership benefited both Lyme and Old Lyme families as well as the program providers and should be continued going forward.

We consider Lymes Creative Arts to have had a successful first year, and look forward to continuing our work together.

#

Addendum

- Letter of Funding Proof, LYSB •
- Article in The Day, July 21, 2021 •
 - Lymes Creative Arts Poster •
- Sample Communications from Lyme and Old Lyme First Selectmen •
 - Events Magazine •

Please see attachments to the Sustainable CT application for copies of the Survey Results and a pdf of the LYSB Letter Proving Funding



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August 11, 2021

Good Afternoon:

Grant funding for the Lymes Creative Arts programming, including workshop leader stipends, scholarships, and art materials, was provided through Lymes' Youth Service Bureau, as administrator of the school district's American Rescue Plan funding.

Sincerely,

Mary V. Seidner
Executive Director



Kids participate in creative arts summer program



Marley Hillar, 15, of Essex works on a painting of a still life Wednesday, July 21, 2021, while participating in a weeklong class on oil painting at the Pre-College Academy at Lyme Academy of Fine Arts in Old Lyme. (Dana Jensen/The Day)



Published July 21, 2021 6:41PM | Updated July 21, 2021 6:43PM

By **Dana Jensen** Day staff writer

✉ d.jensen@theday.com

Youths have been getting a taste of different arts and music this summer at various locations in Old Lyme and Lyme.

The Lymes Creative Arts program encourages middle and high school students to explore the arts.

As part of the program, the Pre-College Academy at Lyme Academy of Fine Arts in Old Lyme in past weeks has hosted workshops on drawing, illustration and conceptual art. The next three weeks, it will offer sculpture, animation classes and classical bootcamp.

The institution's Middle School Academy has held workshops on Leonardo da Vinci, Frida Kahlo and Alberto Giacometti.

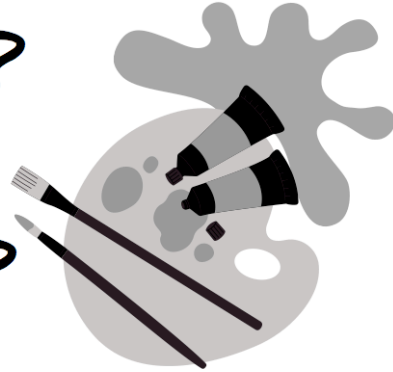
A staff reporter from our regional newspaper, The Day, visited a studio session of the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts' Youth Academy, which resulted in a July 21 article mentioning the Lymes Creative Arts programming.

What's your fun this summer?

Hoping to be Creative?

Love Art?

Love Music?



Lymes Creative Arts

Middle & High School Students Summer 2021

Join summer programs designed just for you.

There's something for all levels.

Costs are FREE or super low, thanks to funding through LYSB.



Scan the QR code or visit

LYSB.ORG/TEENARTS


for more information



LYSB.ORG/TEENARTS

lymescreativearts@gmail.com

*Don't let summer slip by without
some great creative memories!!*



Town of

Old Lyme

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Weekly Update from the First Selectman (6.3.2021)

POSTED ON: JUNE 3, 2021 - 2:46PM

Thank you to all who came out for Old Lyme's Memorial Day parade. It was a terrific event that honored U.S. military personnel who died in the performance of their military duties. To view photos from the parade, [visit our Facebook page](#). Special thanks to Old Lyme resident Kathy King for allowing us to share her photography.

This week members of the Old Lyme community welcomed 15-year-old RJ Thomas. RJ and his family are spending two weeks at a summer cottage at Hawks Nest Beach, provided for free by the Ciaffagliona family. RJ has several debilitating health issues. RJ's doctors, family, and RJ himself decided that he will not undergo any further surgical procedures so that his family can spend time with him before his quality-of-life diminishes further. They have embarked on a bucket list of activities and spending time at the beach in Old Lyme is one of RJ's wishes. Thank you to the Old Lyme Fire and Police Departments, and all the residents who came out to give RJ a warm welcome. Kevin Hogan of Channel 3 news covered this story which [you can view here](#).

Students in grades 6th-12th are encouraged to take advantage of new summer arts and music programming in Lyme and Old Lyme this summer. There will be workshops including Caricature Drawing, Ukulele, and Cartooning, and weekly programs that encourage youth to play music or pursue painting or drawing in various outdoor locations. Many of the programs are free, low cost, or have the opportunity for financial assistance, and are designed for beginners to advanced. The Town's Sustainable Old Lyme Team worked alongside other organizations in both Lyme and Old Lyme to bring together several opportunities in one place. LYSB is responsible for facilitating the funding. Go to [LYSB.org/TeenArts](#) to see the program options or to read more about the initiative on [the LymeLine.com](#).

On June 10th from 6:30 – 7:00 PM there will be a drive-by graduation parade in support of LOLHS seniors. You are welcome to park along the route (Town Woods Park to the end of Lyme Street) to honk and wave.

Enjoy the nice weather this weekend.

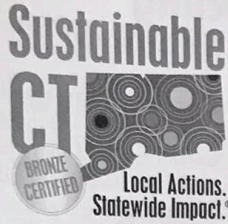


Town of Lyme
June 3

KNOW A TEEN INTERESTED IN THE ARTS? CHECK OUT LYMES CREATIVE ARTS. [Lymes Creative Arts](#) is an initiative of the Town of Lyme's Sustainable Committee and Sustainable Old Lyme that encourages middle and high school students to engage in the arts over the summer. The group partners with numerous organizations in both towns – including the Lyme-Old Lyme Schools, Lymes' Youth Service Bureau (LYSB), Lyme Public Library, Old Lyme Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library, Music Now Foundation (Nightingale's Acoustic Cafe), Lyme Academy of Fine Arts and Lyme Park & Recreation – to offer programs appropriate for everyone from true beginners to experienced artists. Lymes Creative Arts is open to all middle and high school students in Lyme and Old Lyme. There are also no-cost and scholarship opportunities for all. Visit [lysb.org/teenarts](#) to see the full listing of creative arts opportunities.

Lymes Creative Arts
Middle & High School Students Summer 2021

Sustainable Old Lyme Applies for Silver Certification



The Sustainable Old Lyme team is busy working on the Town's summer application for Silver Level certification by Sustainable CT.org. The Town of Old Lyme achieved its Bronze certification in October, and looks forward to further recognition of its efforts to ensure a sustainable, resilient community for our residents.

In addition to the efforts of multiple town commissions and boards whose work we will be highlighting, the Sustainable Old Lyme team took on two particular initiatives itself:

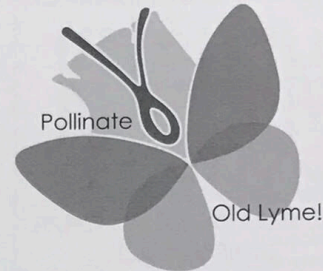
Lymes Creative Arts is an initiative to promote summer arts opportunities for middle and high school students living in Old Lyme or Lyme. In conjunction with Sustainable Lyme, Sustainable Old Lyme surveyed students in grades 6-12 to gauge their interest in summer arts opportunities and to learn what barriers students find in participating in the arts outside of the school year. Through discussions with volunteer students and arts program providers, the Lymes Creative Arts effort sought out additional programming as well as created a communications plan to ensure students are aware of the arts clubs, workshops in caricature or cartooning, and even

a ukulele workshop this summer. Many of the programs are funded or have scholarships available through LYSB. To learn more, email: SustainableOldLyme@gmail.com. Program listings are available on lysb.org or OldLymeArtsDistrict.org.

And Pollinate Old Lyme!

continues its work of educating residents and encouraging all to follow the three principles that bring pollinators to our area:

- 1 Reducing and eliminating pesticide and herbicide use
- 2 planting native plant species; and
- 3 removing invasive, non-native plants.



These three key steps will help butterflies, bees, and birds thrive in our beautiful habitat of Old Lyme. To stay involved in the Old Lyme pollinator pathway initiative, or to order your Pollinator Pathway lawn medallion, email: PollinateOldLyme@gmail.com.

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Old Lyme Events • Quarter 2 • 2021

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