

**Public Education Committee**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**October 1, 2024**

Committee Members Present: Innes Kasanof, Arthur Merrill, James Sofranko, Tina Molé, Thomas Snow, Joseph Cetta, and Dave Warne.

Present: John Schwartz, Matt Giannetta, Mike Meyer, Mike Maloney, Nick Sadler, Patrick Palmer, Shiloh Williams, Aaron Bennett, Gerson Tavarez, Pauline Wanjugi, Morgan Tarbell, Lisa Melville, Heidi Emrich, Nick Carbone, Tom Stalter, and Dymitry Ostapyshyn.

Staff Present: Donald Brown, Samantha Costa, Tim Cox, Jessica Fiedler, Lynn Kavanagh, Jason Merwin, Jim Martin, Barbara Puglisi, Lindsay Ballard

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m.

1. Minutes from the May 7, 2024 meeting were accepted without change.
2. Samantha went over the 2025 Education Grant Budget. Planning to keep the budget at \$175,000 for Student/Teacher Audiences and \$25,000 for Public Audiences with a total budget of \$200,000 for Round 28.
3. Round 26 update: The Round 26 grants are from the 2023-2024 school year. The Round 26 final reports are coming in. So far, we have received 12 reports and several more are due by the end of the year. Samantha has been in constant contact with these recipients. One project got an extension (Morton Memorial Library in Pine Holl) until June of 2025.
4. Round 27 update: The Round 27 grants are for the 2024-2025 school year. The Round 27 contracts were sent on June 3rd, 2024. So far, we have received 18 contracts back and we have executed 15 of those contracts. The Round 27 recipients have been reminded that their contracts need to be signed and returned by November 1<sup>st</sup> otherwise their application will be withdrawn.
5. Samantha brought up that her efforts to get more West-of-Hudson Watershed schools to apply, she has been in contact with a few organizations to become part of the special options in the round 28 grant application. These special options are pre-done projects that schools and organizations can apply for without having to create a whole new curriculum. The new options included programs with Hanford Mills Museum to do classroom, virtual and field trips to school for Watershed education. Laurie McIntosh is going to be offering Watershed based arts in education programs involving songs and songwriting to both the West-of-Hudson Watershed and NYC. The last new organization offering programming is the Time and the Valleys Museum in Grahamsville and offering three different interactive field trips to choose from. The Arm-of-the-Sea Theater is still a special option as well, but they have changed one of their performances from The Rejuvenary River Circus to Riparian Rhapsody

since they are taking The Rejuvenary River Circus out of production for now. This whole thought process was to get more schools involved in the grants if they had set projects to go off. Samantha will make sure to highlight these new programs in her outreach.

6. Samantha stated that the RFP for Round 28 would be going out to the school/organizations mid-November for the next round of grants for next school year.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Next meeting: TBD