

Madalyn Letellier

From: Mike Steele [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2026 10:57 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Concern about new direction for Somerville Arts Council

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Hello Somerville City Council,

My name is Michael Steele. I'm a Somerville homeowner and have lived in the Somerville area for 10 years.

I am writing to express concern about changes to the leadership of the Somerville Arts Council and the Mayor's "new direction" for the council. My concern is that there has been no public comment on why the former director was fired or what the new direction for the Somerville Arts Council is.

The arts programming produced by the Somerville Arts Council (Porchfest, Somerville Open Studios, ArtBeat, etc.) is one of the reasons I'm so proud to live in Somerville. It is amazing that the public has free access to high quality arts programming like this. It's what makes Somerville so special and I don't want it to go away.

I am asking for transparency around changes to the Somerville Arts Council leadership and transparency around the direction change for the council. I am asking to preserve the programming that we love, like Porchfest, that makes Somerville so special.

Thank you for your time,
Michael Steele