



GARDINER CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET



Meeting Date		Department	
Agenda Item			
Est. Cost			
Background Information			
Requested Action			
City Manager and/or Finance Review			
Council Vote/ Action Taken			
Departmental Follow-Up			

City Clerk Use Only	1 st Reading _____	Advertised _____	EFFECTIVE DATE _____
	2 nd Reading _____	Advertised _____ w/in 15 Days	
	Final to Dept _____	Updated Book _____	Online _____

COMMUNITY FACES

Celebrating the many people engaged in local art and in growing the Gardiner community

Artwalk Gardiner was formally launched in the Fall of 2005 by Artdogs Studios and a handful of artists in Gardiner, Maine.

Artwalk Gardiner's mission is to increase community awareness and appreciation of the visual arts, to encourage interaction and familiarity amongst local artists and the general public, to provide artists with a supportive network and to foster the creative economy through regular art exhibitions in downtown Gardiner.

2025 is the 20th year of Artwalk Gardiner, and with *Gardiner Main Street* as our fiscal sponsor, we are celebrating this milestone by creating large-scale murals called **Community Faces**.

Overview

Community Faces is a public art project that elevates and celebrates the many people who are engaged in local art and community building in Gardiner. At the heart of the initiative are several outdoor large-scale mosaic murals, created from individual 'headshot' photographs and installed with wheat-paste. The murals will be in color and feature the faces of people who are engaged in the local arts and various community building activities, capturing the diversity and scope of all those who are helping Gardiner grow and flourish. What it means to be "engaged in the local arts and various community building activities" is intentionally broad. Artists, business owners, teachers, and people who attend events focused on local art are some examples of who might be featured along with leaders of Gardiner organizations, volunteers, city councilors, farmers, and all sorts of other movers and shakers and community members who help keep Gardiner vibrant.

Community Faces - the process and timeline

Invitation to participate: Through social media, e-mail, posters and person-to-person networks, the invitation to have one's photo taken will be disseminated. There will be several dates available starting in May and going into June to allow the most participation. The invitation will clarify who the project aims to photograph by listing some of the many ways people can engage in the local arts and in keeping Gardiner vibrant.

The photo station: At the May Artwalk Gardiner, project organizers will set up a temporary photo station where people can voluntarily have their picture/ headshot taken, sign a release form and answer a few questions about how they are involved in the local arts. Final individual images will be approximately 12"x12".

Economic impact: In addition to the intrinsic cultural and social benefits, the Community Faces project will attract additional foot traffic to the area, increasing visibility and patronage for nearby businesses. This supports the local creative economy while enhancing the community's reputation as an arts-friendly destination.

Youth and volunteer engagement: Initiatives like Community Faces provide valuable opportunities to engage people in the arts and community building. The experience of having one's portrait included in a large-scale public artwork or helping with an installation can be inspiring and fulfilling. For youth, the experience can be formative, instilling a sense of creative empowerment and civic pride that carries into adulthood.

Strengthening community identity: Ultimately, the Community Faces project serves as a catalyst for the community to reflect on the importance of local art, community engagement and civic-mindedness, recognize its depth and breadth and celebrate its diversity. The murals also reaffirm a community's commitment to inclusive, vibrant public spaces which helps strengthen identity in a positive, forward-looking way.

Potential for related projects: While the Community Faces mural project is the focus, additional information and permission will be requested from participating individuals so that future projects such as a digital archive or book could be produced. Project organizers are also exploring the possibility of videoing the entire project.

Community Faces - Budget

Project Leader	\$1300
Photographer (includes necessary supplies)	\$400
Digital artist for mural creation	\$800
Mural installation leader	\$600
Mural production (copying by local copier)	\$600
Mural installation supplies (wheat paste ingredients, buckets, brushes, etc.)	\$250
Light food and drink for volunteers during installation	\$100
TOTAL	\$4050