
ARPA funds committee

1 message

Molly Dugan <Dugan@cathedralsquare.org>
To: "jarneson@richmondvt.gov" <jarneson@richmondvt.gov>

Mon, Oct 18, 2021 at 9:10 AM

Hello Josh,

I am writing to indicate my interest in participating on the committee being formed to help determine how the federal ARPA funds allocated to our town will be spent. I am involved through my professional life in housing and long-term care in following policy closely on the state and federal level regarding the ARPA funds. I would like to bring that experience and knowledge to this group. I am a long term resident of Richmond and have served on numerous committees and boards including the elementary school board for almost 7 years, the Police Advisory Committee (years ago!) and the Richmond Recreation Committee.

Thank you for considering my interest to serve the Town in this way.

Please let me know if you need anything further from me.

Best,

Molly

Molly Dugan, MPA (she/her)

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<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19>

Dear Josh Arneson, Jay Furr, June Heston, and Connie Bona,

I'm writing to express interest in serving as an at-large Richmond community member on the ARPA Committee. I'm a writer, teacher, and writing consultant, working both independently and for UVM's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and the UVM Medical School. My family has lived on Snipe Ireland Road in Richmond for 7 years, and I have great respect for the town's generous, talented, and community-minded leadership, as I've watched it navigate a diversity of competing voices and concerns. The ARPA sounds like a wonderful opportunity for the town to support those households and businesses hardest hit by the pandemic, possibly to invest in broadband and other infrastructure, and to address inequities that have led the pandemic to impact some groups more than others. As someone who has been minimally impacted, I would hope to use my voice to speak up on behalf of equity and inclusion across racial, gender, age, socio-economic, and ability lines.

Since moving to Vermont, alongside raising our two children and developing a writing and teaching career, I've devoted time to various community organizations. I currently serve on the board of Sundog Poetry Center, Inc.—an organization that works to bring poetry to all Vermonters—as Secretary, and on the board of Red Cedar School in Bristol as Treasurer. Before that, I served on the board of the Burlington Writers Workshop for two years while I co-founded and edited the literary journal *Mud Season Review*, working with a group of 20+ volunteers to find new voices around the country and world to publish. During that time, my family and I also took an active part in the Burlington Co-housing community where we lived. I'm a caretaker and advocate for a family member with major mental illness, and for three years I've been a dedicated member of the Me2/ orchestra in Burlington, in support of its mission to erase stigma surrounding mental illness. I joined the Richmond Racial Equity group when it first started and became part of the Education Group, with an interest in fostering dialogue and awareness around racial equity.

All these experiences have helped equip me to reach out to diverse communities to gather ideas, address challenges, and create opportunities for change. Through my time in co-housing and my various volunteer and work experiences, I've learned the importance of listening and soliciting input when trying to resolve conflicts and balance competing needs. As an experienced facilitator, my focus is on bringing out others' voices and reflecting accurately their thoughts and ideas. I don't bring an agenda; I seek to help others articulate theirs. I welcome the opportunity to serve the town directly and hope that my skills for listening and problem-solving, as well as for researching and writing, and my deep-rooted concern for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility, might be of use to the community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Starks