

Learning Cities in Action!

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UMass Lowell, Lowell Center for Sustainable Production

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**LOWELL CITY
OF LEARNING**

One word to describe Lowell

What can we do for the

Community history
Connections
Mills innovation
Colorful college
crowded Festival
Celebrations life
creativity resilient
HOME green

What is a City of Learning?

UNESCO “Learning Cities”:

- Effectively mobilize resources in every sector to promote inclusive learning from basic to higher education
- Revitalize learning in families and communities
- Facilitate learning for and in the workplace
- Extend the use of modern learning technologies
- Enhance quality and excellence in learning
- Foster a culture of learning throughout life

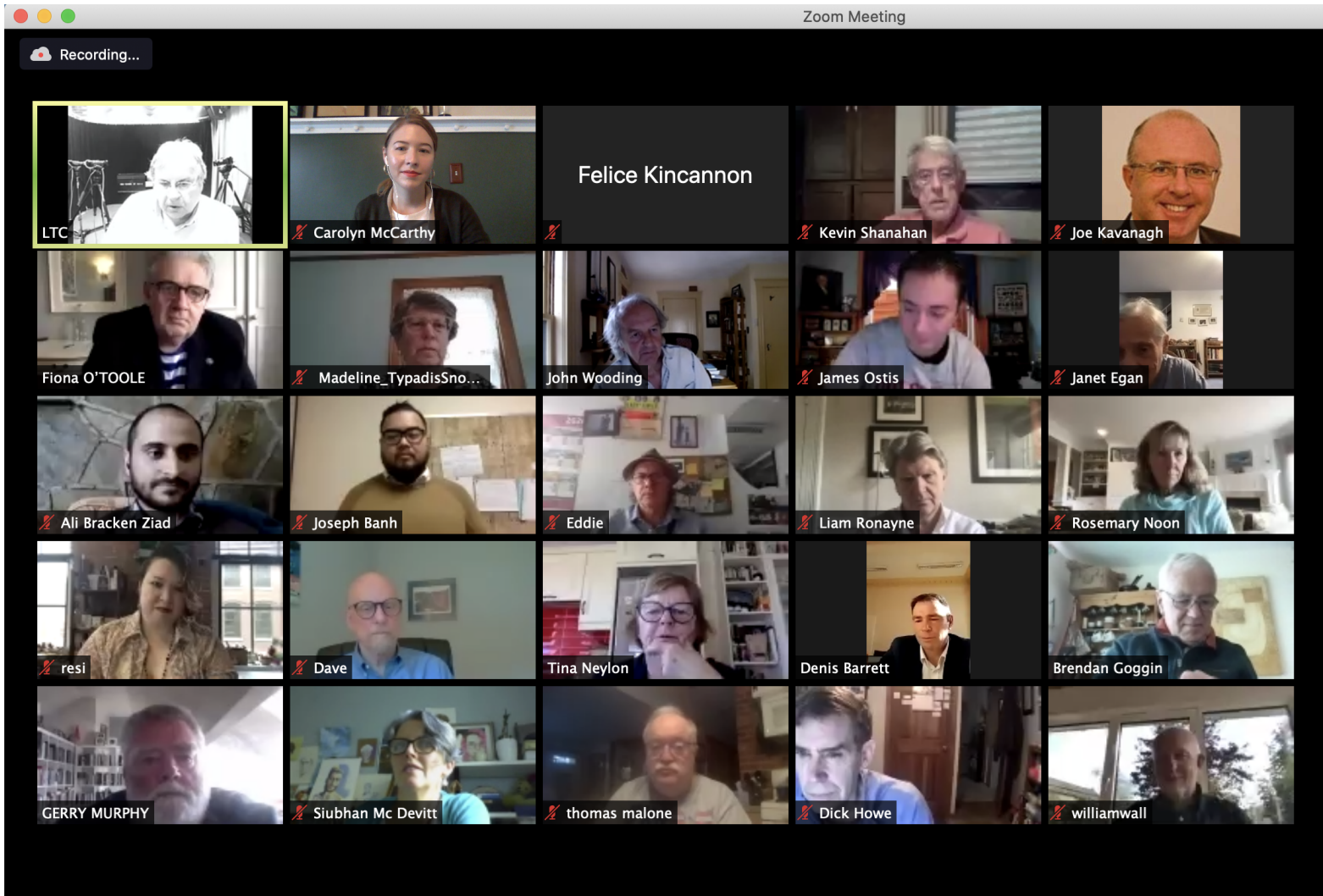
In doing so, the city enhances **individual empowerment** and **social inclusion**, **economic development**, **cultural prosperity**, and **sustainable development**.





2019 in Person (!) week
long Festival of Learning

2020 Virtual Learning
Festival



Not the same but better than nothing.

2020 Lowell City of Learning Festival Calendar of Events

Monday 9.28	7 pm ET	Introduction to the Learning Festival Presented by Lowell City of Learning
Monday 9.28	kickoff	COOL Science Art Workshop and Competition Presented by COOL Science and Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust
Tuesday 9.29	11 am ET	Dance MOVES for PD Presented by Donna Miceli Dance Center
Tuesday 9.29	1 pm ET	The Future of Further and Higher Education Post Pandemic Presented by Lowell City of Learning
Wednesday 9.30	1:30 pm ET	Lowell Kinetic Sculpture Race Presented by Lowell Kinetic Sculpture Race
Wednesday 9.30	4 pm ET	Mill Girls - Life and Work in an Industrial City Presented by Lowell National Historical Park and the Tsongas Industrial History Center
Thursday 10.1	2:30 pm ET	Looking Back and Growing Forward Presented by Mill City Grows
Thursday 10.1	4 pm ET	Open Forum on Climate Change Presented by the UMass Lowell Climate Change Initiative
Thursday 10.1	4 pm ET	Observational Drawing for Kids Presented by Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Lowell National Historical Park, and the Tsongas Industrial History Center
Thursday 10.1	6 pm ET	Community Conversation: Cultural Exhibit Project at Lowell NHP Presented by Lowell National Historical Park
Friday 10.2	11 am ET	Atlantic Currents: Connecting Cork and Lowell Presented by Lowell City of Learning
Friday 10.2	6 pm ET	Building a Business in Lowell AND Surviving in a Pandemic Presented by Brew'd Awakening, EforAll, Purple Carrot Bread Company, The Social Pup
Friday 10.2	7 pm ET	Movie Showing of The Merrimack: River at Risk Presented by Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust
		Thank You Heroes - Virtual Art Gallery Presented by Laurie Simko and Christ Church United
		Cheryl West on the Playwriting Process Presented by Merrimack Repertory Theatre
		Virtual Lowell Walks Presented by Richard Howe
		Industrialization, Deforestation and a New England Mill Town Presented by Lowell National Historical Park
		What to the Slave is the Fourth of July? Community Reading 2020 Presented by Lowell National Historical Park
		Lowell Talks: A Movement and a Pandemic Presented by Lowell National Historical Park





LOWELL CITY OF LEARNING

2020 Learning Festival

Building a Business in Lowell and Surviving in a Pandemic

Collect tips for a successful business. Lianna Kushi, EforAll, moderates a panel of local entrepreneurs

- Brew'd Awakening
- Purple Carrot Bread Company
- The Social Pup

who have successfully managed to build a business and keep it going through the pandemic. Hear their stories to learn what's involved with creating a successful business in Lowell.

10/2 6 pm <https://uml.zoom.us/j/98418525530>



LOWELL CITY OF LEARNING

2020 Learning Festival

Thank You Heroes - A Virtual Art Gallery

Marvel at the power of art to communicate. The virtual gallery is a series of 20 portraits of Nurses in their protective gear, by artist Laurie Simko, as each struggled to care for and comfort Covid patients and their families. Accompanying bios share the words of hope, strength, and teamwork that each found in the midst of such difficulty. Laurie Simko is a painter with a studio in Lowell.

The emergence of COVID changed her focus last spring. Her daughter, a nurse, sent her a selfie with her newly acquired face shield, and struck with the image, almost like a soldier going into battle, she painted her portrait, followed by 19 others.



Special thanks to Christ Church United.

Streaming at



LOWELL CITY OF LEARNING

2020 Learning Festival

Cheryl West on the Playwriting Process

Learn how Cheryl West, one of the most widely produced playwrights in the country, approaches the creative process, the spirit in which she collaborates, and her vision for the American Theatre. Moderated by MRT's Nancy L. Donahue Artistic Director, Courtney Sale.

Streaming at



The Lowell City of Learning and UMass Lowell Climate Change Initiative present an open forum on Climate Change led by UMass Lowell faculty.

October 1, 2020 4:00PM – 5:00PM

Registration required:

<https://bit.ly/32xt5dG>

- How are the western US wildfires related to climate change?
- How will acting on climate change affect the economy?
- What if we do nothing?
- What are some of the solutions to climate change that are already here?
- Are there any solutions that we haven't heard about yet?
- How can a computer model predict climate and what is the difference between weather and climate?
- What is ocean acidification? What government action can help with climate change?



The panelists are listed below:



LOWELL CITY OF LEARNING

- Dr. Mathew Barlow Environmental, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences
- Dr. Jennifer Cadero-Gillette Art and Design
- Dr. Kelly Hellman Economics
- Dr. Thomas Shea Biological Sciences
- Dr. Chris Skinner Environmental, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences
- Dr. Meg Sobkowicz-Kline Plastics Engineering
- Dr. John Wooding Political Science
- Prof. Lori Weeden Environmental, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences





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2020 Learning Festival

Mill Girls - Life and Work in an Industrial City

Follow the journey of a mill girl from her family farm in the New England countryside to her new job operating a loom in Lowell's Boott Cotton Mills. Participants will meet two mill girls during their virtual visit to the boardinghouse and weave room, learn about each girl's unique experience of life and work in a textile mill, and experience for themselves a bit of what it was like to work in the mills.



Wednesday 9/30
4 pm
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dz09 and use passcode TIHC

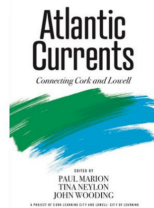


LOWELL CITY
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2020 Learning Festival

Atlantic Currents: Connecting Cork and Lowell

Listen to readings from and a discussion about this anthology from sixty-five writers on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean whose stories, poems, essays, songs, and parts of novels come to us in familiar voices.



Friday 10/2 11am



2020 Learning Festival

Join LP&CT staff in partnership with COOL Science and create art to help teach the world about the impacts of severe weather. Enter an art competition that benefits your entire community.

Starts Monday 9/28
<https://lowelllandtrust.org/cool-science-art-workshop-competition>



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2020 Learning Festival

Looking Back and Growing Forward

Join Mill City Grows Co-Founders, Lydia Sisson and Francey Slater, and the current Executive Director and Board President, Jessica Wilson and John Wooding as we discuss building a food justice movement in Lowell.



Thursday 10/1
2:30 pm



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2020 Learning Festival

Virtual Lowell Walks: Civil War Lowell

Learn about Lowell during the Civil War.

- [Episode 1 - Lords of the Loom](#)
- [Episode 2 - Minutemen of 1862](#)
- [Episode 3 - Butler Saves the Union](#)

Lowell Walks was founded by Richard Howe in 2015. Besides informing participants of interesting facets of Lowell history, the walks promote downtown businesses, create a sense of community among participants, and create momentum to make the city a more walkable place.



Streaming

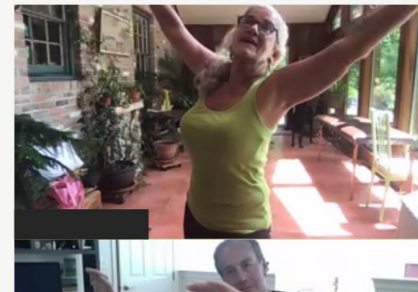


Donna Miceli presents

Dance MOVES for PD

COME DANCE WITH US AT HOME!

DMDC is thrilled to offer live streamed classes on Zoom designed for People with Parkinson's and other persons with mobility challenges, including all seniors. Care partners are also invited to share in the experience.



I READ THE NEWS TODAY, OH BOB
Remembering John Lennon
Murdered December 8, 1980

Join us as we pay tribute **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE**
Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 6:00 to 8:00 PM
Register at: alumni.uml.edu/lennon2020

William Moylan – Distinguished University Professor (2019-2022)
Professor of Music and Sound Recording Technology

Robert Forrant – Distinguished University Professor (2016-2019)
Professor of History and Graduate Program Coordinator

Paul Marion – Executive Director, Community Relations (retired)

John Wooding – Professor Emeritus, Political Science



Sponsored By
Lowell City of Learning
UMass Lowell Dept. of Music
and Alumni Relations



“Take Aways”

- Convening in and of itself promotes learning.
- Opportunities naturally emerge from convening people with shared interests.
- Learning can be more than “This is what I know and now you know it too.”
- Community engagement is just an email or conversation away.
- Assumptions and judgements about what “they” need or want get in the way of community engagement.
- Power of a calendar
- Diverse perspectives or experiences coupled with shared interests and or goals make for powerful learning.

What could being a Learning City mean?



Connections during this time
of physical social distancing



Potential greater involvement
and engagement through a
virtual environment



Partnerships that otherwise
wouldn't happen



Respect and renewed
commitment to cities as
“homes”

www.lowellcityoflearning.org

<https://www.facebook.com/LowellLearningCity/>

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