Learning Cities in Action!

Madeline Snow
UMass Lowell, Lowell Center for Sustainable Production
January 27, 2021
One word to describe Lowell

Community
Connections
Mills
Innovation
Colorful
Crowded
Festival
Celebrations
Life
Creativity
Resilient
Home

What can we do for the
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

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

10/26 6 pm https://uml.zoom.us/j/98418525530

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

Merrimack Repertory Theater

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.
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 Boost 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
https://umil.zoom.us/j/6662479539?pwd=xUzazLzVC985mS6WVxkUW9BYWxzd09 and use passcode TIHC

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

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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://lowellandtrust.org/cool-science-art-workshop-competition
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

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.

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 Boy
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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