

## APNNE Meeting

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

### In attendance:

- President: Darcie Champagne, Stockbridge Theater/Pinkerton Academy in NH
- Vice President: Chloe Powell, BarnArts Center for the Arts in VT
- Treasurer: Vicky Pittman, Colonial Theater in Keene, NH
- Secretary: Madeline Bell, Flynn Center in VT
- Guest artist: Stuart Paton, Burlington Taiko
  
- Liza Sacheli - Mahaney Arts Center/Middlebury College in VT
- Adrienne Petrillo - NEFA in MA
- Ian Bannon - Mayo Street Arts in ME
- Susanna Brent - Colonial Theatre in Bethlehem, NH
- LJ Gilloux - Lebanon Opera House in NH
- Highland Center for the Arts
- Daniela Jacobson - NEFA in MA
- 

### TODAY'S TOPIC - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

#### STUART PATON, BURLINGTON TAIKO

Home page: <http://www.burlingtontaiko.org/>

Creative Ground profile: <https://www.creativeground.org/profile/burlington-taiko>

Email: [spaton55@gmail.com](mailto:spaton55@gmail.com)

Cell: 802-999-4255

- Video link to outdoor student performance after 5-day residency:  
<https://youtu.be/Ug9Cxt5HS4w?t=1030>
- Grew up in Japan, kids are adaptable
- Bilingual brain, multiple first languages (different personalities in both languages!)
- Taiko is also a language, a combination of percussion, dance, storytelling
- Pedagogy influenced by growing up in Japan, three grandmothers in the neighborhood who taught Stuart to speak Japanese
- Watching experienced educators is a great way to learn different pedagogies and practices
- The work is “responding to civil emergencies”
- Keep micro-communities intact during the pandemic via Zoom rehearsals, classes, meetings, etc.
- Practice outside, or inside with doors open
  - What supplies are needed to rehearse in the cold and snow?
- Harmony with the community is important
  
- Stuart/Burlington Taiko = Joy Factory

- How can we all bring joy to what we are doing?
- Bought toy lightsabers for each student, used them at the end of virtual classes with the lights turned off
- Squeaky toys to practice different rhythms
- School workshops
  - Would like about 4 hours of contact time with different classes, but timing is adaptable
  - Combat Zoom fatigue by drumming outside
  - Drums and individually packaged sticks delivered before school opens, becomes an art installation
  - Can happen in the rain or in the snow
- Stuart also plays congas, Cuban and Haitian drumming
- Burlington Taiko makes all their own drums (practice and professional drums) and repairs them and can bring up to 40 drums for a school workshop
- If the post office can deliver, Burlington Taiko can deliver!
  - Taiko can be brought to different neighborhoods, driveways, community blocks
  - On the back of the flatbed trucks
  - Where else?
- How can students continue to practice at home?
  - Cardboard boxes, buckets, plastic containers
    - Turned upside down or using packaging tape stretched over the top
  - Old tires wrapped in packing tape (so the sticks don't get dirty)
  - Chopsticks/pencils as drumsticks

Registration for virtual IDEA SWAP is open!

- <https://www.nefa.org/events/idea-swap-virtual>
- November 17 and 18
- Stay tuned for more schedule details in the coming weeks
- Share touring projects
- NEFA also working on uplifting a few New England artists

APNNE/NEP meet-up pre or post Idea Swap gathering?

- Intro to Idea Swap
- Happy Hour
- Block booking recap
- Other?

Vicky: Community Engagement at the Colonial

- Working a lot with other organizations

- Attending other events in the community to connect
- Restorative Justice work
- Abenaki engagement with film and live storytelling
  - More info here: <http://www.apnne.us/resources.html>
  - Upstander Project: <https://upstanderproject.org/>
- Working on making people aware of new second space (Main Stage opens in April 2022)
- Virtual workshops and matinees with schools
  - Bus driver shortage
  - Trying to offer something for every age group

LJ: Community Engagement at LOH

- Working on connecting with retirement community for certain events

Chloe: Community Engagement at BarnArts

- 8 piece Haitian band coming to Upper Valley in late April/early May 2022
  - Other school engagements in UV?

REMINDER: Reach out to APNNE board with needs for resources, website updates, etc. We're here to help!