



TOWN OF BROOKLINE

Massachusetts

Council on Aging
RUTHANN DOBEK, LICSW
DIRECTOR
RDobek@brooklinema.gov

At Brookline Senior Center
93 Winchester Street
Brookline, MA 02446
617-730-2756
Fax: 617-730-2761

December 11, 2020

To The Brookline Commission for the Arts,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of the grant application of Brookline Community Center for the Arts, Inc. (BCCA) to create one or more new "You and Broadway!" performance videos for Brookline seniors. In addition, BCCA hopes to make archived editions of past "You and Broadway!" shows available however, these recordings will require the completion of some post-production work for which additional funding is needed.

The Senior Center has a well-established relationship with BCCA, Dan Marshall, and the entire "You and Broadway!" team as they have historically performed semi-annual concerts at the Senior Center. In fact, we had a show scheduled for May 2020 which we had to cancel due to the pandemic. These energetic and engaging live performances were well received by our participants and often had 50-70 people in attendance. The shows generally involved a variety of musical numbers by seasoned performers however, they also often welcomed seniors from the community to perform. It would be wonderful to be able to provide community access to these entertaining memories and to create new musical content for the community as well. Given the current state of affairs, it is hard to anticipate when it will be safe enough to reopen the Senior Center for large gatherings again. As a result, it seems to be in our best interest to plan for the production of one or more, if possible, performance videos for 2021.

Although we can make no firm commitment at this time, our hope is that we will be able to allow the "You and Broadway!" team to film the show(s) in the familiar setting of our Senior Center ballroom as public health and safety regulations allow. We will plan to work closely with local health officials to determine the feasibility of this plan once funding has been secured and we have agreed upon one or more dates to film.

Using their recently upgraded multi-camera TV-style broadcast and live streaming videography and audio amplification equipment and professional production staff, the BCCA will immediately make available the video of their show(s) to our senior community, via their online portal and via video files that we can use and share directly, and if possible, also via live streaming and interactive technologies. We will also work with Brookline Interactive Group (BIG) to make the content available to seniors without computer or mobile device access, via their local access television channel.

Making such quality programming available for seniors via our local access channel and online during these difficult times is so terribly important in our efforts to keep seniors engaged and we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Washburn, LICSW
Program Manager
Brookline Senior Center