



MEMO

Date: March 14th, 2023
To: BPRW Commission
From: Meghan O'Daniel, Community Garden & Parks Outreach Coordinator
RE: Loom Ensemble Special use Permit for July 29th, 30th & 31st, 2023

Request for waiver at Leddy Park to allow for a special use permit and amplified sound for a performance on July 29th and July 30th (with a rain date on July 31st).

Loom Ensemble has been devising dance-theater for culture shift since 2010. They use their performances to open difficult conversations, and then facilitate community discussion to unpack the emotional vulnerability and cultural taboos of each show. In that shared space, the social value of art made from a place of deep integrity becomes clear: our actions matter, new ways of living are possible, together we can build a more loving world.

Their current project, "Tell Me How You Breathe". The focus of the performance is that air may be the last public commons, yet the impact of airborne illness, pollutant particles and mass deforestation is not evenly distributed. Even as the pandemic begins to fade, "who gets to breathe freely, fully and with ease" is still a necessary question. In "Tell Me How You Breathe", Loom Ensemble will bring a racially diverse group of professional dance-theater performers into public parks across New England. With the nourishment of participatory ceremony and song, they ground this political conversation exploration in the physical body, developing a performance that is vulnerable, brave and inviting. Loom Ensemble is working to create a container for audiences to process grief and collectively envision what flourishing could look like for themselves, their families and for their extended communities. This will be funded by the New England Foundation for the Arts.

Audiences will gather on picnic blankets and folding chairs. This will be a family friendly event that is accessible to all. They will be selling tickets in advance but also have a suggested donation for passersby who are interested in watching. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

The amplified sound will take place from 5pm to 6:30pm both nights of the performance. It will include live instrumentalists and amplified speaking by the actors.

Staff contact for the events is Raphael Sacks.

The requests are on days with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow waiver for amplified sound.

