

July 14, 2020

Greetings to the zoning board members, Mr. Chairman, the community at large and the neighbors at hand.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to present our ideas to further realize Bethany's mission by utilizing nature and all it has to offer. I'd like to start by thanking the community for its support, from the many letters that were written to the many voices heard. Your support is Bethany's fuel. I would like to especially thank the immediate neighbors who were able to see what Bethany has to offer Ossining and the community at large and for the support and words of encouragement they provided. It is invaluable.

As a Board, we have decided, for several reasons, to amend our request to expand our use of the grounds specifically the area behind the tree line encompassing the trail. All activities will be west of the orchard tree line. These reasons include the very vocal and written opposition to the noise of children being heard, the claims of personal space being compromised, and the anticipated onerous costs of the additional surveys it appears the zoning board may now be inclined to require. Lastly seeing the encouragement of the detractors being encouraged to write in and quick dismissal of supports to the next speaker presents insurmountable obstacles. It is our sincere hope that by making the footprint of activity smaller and offering this good faith compromise, the zoning board will be inclined to grant us permission expeditiously.

We feel a sense of urgency in resolving this matter as both our mission – and our sense of duty – compel us to offer space to help the Ossining school district, and select small community gatherings, address their lack of space for socially distanced programming this fall. With so much unknown for all of us, Bethany can only help to do our small part to alleviate some of the pressures soon to be facing the schools and the community as a whole.

As the executive director I will apologize for assuming what I thought was good for the community would be seen the same way by all. Bethany believes very deeply in the importance of varying perspectives and perceptions as stated in our mission statement. Now I realize I may not have allowed for that in my actions. For that I personally must accept responsibility express my apologies.

For the sake of clarity, Bethany is hereby amending our request to the zoning board by:

- Moving all new activities proposed for the Trail Area onto our property west of the tree line by the orchard to the street (Somerstown Rd.) and outside the 100 foot buffer zone to the north and south. Please see site plan.

In condensing the activities to the areas in question Bethany would only be continuing what the Lay Missionaries did in the past. The following are some of the activities that took place on the grounds during the lay missionaries' tenure.

- An annual Square Dance out by the barn (no longer standing) and in the parking lot
- Volleyball games and other similar activities
- Cider pressing. Apparently, there used to be an old cider press on the property. (They picked apples at a nearby orchard.)
- The Orientation and Reunion classes would hold cookouts, dances, and picnics outside.

Bethany looks only to produce the same type of low impact quality activities, with art as fuel for creativity and community.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to present before the community.

David Lyons  
Executive Director  
Bethany Arts Community

July 10, 2020

***Bethany Arts Community Application for Special Permit***

Thank you for taking the time to review additional information regarding Bethany Arts Community's application for a special permit to include outdoor activities. This special permit will bring us closer to reaching our mission of creating a space and environment where the many forms of art can be learned, produced and flourish: a space where artists of all ages and levels of experience are welcome to explore and create art for the community to experience and engage with while enhancing their perception and perspective of the world. We aim to inspire sharing, connection and collaboration in a culture designed for the benefit of the local community and beyond.

Having access to the outdoor spaces on the Bethany grounds for the activities below is an essential step toward Bethany's stated mission, and we thank you for continuing the conversation.

In this packet we hope to provide additional information to clarify our request and address stated concerns of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and issues raised by neighbors. We understand that it is a difficult task to weigh the good of the community as a whole with the specific needs of those in nearest proximity. As such, the following information will offer a more detailed outline of the proposed activities.

***As discussed in the 6/29/2020 ZBA meeting, BAC was to receive a list of specific questions the ZBA and neighbors have as well as copies of letters of support and dissent of the proposed activities. By direction of the Zoning Board, BAC compiled a list from the aforementioned letters. This information is submitted here in order to meet the 7-day filing deadline given at the meeting. We hope to still be able to address any additional questions or concerns that are submitted to BAC as the process continues.***

***As you will see we have amended our use of the property to exclude all areas beyond the eastern tree line of the orchard.***

Thank you for your consideration.

David Lyons  
Executive Director  
Bethany Arts Community

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## **Activities Overview**

As Submitted to the ZBA on 6/26/2020

**Arts-Based Educational Summer Camp** – (not recreational) designed with creativity themes which will include programming that combines and utilizes the physical environment at Bethany and the many forms of art. This program will be offered as an additional supplement to the already existing programs that the village and town have in place. The camps will likely run during the months of July and August. Hours will be standard for a daytime use camp, generally operating 8:30 am to 4pm Monday through Friday which includes preparation and breakdown, a maximum of 50 campers per day is anticipated. Utilization of the grounds are mainly focused to be a unique and expansive experience for the children of Ossining including Village, Town and the immediate surrounding areas.

**Outdoor Children's Theatre Camp** – expanding the existing relationship with Theatre O, Bethany would like to continue to provide outdoor space to further engage the children of Ossining. Bethany is looking to offer and encourage the use of this alternative space to other town and village organizations and groups for enjoyable performances of varying kinds. Because so many of our local available spaces are indoors, the outdoor space we offer will be a welcomed and needed addition. Also generally operating 8:30 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday. An occasional Saturday performance would allow many additional family members the opportunity to see their children at work. Bethany working with Theatre O would be creating an inclusive theatre experience for all of Ossining's younger groups.

Theatre O has become an integral member of the Ossining community, Bethany's continued work with theatre O will primarily be indoors during the school year as the existing permit allows. Expanding the theatre classroom to the outdoors will only improve and enhance the and invite extended family members to participate in the programming together. Family oriented theater would be one of the components to these activities.

**Riverfund** – working with organizations such as river fund, an organization on the front lines of poverty Bethany would like to extend scholarships to 10-20 children over the course of the season. These children would range in the ages of 8-13. The benefits of outdoor space and interaction are too numerous to list as the not only will the children from the city benefit the children from Ossining will also gain valuable knowledge in interaction with others from not so fortunate circumstances. These activities would be in conjunction with the summer camp and maintain some operating procedures. Monday thru Friday 8:30 to 4 during summer break. The campers of Riverfund are included in the above number of 50.

**Use of Walking Trails for Outdoor Exhibits** – withdrawn as per July 14, 2020 letter

**Collaboration with Eco-friendly organizations** - withdrawn as per July 14, 2020 letter

**Trail System** - withdrawn as per July 14, 2020 letter

**Artoberfest** – Bethany would produce a daylong event that would expand the idea of art and engage the many diverse members of Ossining. 2019 Artoberfest was held indoors. This year we would like to expand it outdoors in an attempt to include more of the diverse public Ossining has to offer. This event would be held in early October in further attempts to bring additional positive attention to Ossining village and town. Last year the festival included Gladys Lowe and her African dance program which included African drumming. Expanding on the theme of hands on creativity, we included family friendly pumpkin carving, face painting and bread making.

Ossining-centric food purveyors and businesses will be invited to participate in creating fun informative programs during the event. Local organizations such as Cedar Lane Art Center and local businesses such as Big Foot Creamery led last year's efforts to create a very family friendly artistic experience. Outdoor activities will only be conducted during the daylight hours. All activities would take place within open areas of Bethany, front lawn to the tree line on the south perimeter of the orchard & the existing trail as permitted. Sunset is approximately 6:30 pm so it is safe to say that all public outdoor activities would be completed by then. Any additional activities such as local music offerings will be held inside and under current permitted uses.

**Outdoor After School Programs** – Bethany in cooperation with the Ossining school district and Theater O, has produced after school arts programming, including music, dance and theatre. Under the region's present circumstances due to covid-19 and social distancing, the need for open space is more important than ever. In collaboration with the school district, utilizing of the grounds at Bethany can only supplement, augment and improve any existing programs as well as future ones. The front lawn to the tree line south of the orchard. These programs of course would be conducted after school and finish up approximately 6pm or before. A capacity of 30 students per program would be Bethany's goal. As we have emphasized with previous programs, safety, affordability and inclusivity are our top priorities.

**Honeybee Apiary** – Removed from this application. We are filing for a variance separately.

**Vegetable Gardens** – Raised beds within the orchard.

## Summary of Letters Submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals

as of July 7,2020

Over 50 letters were submitted to the ZBA as of July 7,2020. The vast majority of the letters expressed support for BAC, the proposed activities and programs, and the positive impact BAC has had on Ossining. Some letters from immediate neighbors raised concerns which we list on the following page along with pertinent responses. **As of July 13, almost 70 letters had been submitted. Except for one, all additional letters were supportive.**

### **Support for BAC**

The vast majority of the letters submitted to the ZBA were positive, even glowing, endorsements of BAC's mission and work. Ossining residents, including neighbors, as well as BAC patrons who hail from outside the town, noted the importance of BAC's work to the Ossining community and for the well-being and enrichment of children. Further, the value of additional outdoor venues, especially in the time of COVID-19, was seen as an important asset for our community.

#### **1. Benefit to the Community.**

- a. Positive for the community members and institutions
- b. Introduces creatives from outside our community to all Ossining has to offer
- c. Good for economic development and success of local businesses
- d. Enhances Ossining's "diversity, culturally and artistically"

#### **2. Benefits for Children (education/students/youth)**

- a. Afterschool programming
- b. Opportunity to experience creating and performing

#### **2. COVID-19**

- a. "While the current pandemic puts an amplifier to this need, the space to safely make and celebrate art outdoors will live on as a critical community resource"

*"Given the current pandemic, as a district, we are negotiating a complicated new normal for our students, faculty and staff. In the fall, we would like to consider partnering with Bethany to offer after-school programming outdoors. The extensive space Bethany has to offer and their artistic partners make for an exciting opportunity for the young people in our community. Their space could be a deeply needed solution."* **Dr. Raymond Sanchez, Superintendent of Schools, Ossining**

*The vision of Bethany is impressive and inclusive. Ossining is extremely fortunate to have Bethany as part of its community. As we look to the fall, it is more important than ever for schools and their community partners to find ways to collaborate and make use of outdoor space. Our children need it."* **Betty A. Rosa, Chancellor, NY State Board of Regents**

*"One reason we have chosen to live in Ossining for 40 years has been the rich local arts scene. We helped organize the Greater Ossining Arts Festivals, where John Cheever, Sonny Sharrock, Robert Sherman, Alan Cober, Mel Dixon, and so many other nationally prominent Ossining residents shared their talents. Bethany Arts Community continues that tradition .... Not only is BAC an excellent neighbor, but it is a feather in Ossining's cap, enhancing our town and conveying to others a cultural richness that is too often unrecognized by people outside our borders."* **Neighbor, Tavano Rd.**

*"In my parent advocacy role, I am coordinating efforts to bring more art programs for youth with special needs to our community and partnering with Bethany is vital to this effort."*  
**Ossining resident**

*"Bethany Arts Community is an incredible asset to Ossining. Their request to hold activities outdoor on their vast property is clearly a good use of land in our densely developed region....Very few uses of this land would have been able to preserve the open space and low impact on the surrounding residents, as well as bring a positive cultural resource for the whole community...I applaud the local businesses and organizations that are finding creative solutions for surviving the economic devastation of the pandemic."* **Victoria Gearity, resident**

*"Because the arts require community and gathering" .... outdoor events in the current pandemic seem safest.... "The Youth Wind Ensemble of Westchester, an Ossining-based arts organization, supports the request currently before the Zoning Board of Appeals."* **Bradley Morrison, Director & Senior Winds Conductor, Youth Wind Ensemble of Westchester & Ossining resident**

*"a welcome addition to our community... These types of things draw people to wanting to live here and work here and visit here."* **Ossining resident and realtor**



**Letters Submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals**  
**Questions / Concerns and Responses**  
as of July 7,2020

1. **Adult supervision of children.** Bethany will post the following signs: children must be supervised, Camp rules require campers be accompanied by an adult at all times.
4. **Manage noise of children.** See supplemental camp and program descriptions.
5. **Noise complaint.** There was one complaint associated with film crew trucks on Bethany premises on 2/23/19. This was a one-time event only precipitated by a request for assistance from the Town. Any future requests to allow film crew trucks on the Bethany property will be done only with the Town's expressed written permission.
6. **100' setback:** all activities will be 100' from property lines north and south and west and extending to the tree line just beyond the orchard.
7. **Ecological impact / Environment study.** With the removal of the gardens and trails this is no longer applicable. The bee apiaries have been removed from this application. The other outdoor enhancements are already permitted under zoning guidelines.
9. **Hours.** See Supplemental Information for activities. Except for camp or larger gatherings, no special permissions are needed to use and maintain the property.
10. **Garden usage.** Raised beds in orchard.
11. **Walking trails.** NA
12. **Connecting trails.** NA
13. **NYC children / Busing from NYC.** As a nonprofit open to the public we may not discriminate. Any buses used to transport children will arrive no earlier than 8:30am and leave no later than 5pm. Buses will adhere to idling laws and protocols for a healthy environment.
14. **Local subsidies.** This was a question in one of the letters. While this may have been a question to the town, Bethany notes we are a nonprofit. There may be fees associated with programs contracted for by the town or the Ossining schools as is the case with any similar programs.
15. **Artoberfest.** See supplement information.
16. **Road traffic.** The traffic study performed in preparation for Bethany's original special permit already accounted for the traffic impact associated with maximum usage of our indoor

activities and usage of a 92 -car parking lot. The additional outdoor activities should all be well within the load already anticipated.

17. **Compliance.** Bethany intends to err on the side of caution going forward.

18. **Noise – garbage, grass cutting, plowing.** *(letter from neighbor made available on Town website on Monday, July 13)* Bethany has provided the lawn maintenance and garbage vendors with a link to the Town of Ossining Noise ordinance and asked for their compliance.

<https://ecode360.com/8409056>

For further clarity:

- precise hours may vary by program/activity
- except where noted, or where a permit is obtained for a special event, outdoor activities will start no earlier than 8:30am and end no later than 20 minutes before sunset
- where multiple outdoor programs for children are running simultaneously, the total number of children enrolled in such programs will not exceed 50
- “no idling” signs will be posted in the parking lot
- all outdoor improvements (gardens, trails, tree plantings) have been, and will continue to be, created consistent with a desire to preserve open space and in an environmentally sensitive manner

Bethany is looking to create a neighbor mailing list to help improve communications between Bethany and our neighbors and make it easy for our neighbors to reach out directly if they have concerns.

### *General Questions and Answers about Camp Programs*

***As directed by the ZBA, BAC created a list of specific questions the ZBA and neighbors have based on copies of the letters of support and dissent of the proposed activities. This information is submitted with timely due diligence. We hope to still be able to address any additional questions or concerns that are submitted to BAC as the process continues.***

1. **What will be the impact of programs on traffic?** See response to #16, Letters Submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals - Questions / Concerns and Responses.
2. **How many camps will there be?** No more than 50 participants will be attending outdoor camp at Bethany at a time. Two camp programs, both offered by Theater O, which happens to be owned by two Ossining residents, are currently being discussed for 2020 and additional information is provided in this package on each of these. This information is provided as illustrative of the types of camp Bethany hopes the special permit will cover. Other camps may be offered in future years only if they provide programs in the same spirit, consistent with Bethany's mission, and within this 50-participant limit. The camp of witchcraft and wizardry will be a max of 32 campers.
3. **What are the hours of operation for camps?** Any camp programs, including set-up and take-down, will be scheduled within typical "camp hours" of 8:30am to 4:30pm.
4. **Are the camps and other outdoor activities insured?** All activities are fully insured and all appropriate entities are named as "additional insured".
5. **Are the proposed activities "artistic"?** Bethany Arts Community is a 501(c)(3) organization and each of the proposed activities is both directly artistic in nature and directly in service of its stated mission.
6. **Are the proposed activities within the permitted zoning?** The proposed activities are not precluded by R-40 Special Permitting and will not inhibit development or adversely affect the character or nature of the neighborhood.
7. **Will the 100' buffer be in place?** Yes. See site plan.

**As requested by Sandy Anelli, Town of Ossining Building & Planning Departments, on July 10, BAC provides the following answers.**

1. **Camp O – did Applicant have all necessary permits and correct insurance?** Yes. Under NY State and Westchester Department of Health regulations neither program qualifies as a camp registered and inspected by the DoH. “Camp” is defined as “involving two or more activities of which at least one is a nonpassive recreational activity with significant risk of injury” where “significant risk of injury are those that pose a risk of traumatic brain injury, injury to neck or spine, bone fractures or dislocations, lacerations requiring treatment to close, second or third degree burns to 5% or more of the body, loss of vision or death.” Examples include “diving, boating, horseback riding, rock climbing, shooting sports”. “When the camp involves just a single activity, such as lacrosse, hockey, football or tennis, or even drama or computing, and does not include swimming or boating the program is not considered a camp and does not get inspected or need a permit from the health department.” (NY State Sanitary Code, Subpart 7.2, Children’s Camps; Westchester Department of Health) For Insurance, *See General Questions and Answers about Camp Programs.*
2. **What portion of time is indoors v. outdoors?** Last year the Camp of Witchcraft and Wizardry campers time was roughly split equally between indoors and outdoors. The Show Camp was held once last year entirely indoors. Theater O and Bethany hope to allow the campers to spend more time outdoors this year to support social distancing and in future years for the health and wellbeing of the children. *See supplemental information for current plans including A Typical Day at The Camp of Witchcraft and Wizardry and A Typical Day at Show Camp.*
3. **Actual number of kids at camp at any one time?** Last year participation ranged in The Camp of Witchcraft and Wizardry and Show Camp ranged between 20 and 32 children per session. Going forward, the maximum number of campers in any of the camp programs running at a given time will be 50. *See: Letters Submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals Questions / Concerns and Responses; Outdoor Children’s Camp of Witchcraft and Wizardry Supplemental Information; Outdoor Children’s Theatre Show Camp*
4. **Provide details about how being a philanthropic institution special permit use fits into the various uses he is proposing for the site.** As Henry Matisse once said: “An artist must possess Nature. He must identify himself with her rhythm, by efforts that will prepare the mastery which will later enable him to express himself in his own language.”

Like artist communities for generations, Bethany’s lawns, trees, gardens, and walking trails, are an integral part of our vision. Art, science and nature have been intimately entwined for literally thousands of years, from cave drawings of animals that inform our understanding of our past, to paintings of centuries-old experiments, to drawings, like Da Vinci’s, that meticulously document anatomy, botany, geology, and our evolving understanding of the world around us. The spectacularly detailed and beautiful glass flowers, commissioned in 1886 and on display at Harvard’s Museum of Natural History, are another wonderful example of the important connection between the arts and nature. So are John Audubon’s engravings of birds which can be seen in both art institutions and natural history museums. And, the practice of *plein air* painting (the act of painting outdoors) became more prevalent with the impressionists and the Hudson River School with artists inspired by the beauty and light of their natural surroundings.

The outdoors has also served as a venue for theater for hundreds of years. From the Greeks and Romans in their amphitheaters, to Bread and Puppet in Vermont, to the Public Theater's Shakespeare in the Park, to the downtown NY favorite Shakespeare in the Park(ing) Lot, the theater has a long history of outdoor performance. Owners of Theater O, Andrew and Jessica Irons, spent several years running an off-broadway adult theater company that in the summers would perform shows for children outdoors in community gardens in Harlem and the East Village, an experience they hope someday to bring to Bethany. These days, it is also quite possible the outdoors will be the only place performances can happen for quite some time.

Bethany sees all of the proposed uses of Bethany's property as deeply connected with its arts mission and the needs of its artists. Further, welcoming both children and adults alike to create and learn about the arts is also central to the mission. Programs such as the theater camps and after school programming with the Ossining Schools, as well as partnerships with organizations like the river fund, allow Bethany to create opportunities for children from all backgrounds, including those in less fortunate and privileged circumstances.

5. **Show more details on plan about locations of proposed activities and 100 ft. setbacks.** *See site plan.*
6. **Show proximity to neighboring properties.** *See site plan.*
7. **Show wetlands map overlay.** *NA, due to Bethany's amendment to the application.*
8. **What will change in locations neighboring abutting properties.** *See site plan; Letters Submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals Questions / Concerns and Responses answers about 100' Setback, Garden usage, and Walking trails.*
9. **Any accessory structures/sheds that will be added – benches.** *NA, due to Bethany's amendment to the application. While Bethany maintains the placement of benches is not subject to zoning, Bethany will not be benches on the trails as per our amended application.*
10. **Potential impacts to traffic/parking from additional activities.** *The traffic study performed in preparation for Bethany's original special permit already accounted for the traffic impact associated with maximum usage of our indoor activities and usage of a 92-car parking lot. The additional outdoor activities should all be well within the load already anticipated.*

## **Outdoor Children's Camp of Witchcraft and Wizardry**

### Supplemental Information

#### ***General Overview:***

The Camp of Witchcraft and Wizardry is an educational camp that has been held at Bethany Arts Community in each of the past two summers (Summers of 2018 and 2019). The camp is operated by Theater O under the direction of Jessica Irons and Andrew Irons. The camp strives to create an environment where children come together to celebrate the wizarding world created in *Harry Potter*, through the lens of arts education, celebrating the imagination and creativity that it entails. To accomplish this goal, this educational camp for kids 7-13 immerses children in the environment through fine art, theater arts, creative-writing, song-writing, puppetry making, found object portrait art, physically active games rooted in imagination (those brooms aren't going to fly themselves after all) and more.

When Campers arrive at the Camp of Witchcraft and Wizardry they are immediately thrown into the Wizarding World. They begin by participating in a sorting ceremony where "The Sorting Hat" places each camper (via bluetooth speaker) into one of four houses where they will spend the duration of the camp. This is performed in the front garden. From this point on campers compete, as a group and individually, to earn points for their house with the hope of being awarded the coveted HOUSE CUP.

Over the course of each camp session, campers explore the Wizarding World and the lessons contained within it while making beauty through unique expressions of creativity, imagination and art.

#### ***Basic Information:***

- **Camp Duration:** Four - one-week camps
- **Camp Hours:** 9am - 3pm  
\*Staff set up / breakdown are half-hour before and one-hour after camp hours.
- **Maximum number of Campers:** 32 (with future growth maximum of 50)
- **Camp Directors:** 2 (Jessica Irons and Andrew Irons)
- **Adult Counselors:** 4
- **Adult Assistant Counselor:** 1
- **Bethany Representative:** 1
- **Staff to camper ratio:** no greater than 1-6 (should camp grow to 50 campers, additional staff will be added)

\*All camp staff and the Bethany representative have walkie talkies over which communication happens. No child is left unattended. If a camper needs to go to the bathroom, a counselor asks for the assistant counselor to escort the camper into the building and then back out to the group. All counselors carry with them a backpack that includes a first aid kit, incident reports, hand sanitizer, ice packs and extra water.

#### ***Commonly Used Outdoor Locations:***

In reading the description below, please note that the camp has given name to various locations that are currently frequented in the course of the week. They are below as a "key" to help visualize the movement of the camp operations. While not necessary under the special use permitting guidelines, none of these locations are less than a 100' from the property line.

- 1) **Outdoor Classroom:** no longer applicable.

- 2) **Quidditch Pitch:** This is an area located in the grass just off the east side of the parking lot. It consists of flags marking the boundaries of the field (no taller than 10 ft.). The field has an oval shape and is approximately 30 yards long and 20 yards wide. It will be 100' off property line.
- 3) **The Forbidden Forest:** within the orchard.
- 4) **Common Rooms:** These are four locations located on the front lawn of BAC or orchard as needed. These areas are spread across the front lawn under four different sets of trees.

### ***A Typical Day at The Camp of Witchcraft and Wizardry***

The day begins at camp at 8:30 in the morning when camp staff arrive for a daily meeting to go over the day's schedule and do basic set up. Jugs are filled with ice water and brought to the Quidditch Pitch, Cafeteria and orchard. Brooms, balls and pinnies are brought to the Quidditch Pitch and House Flags and House Cup point tablets are brought to the orchard. The art room (inside building) is prepped for the art project of the day. The schedule for the day is posted on a chalkboard, as are the day's spells for the "spell competition."

At 9:00, when campers arrive, they are signed in by a camp director at the entrance to the cafeteria. Campers put their lunches on carts to be refrigerated, put personal items in their cubby, check to see if they have any new mail in "The Owlery" and begin - with their house counselor - learning the day's spells for daily the spell competition. Campers often play various Harry Potter themed board games or read in the cafeteria while others are being signed in.

At 9:15 all houses walk from the cafeteria to the orchard to officially begin the day. Campers sit with their House on the benches while a day's overview is given, there is group spell practice, and house cup point totals are revealed. During this time the assistant counselor waits for any late coming campers and refrigerates all lunches.

At 9:30 campers, counselors and one Camp Director make their way to the Quidditch Pitch. Approximately 3 games are played each day according to US Quidditch youth rules. If you are not familiar with Quidditch, it is the most beloved sport in the Wizarding World played on flying broomsticks. "Muggle quidditch", is a sport that mixes elements of dodgeball, basketball, soccer and tag all the while playing with brooms between the legs at all times.

By 10:30, all campers, counselors and directors are inside in the cafeteria for a quick water break and snack.

At 10:45 house counselors bring their Houses to their Common Rooms, within the orchard, for spell practice (for the spell competition later in the day) and a theater game "zip zap zop" using the spells learned that day. Camp Directors finalize set up for morning classes.

The final portion of the morning includes two 45-minute classes led by each of the Camp Directors which run concurrently. The classes run primarily in the indoor art studio, indoor dance studio or front lawn. Over the course of the week-long camp the campers will take part in each of the following classes-among others:

- 1) **Splatter Art Dueling:** Students use paint brushes as wands to "duel" with their canvases. In the process, campers create splatter art paintings.
- 2) **Transfiguration:** Based in Movement for Theater, transfiguration allows students to learn spells that they can then cast on partners- who respond physically to the spells being cast.

- 3) Quibbler: Based on the Wizarding World conspiracy-theory magazine, campers create their own articles for publication individually, in partnerships or in small groups based on their individual needs.
- 4) Quibbler Illustration: Campers create visual images that support their article.
- 5) Quotation Illustration: Campers review meaningful quotations from the wizarding world and evaluate their significance in relation to their own personal philosophies (and yes - kids do have strong philosophies!). This is then translated into a mixed-media scroll that represents their beliefs.
- 6) Patronus Puppet-Making: Campers create puppets that represent happiness and hope. They are encouraged to look into their own experiences to create beauty.
- 7) Wand Carving - Equipped with protective gloves and appropriately distanced, campers choose their own wand wood (found in the Forbidden Forest) and carve their own wands. (Note that during this class, two counselors, an assistant counselor and a camp director are present at all times. Maximum 4:1 camper to adult ratio.)
- 8) Potions: Essentially an improv class, Potions takes various inspirational influences (character, location, conflict) to create unscripted theater scenes.

12:30 LUNCH in the Cafeteria with all campers and staff. Lunches are removed from the refrigerator.

When lunch is complete at 1:00 pm all campers, counselors and Camp Directors head back to the orchard or front lawn for the Spell Competition. The competition is based on the popular theater game, Zip, Zap, Zop. Members earn points for their houses based on their success within the competition. The assistant counselor sweeps and cleans the cafeteria.

At 1:15 pm Houses compete to earn points in the Triwizard Tournament. This competition primarily takes place in the orchard, indoors and front lawn. House counselors stay with their House campers at all times and are not permitted to go beyond the eastern tree line. In these tournaments, campers will do the following:

- 1) Wizard Rock: Each house rewrites the lyrics to a popular song using language from within the Wizarding World. Additionally, they create a band name, an album cover and a short, choreographed performance of the song.
- 2) Dementor Puppet Making: Dementors are creatures that feed on human happiness. Campers create puppets that represent this idea.
- 3) Portraits: Houses are given characters from the world of *Harry Potter* and asked to create portraits using only natural materials found in the forest.
- 4) House Song: Campers create unique and individual songs that represent their House ideals. They then perform these songs.
- 5) Tableau: Campers create a tableau using their dementor and patronus puppets to represent the struggle between happiness and joy, and the forces that might try to suppress them.

At 2:30 all campers and staff meet at the orchard, indoors and front lawn. to finish up the day. Any performances are given, House Cup Points are announced and tabulated, and a *Harry Potter* trivia quiz is held. Houses receive points for the number of correct questions they answer. At 2:55 one Camp Director returns to the Cafeteria to prepare for parent sign out and remove lunch boxes from the refrigerator. All campers and remaining staff return to the Cafeteria for dismissal.



Each child is signed out by their parent or guardian. One camp director and two counselors stay in the cafeteria until all children have been picked up. One camp director and two counselors bring in water jugs, quidditch equipment and house cup materials. All classrooms and the cafeteria are cleaned thoroughly. Camp support staff leave by approximately 4:00pm.

*NOTE: All times in this "Typical Day" are for illustration purposes but will occur within "camp hours" of 8:30am to 4:30pm.*

## **Outdoor Children's Theatre Show Camp**

### **Supplemental Information**

#### **General Overview**

The Show Camp aims to give campers the experience of putting on a play soup to nuts. Using a temporary outdoor stage and the natural landscape, campers will rehearse a play in one week as well as participate in the design (costumes, sets, sound, props) and implementation of said design. During the week they also participate in theater classes such as acting, playwriting, improv and musical theater.

***Please note that Show Camp was previously held in Summer 2019 in the third week of August entirely indoors with a total of 11 participants, two full-time lead teachers, one counselor, and one part-time lead teacher. The description below of activities is for a non-COVID environment, hopefully for the summer of 2021. Should we be granted a permit for outdoor activities this summer, the show camp would look very different. There would be 50% fewer participants, more staff, the camp would operate for three hours, not six and there would be no public presentation of a play.***

#### **Basic Information:**

- **Camp Duration:** One-week in August (with the possibility of expanding to two weeks in the future)
- **Camp Hours:** 9am - 3 pm  
\*Staff set up/ breakdown are half-hour before and after camp hours.
- **Performances:** 2 (Friday, 6pm & Saturday, 6pm)
- **Performance Length:** 45 minutes
- **Audience:** 50 (approximately)
- **Maximum number of Campers:** 20 (with future growth maximum of 40)
- **Camp Directors:** 2 (Jessica Irons and Andrew Irons)
- **Adult Counselors:** 2 (4 if camp grows to 40)
- **Adult Assistant Counselor:** 1
- **Bethany Representative:** 1
- **Staff to camper ration:** no greater than 1-6 (should camp grow to 40 campers, additional staff will be added)

\*All camp staff and the Bethany representative have walkie talkies over which communication happens. No child is left unattended. If a camper needs to go to the bathroom, a counselor asks for the assistant counselor to escort the camper into the building and then back out to the group. All counselors carry with them a backpack that includes a first aid kit, incident reports, hand sanitizer, ice packs and extra water.

***Anticipated Outdoor Area Use: we should confirm these are the only places used.***

**Temporary Outdoor Stage** located on southern end of quidditch field or orchard area. It consists of an (approx.) 6x9 platform and four benches seating a total of 50 people.

**Contemplation Willow:** This is an area located beneath the tree just off the east side of the parking lot. It is a ring of sitting rocks beneath the Willow.

### ***A Typical Day At Show Camp***

The day begins at camp at 8:30 in the morning when the camp staff arrives for a daily meeting to go over the day's schedule and do basic set up. Jugs are filled with ice water, and prop, set, and costume projects are set up before campers arrive. A schedule for the day is posted on a large chalkboard.

At 9:00 am, campers arrive and sign-in in the cafeteria with a camp director. Camper cellphones are collected and placed in a secure box that is brought to the Bethany Office for the day. They place their personal belongings in their cubby and place their lunches and snacks on a cart that is subsequently refrigerated.

By 9:15, campers go to the outdoor stage where they do a group physical and vocal warmup. After warming up, the rehearsal schedule is reiterated. Campers who are rehearsing Scene 1 stay at the stage and rehearse. Campers who are in subsequent scenes go with counselors to work on the creation of the set. The set creation and prop creation take place in the garage doored studio and the art room inside on the lower level. Some painting will occur in the outdoor space just outside of the garage doored studio. The assistant counselor shuttles campers back and forth between the arts and crafts of design and the rehearsal space of the stage as the rehearsal schedule dictates. This section of the day ends by 10:45.

At 10:45 campers and staff gather in the cafeteria for a quick snack.

At 11:00, all campers have either acting or improv class in the dance studio inside.

At noon, campers gather on the front lawn and participate in a 15-minute quiet journal write. They sit under the trees and write down their thoughts about making the play, where they are today, and so on.

At 12:15 campers return to the cafeteria for lunch. They eat inside or on the patio directly outside of the cafeteria.

At 12:45 campers return to rehearsal as a group. We "run" the sections of the script that we worked on in the morning, making use of the props and set pieces we have built that day.

At 2:15 participate in a second class, acting, playwriting, musical theater, or improv (a different class each day) or they work on the design elements of the play. Classes are held in the performance space, on the back patio, at the stage, or in the dance studio.

At 2:55 one of the camp directors is in the cafeteria to greet parents for pick up/sign out. Campers come to their cubbies to retrieve their belongings and their lunch boxes from the cart.

3:00 Campers are picked up. Camp directors and one counselor per day clean up and store props and set pieces that are not weather resistant inside.

The camp is 5 days long. The schedule adjusts as the week goes, and more time is spent on the stage rehearsing the further into the week we get.

***Performances:***

Two performances are held for Show Camp. One is held at 6 pm on Friday, the last day of camp. Campers leave camp at 3 pm and return for their "call" at 5 pm. The shows generally last about 45 minutes to an hour. The second performance is held the next day, Saturday at 6 pm, and campers are "called" at 5 pm.

*NOTE: All times in this "Typical Day" are for illustration purposes but will occur within "camp hours" of 8:30am to 4:30pm.*

## **Artoberfest**

### Supplemental Information

#### ***General Overview***

Artoberfest is a daylong event, between the hours of 8am and 5pm, that will kick-off Bethany's month long celebration of the arts in "Artober" (Artoberfest). Produced by Bethany, Artoberfest explores and expands the idea of art and engages the many diverse members of Ossining. In 2019, Artoberfest was held indoors. This year we would like to expand to make use of the outdoors in an attempt to include more of Ossining's diverse public. This event would be held in early October. Bethany is looking to create a consistent date, such as the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in October, to further our attempts to bring additional positive attention to the Village and Town of Ossining at a time when surrounding communities host fall celebrations.

Last year's family-friendly event included activities such as African dance, African drumming, puppet shows, pumpkin carving, a fairy walk, bubble making, singer songwriters, face painting, bread making, artisanal ice cream, and more. We look forward to utilizing the outdoor spaces to bring back past artists, along with introducing additional artistic forms that expand the idea of art and how the community interacts and participates with it. Two to four local food trucks would be invited to participate and will be located along the existing blacktop drive. Trucks will face north as to protect the neighbors on Cooper. Bethany resident artist will also participate in programming. Last year our resident artists participated by engaging with the community creating hands on workshops, such as Cyanotype paper photo development, sculpture of paper lanterns and banner making.

#### ***Basic Information:***

- **Program Duration:** One Day (in October)
- **Program Hours:** 10am-4pm (8am - 5pm)\*  
\*an additional two-hour set up and one-hour breakdown by BAC staff and volunteers.
- **Total Participants:** No more than 100 participants anticipated at any given time in the day. Last year approx. 300 visitors visited throughout the day with an average of 50 people per hour. Traffic associated with these visitors is easily accommodated within the permitted and available parking. The length of Bethany's entrance and exit precludes any ordinary back up onto Somerstown Road.
- **Parking:** 20 parking spots will be reserved for Bethany staff and volunteers. 72 parking spots will be available for guests.
- **Alcohol:** No alcohol will be sold or permitted

#### ***Anticipated Outdoor Locations:***

In reading the description below, please note that Bethany has given name to various locations on the property. They are a "key" to help visualize the movement of camp operations.

- 1) **Contemplation Willow:** This is an area located beneath the tree just off the east side of the parking lot. It is a ring of sitting rocks beneath the Willow.
- 2) **Front Lawn:** This is the expansive lawn in between the main building and RT. 133.
- 3) **Patio:** The area outside the cafeteria, north-west side of building
- 4) **Loading Dock Area: Located on the northern side of building.**
- 5) **The Orchard:** This is the area beneath the apple, pear and lemon trees on the back lawn.

- 6) **Temporary Outdoor Stage:** Subject to 100' setback and to minimize impact on neighbors, the area designated "quidditch field". The stage will be located on the north side of the field, facing south.
- 7) **The Drive:** This is the paved area along the southeast corner.
- 8) **The Front garden.** Right outside the steps of Bethany's indoor gallery spaces. *See site plan*

### **What the Day of Artoberfest Might Look Like:**

8:00am-10:00 am: BAC Staff and Volunteers set up for the day. Tables and chairs and materials are brought to appropriate places on the Bethany campus. A utility vehicle (Gator) will be used.

10:00: Activities begin. Most will continue throughout the day as walk-up arts activities. Others will be at specific scheduled times. All activities will be coordinated to minimize overcrowding.

The following are activities that may take place in each of the designated spaces and are subject to change. The goal of this outline is to give a sense of the type of experiences we will be creating over the course of the day.

#### **Front Lawn:**

- 1) Bubble Blowing Art: Located on the front lawn, 6 people at a time in 20-minute blocks learn the art throughout the day.
- 2) Drum Circle: A collection of drums will be provided for participants to engage in drumming. (45-minute session)
- 3) Kite Flying: Located at the front lawn. (Continued throughout the day.)

#### **Patio:**

- 1) Mask Making: Led by a local artist. Individual kits will be provided and no more than 9 people will work at a time. (Continued throughout the day.)
- 2) Pumpkin Carving: On the back lawn, expert pumpkin carver leads children and adults in strategies for carving. (Continued throughout the day.)

#### **Back Porch:**

- 1) Acoustic Music (guitar): Located on the back porch intermittently throughout the day.
- 2) Puppet Show: Artist will present a puppet show to an audience seated on the lawn below. Intermittently throughout the day.

#### **Indoor Gallery:**

- 1) Visiting Residents Exhibits in Galleries. (Continued throughout the day.)

#### **On the Temporary Outdoor Stage:**

- 1) African Dance Performance: Two drums and one dancer.
- 2) Resident Artist Presentation: Readings of new work.
- 3) Solo Dance Performance
- 4) Singer Songwriter

#### **In the Kitchen:**

- 1) Bread Making (continues throughout day)
- 2) Ice Cream making (continues throughout day)

**On the Drive:**

- 1) Food trucks: Two to four food trucks will be available to sell food.

**Garage:**

- 1) Cedar Lane Clay Arts in Garage (throughout the day)

**Orchard:**

- 1) Kite Making workshop: Individual kits will be provided.
- 2) Splatter Art: Participants take turns splattering paint on large scale canvases. Each participant will get a new paintbrush to take home with them. No more than two people splattering at a time (continues through the day)
- 3) African Dance Class: Expert dance instructor leads a class in African Dance. This might be on the temp stage.
- 4) Hand puppet making for kids: A local artist will facilitate the activity and individual kits will be provided. No more than 9 people working at a time. (Continued throughout the day.)
- 5) Fairy Wing Decoration: A local artist will facilitate the activity and individual kits will be provided. No more than 9 people working at a time. Continues until 2pm

At 4:00pm Artoberfest will conclude and a one-hour cleanup will begin. A maintenance vehicle (gator) will be used.

The activities and programs listed above are illustrative of the spirit and type of LOW impact activities and programming that would be going throughout the.

During COVID -19, all activities will be planned and managed in compliance with applicable NY State guidelines to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

## **Outdoor After School Programs**

### **Supplemental Information**

**Also see** letters of support submitted by Dr. Sanchez, Ossining Schools Superintendent and Betty Rosa, Chancellor of NY State Board of Regents.

#### ***General Overview:***

Bethany, in cooperation with the Ossining school district, has produced after school arts programming, including music, dance and theatre. Under the region's present circumstances due to covid-19 and social distancing, the need for open space is more important than ever. In collaboration with the school district, the grounds at Bethany would be used to supplement, augment and improve any existing programs as well as future ones. Weather permitting, programs would be conducted on the front lawn to the tree line east of the orchard and on the existing trail as well as indoors. These programs would be conducted after school and finish up approximately 6pm. A capacity of 30 students per program would be Bethany's goal. As we have emphasized with previous programs, safety, affordability and inclusivity are our top priorities.

#### ***Basic Information:***

- **After-School Duration:** Up to four days a week during the Fall and Spring semesters.
- **Number of Participants:** 30 (maximum) per day
- **After School Program Hours:** 3:00-5:30/5:45 (additional time may be afforded to allow students to be picked up)
- **Director:** 1
- **Lead Teachers:** 2
- **Assistant Teachers:** 2
- **Bethany Representative:** 1
- **Teacher – student ratio:** 1:6 (including Bethany representative ratio is 1:5)
- 
- **Insurance:** Bethany is fully insured and all appropriate entities are named as “additional insured”.
- **Bus:** A maximum of one school bus from each of the OUFSD Schools may drop kids at BAC's designated school bus stop. Staggered school release schedules should ensure that no more than two busses will be in Bethany's campus at any one time. Should the rare occasion present itself of 3 buses being on campus at any one time, Bethany's driveways allow for no back up onto Somerstown Road

#### ***Anticipated Outdoor Areas:***

- 1) **Contemplation Willow:** This is an area located beneath the tree just off the east side of the parking lot. It is a ring of sitting rocks beneath the Willow.
- 2) **Front Lawn:** This is the expansive lawn in between the main building and RT. 133.
- 3) **The Orchard:** This is the area beneath the apple, pear and lemon trees on the back lawn.
- 4) **Front garden:**
- 5) **Area marked as Quidditch field:**



## **Vegetable Garden**

### Supplemental Information

#### **General Overview:**

In an effort to promote and support the artists at BAC as well as the culinary arts, Bethany seeks to grow a vegetable garden to be harvested for use for the following three purposes: 1) to support culinary arts presentations at BAC; 2) to support meals provided to resident artists; and 3) to promote health and wellness among Ossining's residents by donating a portion to local food banks.

#### **Basic Information:**

- **Planting Design:** In consult with Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture
- **Approximate Area:** within orchard. See site plan.
- **Water Source:** Designed for natural irrigation. Rain barrels will be used.
- **Vegetation Removal:** grass- create raised beds.
- **Hours of Operation:** In accordance with local zoning and daylight hours
- **Staffing:** Only Bethany staff, volunteers
- **Noise Producing Equipment:** Small Tractor and tiller and gator will be used and limited to 8:30am to 5pm.

***Outdoor Locations Used: within orchard. See site plan.***