



ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE  
 MINUTES OF MEETING  
 COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING O'NEILL ROOM  
 3/2/20 7:30 PM

ATTENDEES:

Gibian	Padaria*	Pokress	Kellar	McKenna*
Blundell*	Wallach*	Harmer*	Tosti*	
Ellis*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Kocur*	
White	Beck*	Jones*	Deshler*	
Franclemont*	Howard*	LaCourt*	Carman*	Diggins*

\*Indicates present

VISITORS: ACAC Co-Chairs Cristin Bagnall, Steward Ikeda; Treasurer Steve Poltorzycki; Members Adria Arch, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Lidia Kenig-Scher, Ali Carter, Ted Peluso, Angela Olszenski, Tom Formicola

1. MINUTES: Voted to approve the minutes of 2/26/20. Unanimous

2. ART 62 COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS – ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON ARTS & CULTURE (ACAC): Ikeda reviewed the goals of ACAC and recent accomplishments (Ref 1). Poltorzycki reviewed FY20 revenue & expenses to date. Late winter & spring events are expected to bring both revenue and expenses up to budget. He also reviewed the budgets for FY21, FY22, FY23. These budgets anticipate considerable growth in revenue through fund raising and grants, though the Town contribution will remain constant at \$35,000. Expenses will grow largely through development of a Public Art Master Plan but also with modest program growth.

VOTED: \$35,000 Unanimous

3. ART 62 COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS: There are 13 organizations listed in this article. All have been contacted and have agreed to the same appropriation as last year. Note that 2 of these organizations, Historic District Commissions and ACAC are umbrella commissions that each coordinate several other related organizations.

VOTED \$58,835 Unanimous. The total for this article is \$93,835.

Department budgets

4. FIRE: PubSafe SubCom Wallach recommended a change to the budget as printed. An increase intended for fire went instead to Facilities. After some discussion, Fire received an additional \$7000 to be added to 5203 Repair & Maintenance and 5224 Other Supplies. Expenses are on budget despite 2 retirements. No call for a transfer is expected.

VOTED \$7,754,729 Unanimous

5. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Finan SubCom Padaria recommended the budget as printed. He explained the expense increases as \$25k for a security audit, \$8.15k for numerous access point updates and \$120k for moving to the cloud. Recent upgrade of the Town's main accounting software made this upgrade possible.

VOTED \$1,065,327 Unanimous.

6. COMPTROLLER: Finan SubCom Padaria recommended the budget as printed. The mail stipend goes to a union employee who handles mail outside the job description. The expenses have been reorganized to improve visibility. A new chart of accounts is planned.

VOTED \$345,999 Unanimous

7. RETIREMENT: Finan SubCom Padaria recommended the budget as printed. There is now a single retiree in the non-contrib pension plan. The Retirement Board is satisfied with the annual 6% increase. The plan should be fully funded several years before the deadline. PERAC knows about this 6% agreement. There is some concern with the increased number of school support staff.

VOTED \$11,921,239 Unanimous

Warrant

8. ART 14 SCHOOL COMMITTEE STIPENDS: Members agreed that a \$3000 stipend would be reasonable. Since the GIC provides health insurance only to employees earning more than \$5000, the proposed stipend would not create a large extra cost. Members agreed that the stipend is reasonable but expressed concern that, if included in the school budget, the stipend would be effectively beyond control of Town Meeting. Generally other towns pay their school committee members.

A vote of favorable action with wording, crafted by Tosti, that would make this stipend appropriated annually as a warrant article was tabled until LaCourt verifies the practice in other towns.

9. ART 25 FINANCIAL ESTIMATES & BUDGET DOCUMENTS: Tosti expressed his concern that delaying the completion of the budget without also delaying Town Meeting as proposed by the article would make it very difficult for the FinCom to do the due diligence review the Town Meeting has come to expect. In addition a delay to allow consideration of state action is not necessary since state action is often incomplete by Town Meeting.

VOTED no action. Unanimous. Tosti to craft the comment.

10. ART 68 HARRY BARBER COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM:

VOTED \$7500 Unanimous

11. ART 70 OPEB: A policy is needed that when the retirement program becomes fully funded, the annual retirement appropriation be switched to OPEB. Until then, the OPEB funding policy will continue to be made up from 3 sources: \$481,532 (\$500k less the cost on non-contrib pensions), \$155k voted by the SB as part of a HMO deal with employees, and \$300k from the health benefit trust fund.

VOTED \$936,532 Unanimous.

12. ART 71 PENSION ADJUSTMENTS: This vote will insure that certain retirees pensions do not go below half of what the employee occupying their former position makes.

VOTED favorable action. 15-0-1.

13. ART 75 USE OF FREE CASH:

VOTED to appropriate half the free cash certified last July, \$5,901,388. Unanimous.  
This has been the standing policy for many years.

14. ART 76 LONG TERM STABILIZATION FUND: As has been the custom,  
VOTED to transfer \$100,000 to this fund. Unanimous.

15. RESERVE FUND Balance: \$1,547,451.59

16. COMMITTEE: Next meeting Wed 3/4/20

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Ref 1 ACAC Presentation to FinCom

Peter Howard 3/3/20  
Revised 3/4/20

## ACAC Mandate

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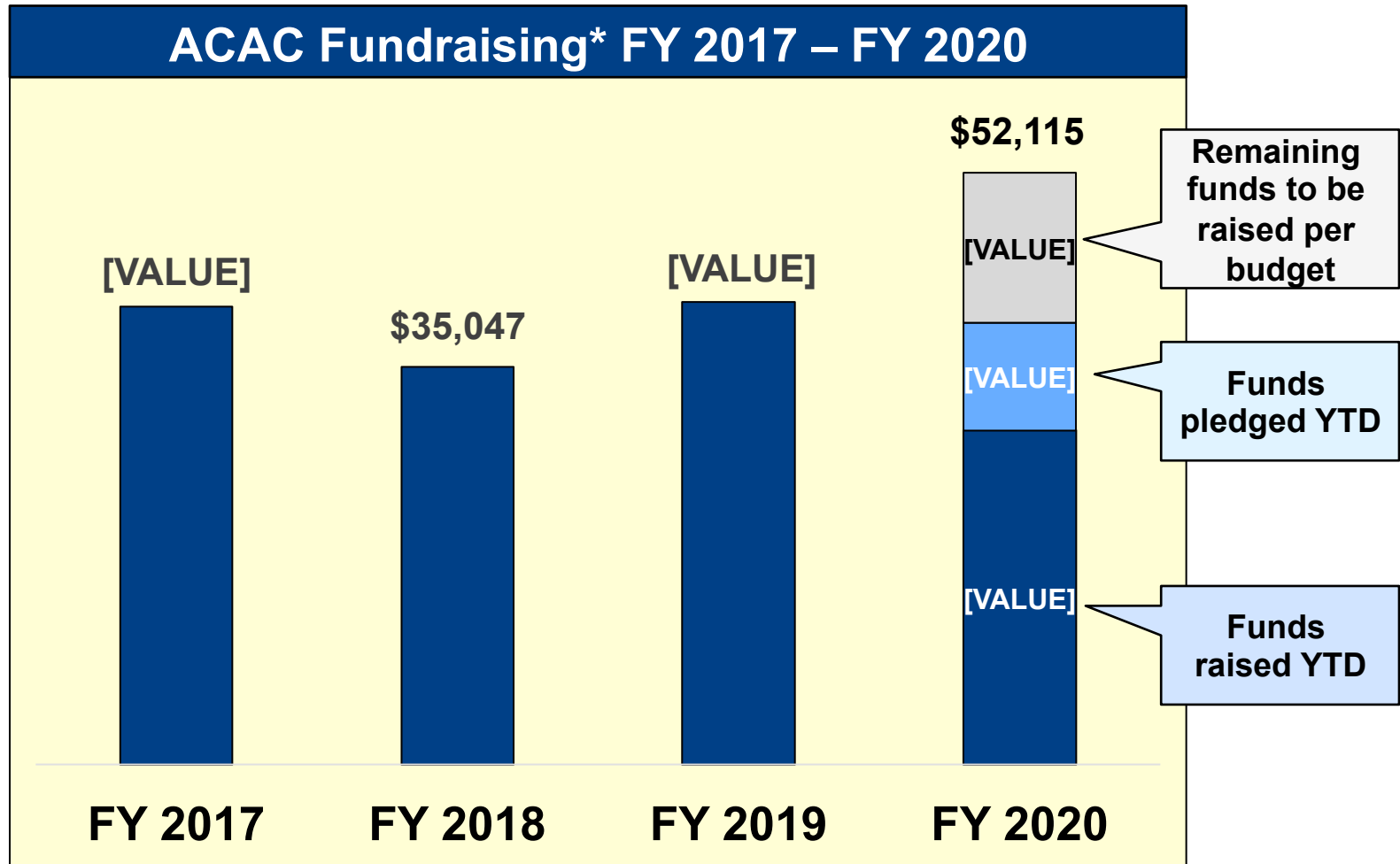
# ACAC has been given a mandate to grow arts and culture in Arlington



**A vibrant arts & culture scene gives Arlington a strategic advantage in competing with other towns for residents and visitors**

## ACAC Accomplishments FY 2019

**ACAC raises a considerable amount of funds to accomplish its mandate**

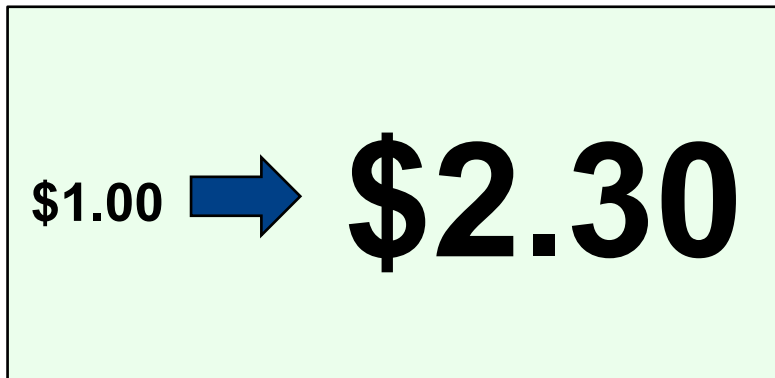


\*Fundraising shown does NOT include Town funding

## ACAC Accomplishments FY 2019

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**Studies have shown that investment in arts and culture has a positive impact on the local economy**



**Every dollar spent by an arts and cultural organization generates \$2.30 in sales for nearby businesses\***

**The typical arts attendee spends \$31.47 per person, per event, beyond the cost of admission.\*\***

\* New England Foundation for the Arts Study

\*\*Americans for the Arts Study

## ACAC Accomplishments FY 2019

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### Local businesses realize that art and cultural programs bring visitors to Arlington, boosting the local economy

*“New customers started coming because of the art installations and Garage Band.”*

**Abe Salhi, Arlington Service Station, 2019 Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year**

*“We chose to locate our business in Arlington because of the support for arts and culture.”*

**Sarah Morgan-Wu, Owner, Object of Stories**

*“The primary reasons prospective homebuyers consider Arlington are the schools and the vibrancy of the community, particularly the arts and cultural scene.”*

**Bob Bowes, Owner, BOWES Real Estate**

*“ACAC’s arts and cultural programming will positively affect all of the town’s business districts”*

**Beth Locke, Executive Director, Arlington Chamber of Commerce**

*“ACAC promotes Arlington as an arts, entertainment, and cultural destination for visitors. This creates economic benefit for the Town’s businesses.”*

**Ted Peluso, Town Meeting Member, Precinct 6**

**Quality of life, including arts and culture, was one of the reasons Arlington was recognized as the #18 best small city in America (WalletHub)**

## ACAC Accomplishments FY 2019

### Arts and culture programs, a Town strategic asset

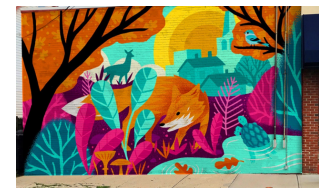
#### Promoting Arts & Culture

- ArtsArlington.org website with 8,000 annual users (52,000 page views), 55% of whom were from out of town
- Funding local arts projects in which 179 artists and 15,000 audience members participated



#### Enlivening Public Spaces

- Pathways—public art installations along the Bikeway reaching hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors
- Bus Stop Art
- LiveArts performances drawing over 3,000 participants
- Youth Banner Project
- Festivals (Fox, Feast of the East, Arlington Alive)
- Artist-in-Residence
- Poet Laureate





## ACAC FY2020 Budget

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**FY2020 budget relies on a significant amount of fundraising to deliver important arts & culture programs to the community**

FY 2020 ACAC Budget		FY2020 Budget	FY2020 YTD Actual
<b>REVENUE</b>	Individual donations	\$11,000	\$1,841
	Business donations	\$5,615	\$3,063
	Grants	\$30,500	\$19,500
	Town	\$35,000	\$35,000
	Public Art Fund (previously raised donations)	\$5,000	\$5,000
	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$87,115</b>	<b>\$64,404</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	Public Art	\$44,825	\$31,641
	Cultural Events & Festivals	\$28,715	\$3,580
	Website	\$2,600	\$0
	Marketing	\$7,900	\$3,010
	Fundraising	\$1,300	\$125
	Misc.	\$1,775	\$430
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$87,115</b>	<b>\$38,786</b>

## ACAC FY2021 Budget Request

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**ACAC requests level funding for FY2021 from the Town in order to carry out its Mission of enriching our community with arts & culture and boosting the local economy**

FY 2021 ACAC Budget Request		FY 2021
<b>REVENUE</b>	Individual donations	\$13,945
	Business donations	\$13,000
	Grants	\$30,500
	Town	\$35,000
	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$92,445</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	Public Art	\$44,000
	Cultural Events & Festivals	\$25,245
	Website	\$2,600
	Marketing	\$13,600
	Fundraising	\$4,000
	Misc	\$3,000
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$92,445</b>

## ACAC FY2021-FY2023 Budget Forecast

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**ACAC anticipates requesting level funding for FY2021-FY2023 from the Town in order to carry out its Mission**

FY 2021-2023 ACAC Budget		FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
<b>REVENUE</b>	Individual donations	\$13,945	\$16,000	\$18,000
	Business donations	\$13,000	\$18,180	\$20,000
	Grants	\$30,500	\$57,500	\$31,000
	Town	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$92,445</b>	<b>\$126,680</b>	<b>\$104,000</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	Public Art	\$44,000	\$44,000	\$47,200
	Cultural Events & Festivals	\$25,245	\$25,500	\$30,720
	Website	\$2,600	\$5,600	\$3,000
	Marketing	\$13,600	\$16,080	\$16,080
	Public Art Master Plan		\$25,000	
	Fundraising	\$4,000	\$7,500	\$4,000
	Misc.	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$92,445</b>	<b>\$126,680</b>	<b>\$104,000</b>

**From FY 2019 to FY 2023 fundraising (not including Town contribution) is projected to increase by 69%**