

ACAC Program Committee Minutes
November 18, 2019

In Attendance:

Cecily Miller, Lidia Kenig-Scher, Tom Davison, Adria Arch, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel

Absent:

Steve Poltorzycki and Cristin Canterbury Bagnall

1) Debrief of November 14 Non-Profit Summit

- The summit was well attended by approximately 30 people representing 20 non-profit organizations in addition to Timothea Phan from the Massachusetts Cultural Council Community Initiative,
- The group was extremely receptive to the event and its content
- Sarah Stackhouse from Mass Creative spoke about sector building and the power of working as a collective
- A survey was sent ahead of time about how their signature events , new initiatives, needs and how the Commission could help.
- A yearly calendar compiling annual events was created and updated at the meeting. The goal is to find themes for the monthly newsletter anticipate marketing by the month and show the public that there is art all year in Arlington
- Breakout groups came up with a list of shared goals, shared needs, and collective action we could take
- Among the goals was to have a way of communicating with each other, such as a listserv and a shared planning calendar
- They also wanted more meetings, professional development and a volunteer fair
- A link to a google calendar and invitation to a google group was sent with a follow up note to the meeting.
- Next steps:
 - o It was thought that we might need to fuel the google group monthly with proposed professional development topics or posts, conversation starters or polls on what the next meeting should be about. It will be an agenda item to come up with a topic for the list every month. There was debate about whether that should come out of the Community Engagement Committee or the Commission or whether we should be deciding at all rather than trying to let the group decide. Some topics might include skill building, getting them a seat at the table for Feast of the East or planning for Town Day. Stephanie will be the point person for this group.
 - o We will send a .jpeg of our logo by email that links to our website that they can post on their websites. We can show them with another link in the letter where they are already listed and linked on our website.

2) Feast of the East

Lidia spoke with Jan. Jan would like to continue as an advisor on the event, but would like funding, as last year, to hire a coordinator. At a previous CDMP meeting, Jan had handed ACAC the notebook the coordinator had compiled, and said she thought it was time that we reimagined it. Ali had said in the last ACAC meeting that the Capital Square merchants were discussing the event and want to continue, but don't want to coordinate. ACA also has a meeting planned with Jan. We should ask Ali if we can attend the next Capitol Square meeting to hear what the businesses want out of the festival. And find out what ACA wants. Then perhaps open up the discussion to the non-profits. Maybe survey residents. It would be exciting to rebuild as a home-grown festival with goal of community building. How about including Arlington Eats a beneficiary. Lydia will ask Tom if we can have seat at the table in reimagining the festival. What if we closed Mass Ave. or a side street and set up tables and chairs for a community feast.

3) Michelle Lougee residency

First meeting with the knitting brigade was held on November 30th 17 people came learned how to make plarn from plastic bags and started right in crocheting. Very enthusiastic group. There will be 12 workshops at the Senior Center, ACA/Artlinks, Robbins Teen Workshop, Roasted Granola, old Schwamb Mill, Fox Library, Ottoson Middle School, Echo Week, Council on Aging, and more. There will be installations in the Fox Library in January and at the roasted Granola in March. We need to develop a collaboration form. Christian is developing.

4) Leslie Wilcox Installation

The contract is signed it has been paid for out of the last fiscal year's funds. She will install pieces weather permitting on the Jason Russell House lawn we need to do signage and plan an event to celebrate in the spring. Does the historical society have an event we could build off of maybe we could plan our spring reception on a night that a lecture is happening.

5) Tom Starr Environment Project

This is still pending we need a budget and to discuss with planning.

6) Nilou Mochala Community Response to Hate Speech

This is a larger project Cecily will talk to Nilou and report back. We need a budget for this project. We may want to invite others to create such projects and have multiple projects addressing this issue around town. We should talk to the ACA about a call for artists, themes might be compassion understanding each other.

7) First Lights

We could consider doing a call for volunteer performers for this event though it's too late for this year. Bill Turville has large illuminated sculptures that are

looking for a home. We need bands for various projects. Lets talk to Saint Johns Coffee House. Next year.

8) Plein Air Painting and Mural

This will happen at Roasted Granola as part of Live Arts. Lets be sure to vet this project using the criteria we developed. What is the budget for this project? What logistics do we need to plan for? What will make people stop?

9) Arlington Heights

Painting bricks in color rather than doing a 10,000 mural.

Adjourned: 9:25pm

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Marlin-Curiel