



## Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture

Date: November 5, 2020

Time: 7:00-9:00p

Location: Zoom

### Minutes

**Attending:** Adria Arch, Tom Formicola, Stewart Ikeda, Lidia Kenig-Scher, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Sarah Morgan-Wu, Andrea Nicolay, Christine Noah, Steve Poltorzycki

**Absent:** Cristin Canterbury Bagnall, Tom Davison, Beth Locke

**Guests:** Laurie Bogden, Ali Carter, Cecily Miller, Nick Castellano (Grants Committee)

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

### 1) ROLL CALL AND RULES OF REMOTE MEETINGS CONDUCTED DURING COVID-19

Stewart conducted roll call and read off the rules, including voting by roll call; identifying yourself before speaking, and disabling chat function. Open Meeting law is suspended as far as requiring us to meet in a public physical location. We just need to ensure public access to the remote meeting. This meeting is being recorded.

Ground rules.

### 2) APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES

- Minutes unanimously approved as amended.

### 3) PUBLIC ART UPDATE

- "Persistence," the Michelle Lougee installation on the bikeway has been unveiled and had a lovely reception via Zoom. About 30 people attended. Cecily shared a video about the project and asked people to share their experiences and observations. Participants shared much appreciation. Partners spoke as well including representatives from the Library, and Net Zero Committee.
- Michelle's project will also be represented at ACA open studios.
- There was a mention in the Globe, particularly citing ACAC's persistence through the pandemic. The article included a couple of photos taken by Asia Kepka.
- Next step – develop interesting programming for the winter. Cecily is working with the Green Team on signage about the danger of plastics and creating a challenge. For earth day, we might produce an installation of stenciled signs about the dangers of plastics.
- Christopher Frost de-installed his Colony sculpture. Every person who came by expressed appreciation for it. He might be willing to do a reinvented version.
- About 40 people attended the high school talk with Cedric Douglas. He took the students through different types of activist art. The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator of the town attended.

- A mural was donated by Maria Lobo to be installed in a new parklet in town. Lobo found her own grant to make a Clean Energy mural. ACAC matched her with Ali who is putting up little parklets around town and it was installed above Lucky Dragon.
- Go OUT DOORS exhibit, and extension of the Umbrella's installation in Concord. 3 painted doors are being installed in Arlington. There is one at the Lexington Visitor Center as well.
- There was a question and discussion of Leslie Wilcox's exhibition about whether we had checked in with Leslie on her feelings about the exhibition and whether she felt adequately supported. We were not able to do a reception or any programming because of COVID, and it was installed in the cold. Town Day would have drawn attention to it.

#### **4) CULTURAL DISTRICT**

- Andrea Nicolay presented a Walking Tour update. Last year we received a grant of \$6,000 to do Cultural District Programming. The idea for the tour came out of a Call for Ideas that was put out to local residents. Ed Gordon will write it and the Loop Lab of Cambridge will produce the tour. We are waiting for terms and conditions from the Loop Lab. We will own the tour and the content so it can be updated. The idea is to activate the district and create a tour for visitors and residents. Cecily has offered to help Ed on the public art aspects of the tour.
- Sarah Morgan-Wu, is the new Core Managing Partner representing the East Arlington Business district.

#### **5) GRANTS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

- The budget keeps getting pushed back so the deadline has been pushed back as well. At this point, the new deadline for LCC grant applications is December 14<sup>th</sup>. Nick will be recording a new presentation with this new information.
- Steve chairs the Lexington LCC and the word is that part of the reason the deadline was extended is that submissions are way down. The Lexington LCC is considering going out and soliciting applications from prospective artists or choosing projects to fund. It could even be used as relief funding. This was suggested by the MCC as well.

#### **6) OPERATIONS PLAN REPORT**

- A document was submitted in advance for review by the Commission members
- Recommended revisions to the year 2 tasks:
  - Art in public spaces – at least performances – may still not be possible by spring
  - We can't do a public art plan this year
  - Need to develop infrastructure to support artists and spaces
  - We never got to an artist census. Added working with the Grants Committee to support local artists as a stated goal.
- Practice Cultural Equity and Inclusion
  - Activated a task force. Provide advocacy for universal participation and accessibility. Being an information resource for other organizations in town. We need this task force to intersect with all of our programs rather than being a committee unto its own.
- Creating Arlington as a Cultural destination
  - We have made great progress. Maybe we can work with Grants Committee to use some of that money toward working toward this or other goals.
- Advance Operational and Financial Stability
  - We have not done house parties, donor tracking, but we can reactivate the fundraising committee, and establish responsibility for the donor spreadsheet.
  - Seek partner funding of projects with other Town entities that meet common goals.
  - There was a question about our financial stability and about why it has been difficult to set up payment mechanisms for advertising and auctions without having Commissioners

put costs on their own credit cards. We need to have a non-profit fiscal agent partner, or a friends group

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Budget- Please submit any outstanding receipts in December.
- We are getting inquiries about electrical boxes, banners and so forth. Some people are asking how to install something. We need to field these inquiries.
- The Arlington Boys and Girls Club is looking to Commission a mural. Cecily gave them advice and a sense of what was possible.
- Nick mentioned that there is an organization in Cincinnati that provides artists to design murals that kids can execute. Cecily also suggested David Fichter.

Meeting adjourned 8:47pm

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Marlin-Curiel

Next meeting: January 7, 7pm