



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture

Date: Thursday, May 6, 2021

Time: 7:00-8:45p

Location via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81675142556?pwd=eUxuYmtvaFh3K0NBemZvTTILQlhaZz09>

Passcode: ACACMAY

[Program Updates](#)

Agenda

1. Attendance, Remotely Conducted Open Meeting Ground Rules 7:00p-7:05p
2. For Approval: [April minutes](#) 7:05p-7:10p
3. For Discussion: **Youth Banner Initiative** 7:10-7:25p
4. For Discussion: **Budget Update** 7:25-7:35p
5. For Discussion: **Fundraising Update** 7:35-7:50p
6. For Discussion: **August Co-Chair Election** 7:50-8:00p
7. For Discussion: **Warrant Articles at Town Meeting** 8:00-8:15p
8. For Discussion: **Public Art Updates** 8:15-8:30p
9. New Business 8:30-8:45p

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 7:00p



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**ORDER SUSPENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS
OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW, G. L. c. 30A, § 20**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, many important functions of State and Local Government are executed by “public bodies,” as that term is defined in G. L. c. 30A, § 18, in meetings that are open to the public, consistent with the requirements of law and sound public policy and in order to ensure active public engagement with, contribution to, and oversight of the functions of government; and

WHEREAS, both the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (“DPH”) have advised residents to take extra measures to put distance between themselves and other people to further reduce the risk of being exposed to COVID-19. Additionally, the CDC and DPH have advised high-risk individuals, including people over the age of 60, anyone with underlying health conditions or a weakened immune system, and pregnant women, to avoid large gatherings.

WHEREAS, sections 7, 8, and 8A of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 authorize the Governor, during the effective period of a declared emergency, to exercise authority over public assemblages as necessary to protect the health and safety of persons; and

WHEREAS, low-cost telephone, social media, and other internet-based technologies are currently available that will permit the convening of a public body through virtual means and allow real-time public access to the activities of the public body; and

WHEREAS section 20 of chapter 30A and implementing regulations issued by the Attorney General currently authorize remote participation by members of a public body, subject to certain limitations;

NOW THEREFORE, I hereby order the following:

(1) A public body, as defined in section 18 of chapter 30A of the General Laws, is hereby relieved from the requirement of section 20 of chapter 30A that it conduct its meetings in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that the public body makes provision to ensure public access to the deliberations of the public body for interested members of the public through adequate, alternative means.

Adequate, alternative means of public access shall mean measures that provide transparency and permit timely and effective public access to the deliberations of the public body. Such means may include, without limitation, providing public access through telephone, internet, or satellite enabled audio or video conferencing or any other technology that enables the public to clearly follow the proceedings of the public body while those activities are occurring. Where allowance for active, real-time participation by members of the public is a specific requirement of a general or special law or regulation, or a local ordinance or by-law, pursuant to which the proceeding is conducted, any alternative means of public access must provide for such participation.

A municipal public body that for reasons of economic hardship and despite best efforts is unable to provide alternative means of public access that will enable the public to follow the proceedings of the municipal public body as those activities are occurring in real time may instead post on its municipal website a full and complete transcript, recording, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as practicable upon conclusion of the proceedings. This paragraph shall not apply to proceedings that are conducted pursuant to a general or special law or regulation, or a local ordinance or by-law, that requires allowance for active participation by members of the public.

A public body must offer its selected alternative means of access to its proceedings without subscription, toll, or similar charge to the public.

(2) Public bodies are hereby authorized to allow remote participation by all members in any meeting of the public body. The requirement that a quorum of the body and the chair be physically present at a specified meeting location, as provided in G. L. c. 30A, § 20(d) and in 940 CMR 29.10(4)(b), is hereby suspended.

(3) A public body that elects to conduct its proceedings under the relief provided in sections (1) or (2) above shall ensure that any party entitled or required to appear before it shall be able to do so through remote means, as if the party were a member of the public body and participating remotely as provided in section (2).

(4) All other provisions of sections 18 to 25 of chapter 30A and the Attorney General's implementing regulations shall otherwise remain unchanged and fully applicable to the activities of public bodies.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded or until the State of Emergency is terminated, whichever happens first.

Given in Boston at 6:40 PM this 12th day of
March, two thousand and twenty.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles D. Baker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture

Date: Thursday, April 1, 2021

Time: 7:00-8:50pm

Location: Zoom

Minutes

Attending: Adria Arch, Cristin Canterbury Bagnall, Tom Davison, Stewart Ikeda, Lidia Kenig-Scher, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Christine Noah, Steve Poltorzycki

Absent: Tom Formicola, Beth Locke, Sarah Morgan-Wu, Andrea Nicolay

Guests: Ali Carter, Nick Castellano (Grants Committee), Tomika Gotch, Terry Holt, Cecily Miller, Steven Ratiner

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

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

2) INVOCATION FROM ARLINGTON POET LAUREATE STEVEN RATINER

- In honor of National Poetry Month, Steven Ratiner read Red Letter Poem #52, "Gratitude."
- He noted the Red Letter project will continue for the foreseeable future. There is also an idea to publish an anthology as a fundraiser for future Poet Laureate projects.

3) APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES

- Minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

4) BUDGET UPDATE

- Steve Poltorzycki gave an update on this year's budget.
- He reminded everyone that the town's allocation of \$30K is "use it or lose it" funding, and to date ACAC has spent \$23K. There was a question about whether, if ACAC had any town money that was going to be unused, it could be distributed to the Grants Committee or elsewhere. While this would be possible, it generally gets messy to mix town money with state money. However, unused funds could flow through other ACAC committees if needed.
- Stewart Ikeda noted that the DEIA Committee is researching initiatives like trainings for the commission, so that may be an expense to be covered by the town funds.
- It was also flagged that the new \$7,500 Cultural District grant from MCC has not hit ACAC's books yet, so it is not reflected in the current budget.

- Steve and the co-chairs will reach out to project leads to track project expenditures and anticipated expenses to come.

5) SPRING PROGRAMMING UPDATE

- Adria Arch gave an update on the utility boxes. They received close to 30 submissions, many from Arlington, with some very strong proposals. They will jury next week. The boxes have been chosen, with 7 to be painted across town. ACAC is paying artists \$400 each, which also has to cover their supplies. It may be possible to provide more of a stipend depending on funding. There was an interest in involving high school students, but Adria contacted AHS and they are too overwhelmed right now. They may participate later, and there is a box near the school that would work well for this.
- Persistence has new signs that are on the low wooden railings running along the bike path. They contain a QR code for people to learn more. They are placed clearly, thoughtfully, and proximate to sculptures, and do not pose a distraction or obstacle to bikers. Terry Holt has also built out two pages on the Arts Arlington website with activity content about plastic pollution dangers and solutions. The Green Team put one page together, and the other is updateable to include timely information about legislation, etc. ACAC promoted a private viewing of Michelle Lougee's show at Boston Sculptors Gallery. The "Waste Not, Want Not" virtual talk was well-attended, and Cecily is working to put together a recording to share. There is an upcoming event on April 10 with Friends of Spy Pond to participate in cleanup at the pond. For Earth Day and Eco-Week, signage created by the Green Team will be installed temporarily on the bikeway, and an event with Charlotte Milan and Rachel Oliveri is in the works.
- Nilou Moochhala's project got approval for the pine forest site at Menotomy Rocks Park. She has started her series of live interviews, which will total about 25 and take place with a spectrum of people in town. She just did one with Adam Chapdelaine and he is going to introduce her to the Health Department and head of DPW. There is also an online questionnaire, which was just completed and has been reviewed by Jill Harvey and Anna Litton. The plan is to give these stories to the library's COVID archive. Cecily Miller encouraged folks to fill out the questionnaire and pass it on to others.
- Cecily is starting to get the word out about Neighborhood Haiku in the Heights. There is an open call for poems inspired by the Heights to be handpainted on windows in the neighborhood. Janet O'Riordan volunteered to distribute materials about it, and Cecily will join her if she can. Two stores are confirmed thus far (Roasted Granola and Rephairations). The submission deadline will be May 31 and that will be communicated in the materials. There will be a selection committee of three poets from outside of town. There are also three workshops with Jessie Brown planned that will focus on writing haikus.
- Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park approached Cecily about putting together "extraordinary ordinary birds" cards and distributing them at bulletin boards in Menotomy Rocks Park. Cards will be reprinted and kept stocked in boxes at the park.
- Cecily is working with Ali Carter to enliven the parklets barriers, with three parklets in mind. One will be a collaboration with the Ottoson School Art Club. The students initiated this as a way to welcome people back this spring. Additional details are being worked out. There was an idea to do cyanotype on the barriers, which could allow for a unified look with different people participating. There was also a thought to do a family cyanotype workshop if gathering could be worked out.
- The Elevating Voices of Color initiative continues, with Charles Coe returning for another workshop. This workshop will look at identity issues in terms of race, gender, etc. and will be open to all. Chanel Therwil will also have two events in June, an artist talk on June 1 from 7:00-8:30pm and a workshop on June 6 from 4-5:30pm.
- The committee commended the amazing range, breadth, and extent of what Cecily has accomplished, and the web of relationships and projects she has built over the last 3-4 years.

- Cristin Canterbury Bagnall shared that ACAC was working toward a conversation with the Select Board about outdoor performances, but the timeline has shifted and there needs to be more internal conversation especially with the Board of Health and Park and Recreation. Ali Carter and Jenny Rait are taking the lead on this. It is likely there will be a proposal for solo performances in parklets, with the hope to have this wrapped up by the end of April. Larger scale community outdoor events will take more time to sort out.
- Stewart Ikeda highlighted the Open Mic Night on April 7, inviting poets townwide to submit poems for that.
- Stewart also shared that Go Out Doors has reissued the call for proposals for another round of doors. This project has grown from a 3-town installation to now having 10 towns interested in participating, with potentially 50+ doors. He encouraged folks to share this call widely. This is a great way to connect our towns and highlight our individual town characters. External funds are being sought for signage, wayfinding, etc., so this is a cooperative collaboration.

6) FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- Christine Noah shared that the Spruce Up, Arlington: Get Your Sparkle On! campaign has already raised \$2K from three local businesses: The Legacy, Custom Contracting, and American Alarm, who is interested in something site-specific. Cristin noted the return has been very quick and it is clear that those who have the means are really interested in supporting the town. This is another example of how the work ACAC is doing is resonating. The Fundraising Committee will share the list of businesses with the commission and see if anyone has connections or additional businesses to suggest.
- Cecily announced that she received a \$2,500 grant from MCC for Nilou Moochhala's project. The letter said applications were down, which is likely a result of the state budget getting confirmed so late, which compressed the granting cycle.

7) NEW BUSINESS

- Stewart shared that the Boston Metro Planning Commission invited DPCD to join in a presentation of arts leaders from Metro Atlanta. There was a good discussion about artist engagement, residencies, cultural districts, placemaking, etc. With 101 other towns in MAPC, it is exciting that they called on Arlington to participate as a good case study for this work. Stewart is hoping to get a copy of the presentation to share. It is great to connect with peers locally and nationally to see what kind of work they are doing and to be a resource for them. Ali noted that the National Main Street Conference is virtual this year, taking place on April 13. The 2022 conference will be in Boston, so ACAC could put something together about public art and creative placemaking and perhaps participate in a mobile workshop.
- Tom Formicola and Adria Arch hosted a nonprofit convening in March, which was a great success. It extended out further into the community than past coverings.
- The ACA's Blue Jean Ball is taking place virtually April 10, and tickets are available now.
- Lidia Kenig-Scher noted the success of the ArtLinks collaboration with ACA, and shared that participation in ArtLinks is increasing, with 190 members and growing. Lidia curated the next exhibit at Greater Goods, which will be related to COVID experiences, dovetailing with Nilou Moochhala's work. She also received a grant to create artwork related to her experience with COVID.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Noah.

Next meeting: May 6, 7:00pm.

FY21 Budget : ACAC Summary				
May 3, 2021				
REVENUE		FY21 Budget	FY21 Actual	Variance from FY21 Revised Budget
Available Funds	Previously raised	\$14,180	\$21,771	\$7,591
	Town	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
Fundraising	Individual Donations	\$9,000	\$6,899	-\$2,101
	Business Donations	\$7,500	\$500	-\$7,000
	Grants	\$42,100	\$24,100	-\$18,000
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$102,780	\$83,270	-\$19,510
EXPENSES		FY21 Budget	FY21 Actual	Variance from FY21 Revised Budget
Programs	Programming			
	Live Arts incl. Garage Band	\$5,000	\$0	-\$5,000
	Grants Committee projects	\$17,100	\$0	-\$17,100
	Michelle Lougee installation	\$4,250	\$5,264	\$1,014
	Chanel Thervil Project	\$1,500	\$0	-\$1,500
	Nilou Moochala Project	\$5,000	\$0	-\$5,000
	Public Art Curation	\$15,000	\$12,000	-\$3,000
	Youth Banner	\$6,300	\$4,675	-\$1,625
	Fox Festival	\$4,700	\$0	-\$4,700
	Walking Tour	\$5,000	\$1,875	-\$3,125
	Public events	\$1,000	\$0	-\$1,000
	Poet Laureate	\$750	\$0	-\$750
	Collaboration with Art for Equality	\$4,000	\$2,350	-\$1,650
	Addl public art projects	\$5,000	\$1,657	-\$3,343
	Total Programs	\$74,600	\$27,821	-\$46,779
Website	Total Website	\$2,600	\$0	-\$2,600
Marketing	Consultant	\$9,600	\$7,200	-\$2,400
	Publicity	\$4,000	\$728	-\$3,273
	Total Marketing	\$13,600	\$7,928	-\$5,673
Fundraising	Total Fundraising	\$3,000	\$488	-\$2,512
Contingency	Total Contingency	\$1,000	\$0	-\$1,000
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$94,800	\$36,237	-\$58,563