



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture

Date: Thursday, June 3, 2021

Time: 7:00-8:45p

Location via Zoom: <https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/j/97570447708>

Passcode: 577923

[Program Updates](#) | [Strategic Plan](#)

Agenda

1. Attendance, Remotely Conducted Open Meeting Ground Rules 7:00p-7:05p
2. For Approval: [May minutes](#) 7:05p-7:10p
3. Discussion: **Staffing & Recruitment** 7:10-7:25p
4. Discussion: **Live Performance** 7:25-7:35p
5. Discussion: **Fundraising Update** 7:35-7:45p
6. Discussion: **FY 21 Budget Update** 7:45-7:50p
7. Discussion: **Social Event July/Retreat in August** 7:50-8:10p
8. Discussion: **Public Art Updates** 8:10-8:30p
9. New Business 8:30-8:45p

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 5, 6:00-9:00p, RETREAT



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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.

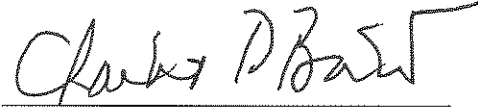
(2) Public bodies are hereby authorized to allow remote participation by all members in any meeting of the public body. The requirement that a quorum of the body and the chair be physically present at a specified meeting location, as provided in G. L. c. 30A, § 20(d) and in 940 CMR 29.10(4)(b), is hereby 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, reading "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: May 6, 2021

Time: 7:00-9:00p

Location: Zoom

Minutes

Attending: Christine Noah, Cristin Canterbury Bagnall, Stewart Ikeda, Tom Davison, Steve Poltorzkycki, Lidia Kenig-Scher, Tom Formicola, Beth Locke, Andrea Nicolay, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel

Absent: Sarah Morgan-Wu, Adria Arch

Guests: Ali Carter, Nick Castellano (Grants Committee), Cecily Miller, Terry Holt

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm

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

2) APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES

- Minutes unanimously approved as amended

3) UPDATE ON THE YOUTH BANNERS and CONTROVERSY

- Cristin and Stewart met with the Select Board and members of APD, and had some great conversations with the community. The Youth Banners will come down after a reception with awardees because the Arlington High School graduation banners need to go up in mid-May.
- Stewart noted that there is a multi-town student-led initiative he wants to host at the Umbrella, and the banners could have a future life as part of that project. Cecily also recommended potentially hanging the banners on the high school construction fence. It was noted that lack of support from town leadership means we probably cannot do that, but there is a possibility to link the banners with the fence for future iterations.
- In terms of what ACAC has learned from this experience, the use of the light pole space is what gets approved by the Select Board, not the images, but next year the SB would want to see the images. From the discussion with the SB, they do not consider the light poles political space. So in the future they would not be likely to approve anything too controversial. The question for ACAC then becomes whether the light poles are the best space for this initiative
- How has our relationship with the Select Board been impacted by this and what steps do we need to take to mend that. Next year we should have an earlier engagement with the Select Board and highlight any work that comes up like this. We should be sure to publish artist statements in advance
- Some comments from Commissioners: Freedom of expression is a fundamental right. Commissioners tried to be very transparent of what we did. A few Commissioners had a listening tour with the police who felt targeted by a particular banner depicting a young black woman with a megaphone facing a police officer with a stick and tear gas.

4) BUDGET UPDATE

- We have by now spent down the town allocation.

- We will come close to achieving the revenue we budgeted within this fiscal year. Our overall goal is to have some funds that carry over from one fiscal year to the other between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

5) FUNDRAISING

- We have been sending out reminders about Spruce Up Arlington. We had a positive response and two or three new gifts came in in the last week. We are up to about \$3,000.
- Neighborhood Haiku in the Heights is part of bringing arts to the business districts and 35 businesses in the Heights are contributing in some form, in-kind and otherwise.
- Coldwell Banker wondered whether a specific agent could be associated and recognized as an ACAC donor. There has been so much positive response to the invitation and the work.
- The Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) was awarded a \$17,000 climate resiliency grant from MAPC that Cecily wrote for the project she has been wanting to do with Tom Starr's "markers from a climate future." Cecily felt it would be a great project for Green Teams and to celebrate Arlington's volunteer activist fabric. Some of Tom's projects have been done in connection with planning. We are partnering with the DPCD's environmental planning department, but also all the volunteer citizen groups working on sustainability in some form. All volunteers would come up with content and Rachel Olivieri and Cecily would curate the responses.
- The \$17,000 will cover fees to artists and coordinators.

7) WARRANT ARTICLE AT TOWN MEETING

- Article 10 – ACAC had submitted a warrant article about redoing street performance procedures for Town Meeting 2020, but decided not to move forward at this time because the parks were being so heavily used.
- Article 35 addresses the need for more artist studio space in Arlington. When the opportunity arose to make changes in industrial zoning, DPCD, inserted artists mixed use (live/work) in an industrial zone even though residential space is usually not allowed in an industrial zone. Ali noted that the town originally wanted to modernize the industrial zone to tech uses, and other things such as you would find in Kendall Square. A pro forma analysis was conducted by the project's consultants, RKG, to test if the zoning recommendations would realistically increase the commercial tax base in town. They determined that without including some residential component, thereby making buildings mixed use rather than just strictly industrial, new industrial uses were unlikely to take root because the projects would not be profitable without a residential component. Based on that analysis as well as input from Arts and Culture Action Plan and recent advocacy from the ACAC and other artists in town, the zoning recommendation was written to have the residential component in the industrial zones be limited to artists' mixed use, which is described in detail below:

Artists' Mixed-Use.

Any portion of a building devoted to such use shall be subject to the following conditions:

- Occupied by persons certified as artists pursuant to the Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture (ACAC) Artist Certification Process,
- Designed in accordance with ACAC standards and guidelines for artists' mixed-use space, and
- Subject to an agreement for artists' housing as part of the conditions of a special permit granted by the Redevelopment Board or Board of Appeals, as applicable

In short, the purpose of residential in mixed-use is to realize industrial. And the residential uses in industrial zones would be strictly limited to artists and carefully reviewed.

- ATED has made a statement:
The Arlington Committee on Tourism & Economic Development supports allowing the expansion and availability of artist live-work spaces and flexible space accommodation for emerging businesses within the town of Arlington. We recognize the need for greater latitude within our zoning bylaws to accommodate the evolving infrastructure and needs of each of these populations and their beneficial contributions to the Arlington community today and into the future.
- Tom Davison is working with someone in his precinct to appear at Town Meeting to post this.
- Tom also provided a reference to a Boston plan for artist housing <http://www.bostonplans.org/housing/artist-live-work-program/artist-live-work-housing-overview>. There is proof of this happening in other communities.

- Discussion ensued as to whether to add our names to the ATED statement or draft a separate statement. It was decided to draft a separate ACAC statement in order to show more organizational support.

PUBLIC ART UPDATES

- Neighborhood Haiku in the Heights is happening. There are four Haiku workshops with Jessie Brown in May. Rob Davison has donated new graphic design for Neighborhood Haiku. Janet Riordin has been going door to door and recruited 35 host businesses
- We are making the small businesses the site of the public art as in Storefront Stories. ACAC has hired a sign maker. He is Japanese and came to America to learn American sign making. He does hand painted signs and is doing a two-part workshop for us. We are recruiting people who have some skill level in hand painting or lettering to learn from him and then paint the haiku's on the businesses.
- Next Wednesday, May 12, a great panel discussion building on Michelle Lougee's project has come together as part of Arlington's Eco Week. The panel is focused on how to fight plastic pollution. Katherine Clark (via prerecorded video) joins Alejandro Duran, who transforms global ocean trash into gorgeous installations as part of beach cleanups in Mexico, Ron Whyte, Project Coordinator with Trash Academy in Philadelphia, and Celidh Yurenka who owns a small business selling plastic-free products in Arlington *Yes! plastic Free).
- Nilou Moochala has done 45 interviews with community members and has completed the sketches made in response to these interviews. The Community Engagement Committee is organizing a house party as a fundraising event with the goal of raising \$2500 to match the MCC grant. Two people are needed to co-host. To be a host, make a pledge and invite friends who would have means and support to this project.
- Nilou will give the stories behind the stories. She has talked to Adam Chapdelaine, the fire chief, head of circulation at the library, senior, low-income, entrepreneurs, youth. Those interviews will be preserved in Robbins Library Covid archive. Nilou's installation will go up in the first week in June in Menotomy Rocks parks. The archive has not been launched yet. When there is critical mass, it will be launched online and celebrated.
- Save the date, Tuesday, June 8th for an artist talk with Chanel Thervil.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Council on Aging is trying to assist home-bound seniors that have not been vaccinated yet. IF you know anyone who can benefit, please refer them to the Council on Aging.
- Shout out goes to Terry Holt for redoing the Artlinks positioning on the Arts Arlington Page
- Terry has been doing some long-range planning for the website that we are setting aside budget for in the coming year.

Meeting adjourned 8:49 pm

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Marlin-Curiel

Next meeting: June 3, 7pm



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture Updates

June 2021

For the ACAC meeting held on [Zoom here](#) (Passcode 577923), we again anticipate spending time on required "ground rules" preamble for virtual meetings, and a shortlist of items in need of voting. In keeping with Open Meetings, these notes, [June agenda](#), and "Executive Order on Remote Participation" will be published publicly at least 48-hours before the meeting. We will circulate a Registration Process for the Meeting.

Please feel free to annotate any item with brief relevant clarification or correction, add any new business, and ESPECIALLY NOTE if any committee item entails a significant budget request, procedural change, or other action that requires a vote.

PRELIMINARY TO MEETING

Review this document and add comments, corrections, new business.

Review [last month's Meeting's minutes](#) and be prepared to vote on modification or approval.

All Commissioners review and understand Town's "[Remote Participation Meeting Checklist](#)" and guidelines for Zoom meetings, collected in a Google Drive folder, [ACAC Remote Open Meetings Notes and Guidelines](#).

RESOURCES

[ACAC Bylaws](#) | [ACAC on Town Website](#) | [ACAC Operations Plan](#) | [Strategic Plan](#) | [ACAC Annual Report](#)

COMMITTEE, PROJECT, AND TASK FORCE UPDATES

FY21 Commission Meetings Schedule: First Thursdays at 7PM unless quorum can't be attained. The next meeting is scheduled for **August 5 at 6PM**.

Community Engagement: **Cecily Miller** led an ambitious and fascinating discussion of the movement against plastics for **Ecoweek**, in partnership with the Town Green Teams. Some information and a recording may be made available via ArtsArlington. Poet **Jessie Brown** led a series of haiku workshops to support the Heights project, and now Cecily Miller seeks volunteers to help sign-painting artist **Kenji Nakayama** paint selected poems on SATURDAY JUNE 19 and SATURDAY JUNE 26 from 9:30am to 1:30pm.

Arlington **Youth Banner Reception** was well-attended, with comments by representatives of the **Gracie James Foundation**, Select Board, Schools and ACAC. CE seeks to contract a new **Youth Banner Coordinator** to manage the program for next year.

Utility Box artists have begun painting boxes around town. New boxes will be featured on ArtsArlington as they come online. Installation of new **Go Out Doors - Neighbors** project is expected to resume in June; Arlington will be among as many as 10 towns displaying painted doors in the regional exhibition this year.

Nilou Moochhala continues to invite neighbors to [reflect on their pandemic experience](#) as part of her participatory project for Menotomy Rocks Park.

Cristin Canterbury Bagnall shared plans to resume **Live Arts Arlington** this year, bringing live performances to town parklets. A **Call for Artists** is ready to circulate, and ACAC will seek to hire a seasonal **LAA Coordinator** to manage performances.

Town Planning: ACAC Commissioner **Tom Davison's** work to advocate for including artist live/work space in Warrant Article 35 was rewarded when the article passed at Town Meeting. Congratulations and thanks to Tom and all who supported the article!

ArtLinks: **Lidia Kenig-Scher's** outreach to Artlinks was effective and helpful in generating support for the passage of Warrant Article 35. Artlinks' monthly discussion focused on the book club reading, *Heroic Women of the Art World*, with author **Eugene Pools**. Artlinks **Herb Pearce** will be the next featured artist.

Arlington Cultural District – Sarah Morgan-Wu has circulated several revised “pods” or segments of the self-guided Cultural District Tour, which is heading into its final development stages and is anticipated to launch early this month. **Loop Labs** is working on recording **Ed Gordon** this week.

Fundraising: The spring fundraising campaign, [Spruce Up, Arlington: Get Your Sparkle On!](#) was formally launched on May 19 in ArtsArlington's newsletter, featuring inaugural business supporters American Alarm, Christian Science Reading Room, City Paint, Classic Kitchen and Bath Design, Coldwell Banker, Column Health, Custom Contracting, D'Agostino's Deli, Heights Barber Shop, J&L Hair Studio, The Legacy at Arlington Center, Maruichi Japanese Food and Deli, Mirak Properties, MyEyeDr, Old Schwamb Mill, Sherwin-Williams Paint Store, Sound Postings, LLC, Sports Etc., Utopia Cleaners and Watertown Savings Bank. We're grateful to

them all for their support of arts and culture in our town, and for the hard work of **Christine Noah, Cristin Canterbury Bagnall**, and the **Fundraising Committee**.

ACAC Grants Committee: seeks community input to ensure that grants and programs benefit our community's unique needs and interests to the greatest extent possible. It has published a brief 10-question anonymous survey and invites all neighbors, artists and commissioners to [share feedback here](#).

Marketing: Terry Holt has continued working to improve website navigation and archiving. Issues with ArtsBoston calendar following its server change were resolved. Now that programming is resuming, ACAC needs to take inventory of its signage and promotional materials, including two feather banners, sandwich board sign holder in Uncle Sam VC, car magnets, etc.

Public Art Master Plan: Stephanie Marlin-Curiel's research into a public art master plan and subsequent discussions have inspired plans to have a retreat and more focused engagement with input from all commissioners and a range of stakeholders to be scheduled.

REQUESTED NEW BUSINESS