



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture

Date: September 1, 2022

Time: 7:00-8:30pm

Location: Zoom

Minutes

Attending: Stewart Ikeda, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Christine Noah Lidia Kenig-Scher, Steve Poltorzycki, Sarah Morgan-Wu, Cristin Canterbury Bagnall, Tom Davison, Beth Locke, Tom Davison

Absent: Christine Canterbury Bagnall, Brian McMurry

Guests: Cecily Miller, Teresa Marzilli (DEI) , Kelly Lynema, Terry Holt, Anna Litten, Edward Blundell

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

1) ROLL CALL

2) APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES

- Minutes unanimously approved small edits

3) UPDATE FROM FUNCOMM UPDATE

- We are applying for an MCC ARPA grant. Grants are between \$5,000-\$75,000. We are guarantee \$5,000 just for applying. We need to show how we were affected by COVID, or show a connection to job creation or tourism. There are checkboxes rather than fields so there is little place for explanation. Our best argument is the amount of money we receive and spend. The Cultural District is also eligible to apply and ought to do that.
- Calendar year-end appeals. We will send a hard copy letter this year, and keep it between \$100 and \$200. Appeals for email and social will also happen.

4) UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- We received a \$50,000 grant for the town for a mural project.
- We would develop a systematic strategy and criteria for mural making and test with 3 murals.
- We are hiring a consultant -- Amada Hill who does Mural festivals in Lynn and who is a mural artist herself.
- We will present materials about this on town day - have a board of different types - abstract - geometric, portraiture, nature-based. Suggestions as to where we would put a mural in town.
- Youth from the pollinator mural will come to town day and share about their mural
- Markers for Remembrance of Climate Futures were printed this week.

5) CULTURAL DISTRICT UPDATES

- Cultural District Tour Map is up to 1,713 views since June - just the Google map alone - not counting Sound Cloud.
- Sarah reported on a meeting with the new MCC representative, Carolyn Cole, who is very enthusiastic. She is focused on being a listener and provider and facilitator. We discussed promoting collaboration among cultural districts to promote cooperation and reduction of the number of hoops you we have to go through. Our designation has been automatically extended for the next five years and more money will be coming. Now we only have to sign

our name to the top of an application. We have earned trust. Not much more is required to prove ourselves. We must continue annual reporting.

6) GRANTS COMMITTEE UPDATES

- First grant workshop will be Sept 13th and 19th and grant season opens.
- Arlington's allocation will increase from \$18,000 - \$21,000.
- Grants Committee will be sending a couple of representatives to the Commission booth on Town Day.

7) TOWN DAY AND PLEIN AIR

- The Town planning will also have a booth in the Town Day, and want to combine forces with us.
- Sample markers are available and we can show them at Town Day and do a combined presentation with DPCD since they were our primary partner.
- For Plein Air, we have a juror, art to hang in the tent. Playtime will give a gift certificate for the winner. We have an outside juror. The ACAC booth will be directing traffic to Plein Air. Art will be for sale.
- The Map and audio tour will be promoted at the district
- Beth is the editor for the Town Day Brochure. We can have a call out in the Town Day brochure of Plein Air since it is a location and a Town Day happening. We cannot otherwise explain what is happening at our booth otherwise she would have to do that for everyone.
- Two things are happening at Town Day - an event and an informational table. We don't usually need to have performance or art as part of our booth, but this year we do happen to have one of our events happening on Town Day.
- We can get Town on the stage to announce Plein Air or we can just submit an announcement for the emcee to read.
- Send a sign-up genius form to our volunteer list and complete committee list for staffing the booth..
- Cecily will staff the booth and Tom, Ed, Stewart and Sarah will direct volunteers that day.
- Town day gardens also will have concerts, pony rides, air tattoos, and more.

8) NEW BUSINESS

- Steven Ratiner's reign as Poet Laureate has ended. It was extended to three years because of the pandemic.
- We have a new Poet Laureate Committee. At the end of November, we hope to have a new Poet Laureate. We will put out the call right after Town Day.
- The budget has been expanded to \$750 for the Poet Laureate.
- There will be a New Library representative - Amy Hempe.
- The Grants Committee is surveying the community about its practices and priorities; ACAC will help disseminate the survey widely.
- It's important for ACAC to recognize the cultural work, and to elevate arts and culture in Town. Maybe we give some kind of a commendation to Steve Ratiner, Poet Laureate. We should do a celebration at the library, and then the previous Poet Laureate can join the committee to select the next one.
- October 10 we open the competition. Hope to have new Poet Laureate by November 15. We would have a handoff celebration right after that.
- Tom, Cecily, and Rachel were meeting about a celebration for Climate Futures. Saturday November 19 at Town Hall, do an arts and environment themed afternoon with a celebration of Kari Percival's work too.
- Open Studios is November 12.
- Terry is getting ready to move the website a new hosting system. She will make a "Meet the Commissioners" page and wants us to fill out a form.
- In the past we have talked about recognizing a merchant. Maybe we can recognize The Roasted Granola.
- Let's start putting a little thought into the Revolution 250 planning.

Meeting adjourned 8:44pm

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Marlin-Curiel

