



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture

Date: Thursday, October 10, 2024

Time: 7:00-8:30p

Location: Hybrid

Attendees: Stewart Ikeda, Christine Noah, Jessica Chao, Laurie Bogdan, Nicole Cuff, Greta Mastro, Tom Formicola, Sarah Morgan-Wu

Absent: Nancy Gray

Guests: Bruce Hoppe, Cecily Miller, Katie Luczai, Al Hagy, Anne Thompson

1. **Welcome** 7:00p-7:05p
2. **Minutes and Secretary** – For Approval: [August](#) & [September](#) Minutes 7:05p-7:10p
 - VOTED: August minutes were accepted unanimously. Nicole and Tom abstained.
 - VOTED: September minutes were accepted unanimously. Nicole and Sarah abstained.
3. **DPCD & Chair Updates & Anne Thompson Commissioner Vote** 7:10p-7:25p
 - [Need more commissioners and committee members](#)
 - DPCD Updates - 21 Pond Lane
 - Vote on Anne Thompson
 - Anne will go in front of the Select Board on 10/21.
 - She works for the Chamber of Commerce.
 - She has a background in marketing.
 - VOTED: Anne was unanimously appointed by the commission.
 - 250 Update: Town received MOTT Grant to fund 250 projects, including \$ for public art; one of 37 recipients out of 170 applicants
 - Asked for 100k, got 60k for 250th celebrations. Includes 18k for public art for the 250th.
 - New Recreation and Community Services Director, coming over from the health department.
 - Supportive of working with the Planning Department.
 - En Plein Air Festival was amazing! Thanks to Lidia!

- The jurors, seasoned Plein Air artist Dan Cianfarini and Executive Director of the Somerville Museum Stephanie Marlin-Curiel took their time in selecting the first and second prize winner from the wonderful finished paintings, and 91 Town Day visitors voted for the "Arlington Votes" prize.
- First prize went to Olha Brieus, Jonny Bloozit won second prize, and Felipe Eguia was the recipient of the Gift Certificate graciously provided by PlayTime Arlington.
- Laurie and Katie will be going in front of the Bicycle Committee for a project.
 - 3 bridges on the bikeway on the Heights end of town. One side is concrete barriers with wood across the middle. We want to decoratively paint those concrete endposts. That will probably be in lieu of utility boxes.
- Do something about Sophie's mural first and then something about Lena's.
 - We can include this in the Town Notice as well as Town social media.
- ACAC co-presented the Sept 7 dedication of British monument in Old Burying Ground.
 - It was a lovely ceremony with some reenactors and the British consulate was there.
- We could pitch the mural ribbon cutting ceremonies on 10/25 to news channels.
 - Laurie and Katie have media contact lists they can send to Cecily.
 - Cecily could write a press release.
 - The Chronicle could do something on the murals.
 - Remains to be seen whether both ribbon cuttings will happen the same day.

4. **Discussion: Artist Live/Work Guidelines**

7:25-7:45p

- Maybe artist guidelines and standards discussion
- Any further comments on draft guidelines
- Determining application materials/eligibility
- How applications get reviewed (when/by whom)
- What the certification will look like, i.e. a letter, a list that gets referred to
- This was originally brought up before MBTA-C. It was controversial in town because it meant adding more housing.
- You can now by-right build housing in industrial zones but it has to be artist/live work space.
- When this was voted on by Town Meeting, they said that ACAC would develop guidelines.
- A specific project came up in the industrial zone because it had housing. We didn't have the guidelines ready at the time, so it was denied.
- This was a casualty of the pandemic. Everyone from both the town and commission who were working on this has left.
- We are not an enforcing body. We don't want to be receiving applications from developers or making decisions about developments. We also don't want to be the ones deciding which artists can utilize this spaces.
- No one is really promoting or incentivizing the opportunity. How do we share this with developers as something they should consider?

- A lot of people are looking at redeveloping Dudley Street, so this will continue to come up.
- These aren't low-income units. We can't make any determinations about affordability.
- They're guidelines, not requirements. It will be up to the ARB how closely they enforce this.
- Could a project be developed by artists?
 - Jim Grace in Worcester is kind of the expert on this. Greater Boston Arts and Business Council (absorbed Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts).
- How do we certify artists? What qualifies someone to be an artist?
- We have the option of bringing these guidelines to a consultant to review and improve. They could help us write them in a way that is enticing to developers.
- Suggestion: Allow for additional electrical capacity.
- Suggestion: STC 50 is good for walls, add the composite construction to help with windows.
- Suggestion: If greater than X stories, you need a freight elevator.
- Artist certification process is B. That's not drafted yet.
 - We have good examples from other communities we can pull from.
- This is a Frankenstein document of other communities' guidelines. Beverly and Somerville were big inspirations, as well as the City of Boston.
- Suggestion: It's important to talk about what artists give back. That's part of the enticement. It will make your space more attractive, etc. "Mixed use spaces that so demonstrably enrich and enliven our community."
- It also acts as a bit of self-promotion and marketing for the commission. We're encouraging and making ourselves available for input. We are a voice to be listened to.
- If we have more comments on this document, share with Katie.
- These are OUR guidelines (not Katie's or DPCD's) so please do share your ideas!
- We will take this up for a vote at the next meeting.
- Would we want to put something on the Arts Arlington website about this? Highlighting our work on it? It's a way to activate the opportunity. We can point to examples of other projects that have been developed by artists.

5. **Grants and FunComm** 7:45-7:55p

- FundComm report from September meeting (Christine).
- See notes from last meeting for reference.

6. **Community Engagement Updates** 7:55p-8:15p

- Halloween October 25, we've been asked to provide music again at Broadway Plaza.
- Arlington Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration with the Red Hawk Singers & Dancers - October 13 at 12:30pm at Town Hall (ACAC Grants Committee funded).
- Mural project continues to move along. Drake Village project. David Fichter has painted some additional pieces that will complement the mosaics made by residents.
 - Housing Authority will organize a ribbon cutting for mid-November.
 - It would be great if the commission funded some music for that.
- Three murals in Arlington Center.

- Sophie Tuttle's mural at American Alarm is done except for the memorial marker.
- Lena McCarthy has started painting at Helena's. The owner has made Arts Arlington a collaborator on some Instagram posts to advertise.
- We're hoping to schedule a ribbon cutting for both murals during the town's Halloween celebration. There will be a band in Broadway Plaza.
 - There were thousands of people at last year's event.
 - It should be integrated into the schedule for the day.
 - Greta suggested talking to the high school about having the jazz band, orchestra, or madrigals to do performances. They would likely do that for free or cheaply. This could be for the Drake Village celebration.
 - For Kickstand, we'd like to direct people to watch the artist painting. They are interested in doing something on November 2nd. We could do it at peak time so people are already around.
- We will have 11 murals now along Mass Avenue! Cecily would love to do a map with the locations and photos of each mural. She's recruited a designer who's willing to donate her design services. It could also be a postcard or series of postcards.
 - We should also have a digital wayfinding map and a permalink on our website. We should also figure out a way to include the utility boxes and storm drains.
- Murals are a great opportunity for an interactive fundraiser, like a "progressive dinner." We could discuss at the next Community Engagement meeting.
- Heather Leavell from the Dallin Museum organized a call with leader of Massachusetts Tribal Council. Four different departments got to talk to him about 250th projects. Cecily talked to him about the cyanotype project, and she noted that we want to include Indigenous perspective and honor this as native ground.
 - He spoke very strongly about the need to acknowledge there was a genocide and forced removal from land. We will have an audio piece to accompany the banners. Cecily is hoping to record him for that.

7. **New Business**

8:15-8:30p

- Lidia shared there will be Holiday POP-UP Art Store at The Roasted Granola, and two other Holiday Arts events in the Heights.
- Poet Laureate applications are open through January 5. We should circulate this on ArtLinks.

Next meeting will be Thursday, November 7, 2024 from 7:00-8:30p