

David R. Martin
Mayor

Thomas Madden, AICP
Director of Economic
Development

John R. Varamo Jr.
Program Manager of
Arts and Culture



**STAMFORD
ARTS & CULTURE
COMMISSION**
FOSTERING THE PERFORMING, VISUAL, & CULTURAL ARTS

Lynne Colatrella
Chair
Valerie Cooper
Vice-Chair
Marti Etter
Secretary

Members
Dennis Collins
Lisa Cuscuna
Angie Durrell
Jennifer McIntosh
Michael Moran
Lou Ursone

**Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Minutes
Stamford Government Center, Stamford Connecticut
Wednesday, September 15, 2021**

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Cooper called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Marti Etter, Dennis Collins, Lisa Cuscuna, Valerie Cooper, Angie Durrell, Michael Moran, Lou Ursone

Commissioners Absent: Jennifer McIntosh, Lynne Colatrella

Staff: John Varamo, Program Manager of Stamford Arts & Culture

3. Reading and Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Cooper asked if all commissioners have read the minutes from the meetings held on July 21, 2021 and August 25, 2021. She then asked for a motion to accept these minutes. A motion to approve the July 21 minutes was made by Mr. Ursone and was seconded by Ms. Cuscuna. The motion passed unanimously. A motion to approve the August 25 minutes was made by Ms. Cuscuna and was seconded by Mr. Ursone. The motion passed with one abstention from Ms. Etter.

4. SAC Grant Funding Guidelines

- a. Ms. Etter combined the funding guidelines discussed at the previous meeting and had emailed them to the commission.
- b. The commission discussed and reviewed the guidelines and changed some of the language to clarify support of both artistic and cultural programming.
- c. Ms. Cooper asked Mr. Varamo if there was a timeline for the grant application process. Mr. Varamo said he would send out the timeline to the commission.
- d. Ms. Cooper asked Mr. Varamo if the final reports for the 2021 SAC grant was sent out yet. Mr. Varamo said that the emails for the final reports would be going out today.

5. SAC Grant Application Grading Criteria

- a. Ms. Cuscuna presented her updated point system for reviewing the SAC grant applications, but agreed that it was not a large different from the current grading system.
- b. The commission agreed that the term 'local artists' should be expanded to include other talent including production and marketing teams, as well as stagehands and crew.
- c. The commissioners decided that more time to discuss the grading criteria/rubric is needed. Mr. Varamo said he would send out a Doodle poll to find a time next week for the commission to meet.

6. New Business

- a. Mayoral Candidate Arts Debate
 - i. Mr. Ursone stated he spoke to Josh Fidele about getting Caroline Simmons to join the town hall and reached out to Bobby Valentine's team for an Oct 4th debate at the Kweskin Theatre.
 - ii. The commission agreed that if they do not get a confirmation from both the mayoral campaigns by Friday, Sept 17 then the commission would drop the idea, as there would not be enough time to do it.
 - iii. The commission agreed that if the debate does not come to fruition, than a zoom town hall meeting with the winning candidate is important.
- b. Fairway Arts Center
 - i. Ms. Cuscuna mentioned an idea she had about using the former Fairway property as an art center to house rehearsal studios for music, dance, and theatre as well as art studios.

7. Adjournment

Vice Chair Cooper asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 AM. Mr. Moran made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Collins. The motion passed unanimously. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

Marti Etter _____
Marti Etter
Secretary
Stamford Arts and Culture Commission