

Caroline Simmons
Mayor

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



FOSTERING THE PERFORMING, VISUAL, & CULTURAL ARTS

Lynne Colatrella
Chair
Valerie Cooper
Vice-Chair
Marti Etter
Secretary

Members
Dennis Collins
Lisa Cuscuna
Angie Durrell
Michael Moran
Lou Ursone

Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Minutes
Stamford Government Center, Stamford Connecticut
Wednesday, December 1, 2021

1. Call to Order

Chair Colatrella called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Lynne Colatrella, Dennis Collins, Lisa Cuscuna, Valerie Cooper, Angie Durrell, Michael Moran

Commissioners Absent: Lou Ursone, Marti Etter

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

3. Reading and Approval of Minutes

The meeting on November 17, 2021 was cancelled, thus there were no minutes to approve.

4. 2022 Meeting Schedule

- a. The commissioners reviewed the proposed 2022 meeting schedule and saw no conflicts.

5. 2022 Officer Elections/Nominations

- a. Mr. Varamo reminded the commissioners that officer elections are required at the first meeting of 2022.
- b. Mr. Varamo said he would email the commissioners a list of when they are up for reappointment.

6. Staff Report – John Varamo

- a. SAC Grant Update
 - i. The commission is set meet for a special meeting to review the grant applications next week. Mr. Varamo said he would resend the application evaluation sheet to all commissioners.
- b. American Rescue Plan Act Funding Proposal
 - i. Mr. Varamo informed the commission of a last-minute opportunity he was given by former Mayor David Martin to secure some of the ARP Act funding for art. He worked with Chair Colatrella to put together a mural project around the Stamford Transportation Center. The Board of Finance denied the proposal. The commissioners requested a copy of the proposal, which Mr. Varamo said he would email.

- c. Youth Music Grant
 - i. Mr. Varamo informed the commission that former Mayor David Martin asked Mr. Varamo to take over the Youth Music Grant for Ellen Bromley who has retired from the City of Stamford. The commissioners requested the most recent grant application to review. Mr. Varamo said he would send this to them via email.

7. New Business

- a. Leadership Change
 - i. Mr. Varamo informed the commissioners that Thomas Madden was not asked to be part of the new Simmons Administration, and no longer works for the city as of November 30, 2021.
- b. Digital Currency Group
 - i. Chair Colatrella informed the commission that one of the principals of DCG, a new Stamford company, has a passion for art and would like talk to him about how to improve the arts scene in Stamford.
- c. Stamford Town Center Mall
 - i. Ms. Cooper asked the commission about a new dance company that has moved into the mall. Chair Colatrella informed her that it is a collaboration between Parsons Dance and The Ballet School of Stamford.
- d. New Murals
 - i. Mr. Varamo informed the commissioners about 2 new murals he had seen in Stamford since the last meeting. 'Stillwater Flowers' at 57 Stillwater Ave and 'Blaze Your Own Trail' at 819 E Main Street. Mr. Varamo also mentioned that 'Stillwater Flowers' is an augmented reality interactive mural that comes to life when viewed thru their app.
 - ii. Chair Colatrella mentioned that a new mural is up at the Stamford Mall by the entrance to the movie theatre and that a new mural will be painted on the outside of the mural along Greyrock Place.

8. Next Meeting

- a. Confirmation
 - i. Next Meeting – Wednesday, December 8, 2021

9. Adjournment

Chair Colatrella asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 AM. Ms. Cuscuna made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Durrell. The motion passed unanimously. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynne Colatrella
Chair
Stamford Arts and Culture Commission