

Caroline Simmons
Mayor

John Varamo
Program Manager of
Arts, Culture, & Tourism



**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
Michael Moran
Lou Ursone

**Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Minutes
Stamford Government Center, Stamford Connecticut
Wednesday, March 12, 2022**

1. Call to Order

Chair Colatrella called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

2. Roll Call

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

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

3. Presentation and Arts Discussion with Mayor Simmons

- a. Mayor Simmons discussed many topics with the Commission including how arts and culture brings life to communities, how she would like to increase funding for arts programming, supports murals and art in public spaces, making sure art is accessible in schools, the potential of turning Old Town Hall into a museum, and investigating a city-wide 1% for art fund.

4. Reading and Approval of Minutes

Chair Colatrella asked if all commissioners have read the minutes from the meeting held on January 19, 2022. She then asked for a motion to accept these minutes. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Moran and was seconded by Ms. Etter. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Old Business

- a. Summer Stage in Scalzi Park
 - i. Ms. Colatrella said that the Summer Stage in Scalzi Park is approved by Operations for 6 Sundays over the summer, and it would be free for the performers.
 - ii. Mr. Varamo would work on putting together an application as well social media posts to encourage applications for the Summer Stage.
- b. Commissioner Reappointments
 - i. No update was provided.

6. New Business

- a. DSSD Kiwanis Park Art Program
 - i. Marisa Rogo and Michael Moore presented a plan by Stamford Downtown to reinvent Kiwanis Park using concepts of tactical urbanism and would include a large interactive ground mural by Lauren Clayton, festooned lighting, relocating large planters, and adding additional landscaping.

- ii. After a discussion, Chair Colatrella asked for a vote to approve the project to move forward as presented. Ms. Cuscuna made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Cooper. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Strategic Plan

- i. Ms. Durrell asked where the commission was in following the new strategic plan and if the various committees were meeting. The committees agreed to meet and have updates for the next meeting.

7. Adjournment

Chair Colatrella asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 AM. Mr. Ursone made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Moran. The motion passed unanimously. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted,



Marti Etter
Secretary
Stamford Arts and Culture Commission