

**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

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**Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Minutes  
Stamford Government Center, Stamford Connecticut  
Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Colatrella called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM

**2. Roll Call**

Commissioners Present: Lynne Colatrella, Marti Etter, Lisa Cuscuna, Angie Durrell, Michael Moran, Lou Ursone, David Watkins

Commissioners Absent: Valerie Cooper, Dennis Collins

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

**3. Reading and Approval of Minutes**

Chair Colatrella asked if all commissioners have read the minutes from the meeting held on March 16<sup>th</sup>. She then asked for a motion to accept these minutes. A motion to approve was made by Lisa Cuscuna and was seconded by Michael Moran. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Staff Report – John Varamo**

- a. Commission Reappointments: Lynne Colatrella and Dennis Collins reappointed. Angie joining next reappointment meeting

**5. Committee Reports**

- a. Finance – Lynne & Angie
  - i. Ms. Durrell noted that the Youth Music grant would now be administered through the Arts and Culture Commission
  - ii. Ms. Colatrella stated that she talked to Mayor Simmons who agrees with the 1% project but wants to see legislation. David Kooris has offered to help draft legislation for 1%.
  - iii. Mr. Varamo mentioned that Youth Music Grant was going away, and that they money would be put in the Arts and Culture Grant. All applicants who applied for the Youth Music Grant will qualify/apply for the Arts and Culture Grant (\$200,000).
- b. Convening – Lisa & Marti
  - i. Ms. Cuscuna mentioned that while everything is on the Arts and Culture website, it takes a while to find and that could be hard for new residents but that once you explore the website and content are great. Wanted to know if there way a way to make accessing link easier
  - ii. Mr. Varamo mentioned he could create a new link, and link that to the Arts and Culture page/site.
  - iii. Ms. Cuscuna & Ms. Etter mentioned they would like to see a calendar placed on the site that is continually updated. Ms. Colatrella mentioned it's difficult because its essentially a full time job

and Mr. Varamo and other Government Center employees do not have the time or capacity to do it in addition to their jobs already.

- iv. Mr. Watkins mentions the idea of hiring an intern for the website calendar
- c. Programming – Lou & Mike
  - i. Mr. Ursone mentioned the Summer Stage has 11 applicants, with 2 organizations presenting each night.
- d. Diversity – Val & Dennis
  - i. Ms. Cooper stated that she is hoping to get on Carmen Hughes (new DEI Officer) calendar to learn more about what her goals are, and to see if they can coordinate together on the arts. Reach out to minority grant recipients

## **6. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Cooper asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 AM. Ms. Etter 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,

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Marti Etter  
Secretary  
Stamford Arts and Culture Commission