

Caroline Simmons
Mayor

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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
Michael Moran
Lou Ursone

Regular Meeting Notice

Date: Wednesday, September 21st, 2022
Time: 9:00 AM
Place: Democratic Caucus Room, Government
Center 888 Washington Blvd

Agenda

1. Call to Order

Chair Colatrella called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Lynne Colatrella, Marti Etter, Dennis Collins, Lisa Cuscuna, Michael Moran, Rep. David Watkins, Val Cooper

Commissioners Absent: Lou Ursone

Staff: Aaron Miller, 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 May 18th, 2022. Chair Colatrella then asked for a motion to accept these minutes. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Etter and was seconded by Mr. Ursone. The motion passed unanimously

4. Staff Report - Aaron

a. 2022 SAC Awardees

- Recipients have been notified of need to submit final reports, reports coming in slowly but follow up email will be sent.
- Chair Colatrella notes that if awardee reapplies for 2023 grant but hasn't submitted draft or final report by application due date they shouldn't be considered

5. Chair Report

a. Grant Application

- i. Chair Colatrella asks commissioners if they have any questions or changes, they would like to see to 2023 SAC Grant application before it is sent out. Commissioners discuss adding wording to question 3a, and then reach agreement on wording.
- ii. Chair Colatrella ask for motion to approve application. Mr. Collins makes a motion and Mr. Moran

seconds the motion. The committee is unanimous in its agreement of the 2023 SAC Grant application.

b. BLM Mural on Broad Street

- i. Chair Colatrella says a decision needs to be made on whether to repaint the BLM on Broad St or let it fade away.
- ii. Ms. Cuscuna says its emotional if you walk away from the mural.
- iii. Ms. Cooper says the mural looks no different than when it got to this stage after the first painting. She notes that we've moved away from George Floyd, and that it would be better to clean it.
- iv. Mr. Collins is in agreement on the need to clean it, but a if there is somewhere else in the city that a Black Lives Matter Mural could be placed. Ms. Cooper mentions there's a painting happening this weekend at Mill River.
- v. Chair Colatrella mentions the Cultured Pearl wanted to do a BLM mural in the city, but it's just not ready yet to take it on.
- vi. Ms. Cooper mentions you'd have to find organization to apply for the SAC Grant to do the mural, because the commission couldn't do it the mural painting directly.
- vii. Chair Colatrella mentions the commission should have a conversation with the city about murals on buildings. Conversation should include artists and Mayor as well because it is tough to get paintings and murals on some buildings. She mentions that the DSSD controls the downtown traffic boxes and DSSD will investigate the process of getting those painted.
- viii. Ms. Cooper mentions that the Cultured Pearl couldn't get a wall assigned for the mural, and Ms. Cooper would like to know what the process is to get a wall assigned. Chair Colatrella notes that the Culture Pearl was given a wall but work at the Smyth stopped and the work couldn't get done in time. Mentions that it is different with public v. private owned buildings because private buildings like the mall can do whatever they want. So, it is a question of what the rules are and then the second question is funding
- ix. Commissioners discuss how to make the mural process easier for public to understand, and the difference between mural painted on public vs. private buildings.

c. Commissioners needed

- i. Rep. Watkins notes there is a new committee
- ii. Mr. Millers mentions he will talk to Ms. Meyer and Director Nadres about the appointments process

6. Committee Reports

a. *Convening – Lisa & Marti*

- i. Ms. Etter mentions she would like to see the commission do more community engagement and reach out to more community groups and members. Commission needs to work on how to invite more diverse people and groups to events, and make sure they are inclusive.
- ii. Ms. Cuscuna and Ms. Etter announce they will share invitation to next convening meeting, with a date TBD
- iii. Ms. Cooper mentions the timing is perfect for a convening meeting, especially with good fall weather.

b. *Programming – Lou & Mike*

- i. Mr. Moran notes the commission should be more diligent in who is does concerts and events with next year and the days and nights that they occur on. Would like to see more/better marketing next year.
- ii. Mr. Moran notes that the City of Norwalk gives \$250K a year to market Arts and Culture events in Norwalk. Mentions he doesn't necessarily think that Stamford should do the same but would like to see the commission go in a different direction in terms of marketing than it does now.
- iii. Chair Colatrella mentions the Committee should have a programming meeting, and Mr. Moran agrees. Committee agrees and committee agrees to discuss further later.

c. *Diversity – Val & Dennis*

- i. Ms. Cooper mentions that she met with Ms. Hughes (DEI Officer for Stamford) and they had a great meeting. Ms. Cooper states that Ms. Hughes offered work with the commission on how to advance

diversity within the Arts in Stamford. Ms. Cooper also offered the help of the Commission to Ms. Hughes.

- ii. Chair Colatrella mentions that if Ms. Hughes is getting into Carmen gets into marketing and PR there could be room for the commission to help with that.
- iii. Ms. Cooper mentions inviting Ms. Hughes to the November meeting, and the commission is in agreement that it could be a good idea.

7. New Business

a. CT Cultural Fund Info Session

- i. Chair Colatrella mentions that she will be attending this event tomorrow, interested to see if ACC is eligible for any funding.
- ii. Chair Colatrella notes that David Green of the CT Cultural Fund is looking to get a meeting on the books with Ms. Nades to discuss Arts and Culture in Stamford.

b. ACC Intern

- i. Ms. Etter says that she has spoken with UCONN about getting the committee and intern, and UCONN has said school is back in session and the Commission is on their radar but just to be a bit patient as everyone gets back in the flow of school.

8. Adjournment

- a. Chair Colatrella asks for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Cuscuna makes a motion to adjourn and is seconded by Ms. Etter. All commissioners vote in favor of adjourning the meeting and the meeting is adjourned at 10:00 am.