

**Caroline Simmons**  
Mayor

**Aaron Miller**  
Program Manager of  
Arts, Culture, & Tourism

**David Watkins**  
Board of Representatives

**Susan Nabel**  
Board of Representatives



# 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

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## Meeting Notice

**Date:** Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
**Time:** 9:00 AM  
**Place:** Government Center, Democratic Caucus Room or Zoom

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89318603128>

Meeting ID: 893 1860 3128

One tap mobile

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## Agenda

### 1. Call to Order

### 2. Roll Call

- a. Commissioners Present: Lynne, Val, Lisa, Marti, Lou, David
- b. Commissioners Absent: Mike and Susan

### 3. Reading and Approval of Minutes

### 4. Staff Report - Aaron

- a. NEA Grant: Joe Hickey
  - i. Joe matching grant for NEA Grant is for \$25,000
  - ii. Lynne 1% to art budget to use, must be used on municipal and suggestion is to change the ordinance so that it can be used at train station
  - iii. Marti: When does grant need be complete by
  - iv. Joe: Mural needs to be complete by April 30 of 2024
  - v. Marti- would like to speak to someone who has done this before, because timeline seems scary
  - vi. John: Applied at start of change of administration. John given commitment from administration that there would be a match, because he didn't want to waste time. If we could get \$25K from NEA and \$25K local match, we could get local artists to do for less. Would be unfortunate and went to BOF to do public art, and they said you had no

grants so get grant then we'll make it work. Maybe it makes sense to go to the BOF to award. Money sits in engineering and used for mural at Tully. BOF should allocate the \$25K

- vii. Lisa – why is the A&C commission be thrust into this when this is the first time we are hearing
- viii. Lou- No project budget
- ix. Lynne – There is a project budget, submitted by John and NEA. We should not turn the money away and find a way to commit. DSSD will commit but city wont commit, and city needs to commit. Willing to fight the fight and go to every meeting to get the check but got to do it together
- x. Val: Totally agree, with Joe Hickey that we need to accept the grant. Invested hugely and got the grant and with Lynne and find the \$25K. Smaller scope of work for what we have been awarded, and is a panelist to the NEA and has access to managers and programs and can ask questions
- xi. Lisa: Careful because it can be tough, previous matching grant that was denied and no maintenance
- xii. Lynne: what grant?
- xiii. Lisa: \$150K for train station lights
- xiv. Marti: Want to make sure the project last
- xv. David: John, seeking this grant was after discussion with Bridget Fox and Mayor's Office. Valerie used the "We" but the We wasn't the A&C? Would have to go to BOF and BOR and then go to committee meeting and then meeting. Putting aside the question of project costs and all, is a months long process. Should go right back to where this started...Mayors Office, just my opinion.
- xvi. Lynne: What about changing language in ordinance
- xvii. David: No clue how long that would take, and there would be a lot of questions of why.
- xviii. John: When we applied, choose an artists that has national recognition, but that doesn't mean we have to stick with that artist, more just for the applicartion. When it comes to maintenance, we had voted on if we want to apply for the Grant, commission voted on the grant and all were aware that they were going to apply. Different then the BLM Mural. This is on a wall not a busy street, and a certain paint that lasts longer and paint for BLM was a covid special type of paint that washed away faster. Anti graffiti coating included in the budget. DSSD has great anti graffti program, and this was done to last as long as
- xix. Lou: was original budget 90K match or
- xx. John: Total budget was \$90K, and half was supposed to be the match. We need to get money, and willing to dedicate some staff time with Aaron to get this done
- xxi. Lisa: Did artist give a certain length of time of how long this would last.
- xxii. Lynne: What is life expetency of wall mural
- xxiii. Val: Can vary and cant answer off top of head but 20 years is too long, but good question
- xxiv. Marti: Reads budget, just to be clear, I love the project but its just about the nitty gritty, and I don't want people to come back and say the commission acted irresponsibly
- xxv. Lynne: What the question is, should city right to NEA with acceptance. From RFP standpoint there is time, and there is time but we gotta make a commitment
- xxvi. Joe: They would be aminable to that I think because they didn't give us all the money

- xxvii. David: is wall ready, could it start now? And gotta make sure that subsequent work isn't affected by it
- xxviii. Lynne: we got to go down there and see but that is a good question
- xxix. Val: agree with David's suggestion, 3500sqft based off what Marti said. Going rate that muralist are usually paid, and got to look at local rate. Do a section of the wall maybe instead of entirety and think of it in phases, and phase 1 is the design and then year 2 would be the rendering, NEA could be open on that but should go into subcommittee on this
- xxx. Lisa: Is DASS committed to certain budget? I want to throw out again the fact that there is a mosaic artist who could do something that would last and that would be sustainable
- xxxi. John: I wouldn't know, but that is something we would have to speak with the artist
- xxxii. Val: Having sat on NEA panel to review grants, they are very open body. And we could get meeting, and have our questions ready to go
- xxxiii. Lou: \$60K artist fee = about \$18 sqft
- xxxiv. Lynne: Do we accept the \$25K and have commitment from city or do we have enough time to do what Valerie said.
- xxxv. John: what happens if we don't accept
- xxxvi. Joe: We would be a delinquent of the award and would be black mark on NEA and any federal agencies
- xxxvii. Val: Question is do we need to go into fundraising mode or earmark budget for next year's budget?
- xxxviii. David: I don't think we can earmark next year's budget, and I don't believe we can borrow from next year's budget for this year. I don't know if we can accept
- xxxix. Lisa: Does accepting this grant mean we have to accept full wall
  - xl. Joe: initially but since we got a reduced grant then scope of work must be reduced
  - xli. John: What is exact deadline
  - xl. Joe: Anita says grant manager has been very receptive to moving deadline but initial date was December 1, 2022
  - xl. Marti: I think we identified problems; we come back in a week and ask if val has time to reach out to connections at NEA and find another artist and have meeting with mayors office.
  - xl. Lynne: We can't find artist in a week, but in a week we could get meeting with NEA and Mayors Office and basic info
  - xl. Lynne: Tasks leaders, Valerie and Joe can handle the NEA portion
  - xl. Val: Before that have a meeting with John to talk about reduced scope of work before meeting with NEA
  - xl. Lynne: NEA Group (Joe and Val), Logistics Group (John and Lisa), Mayor's Office (Lynne and Lou)
  - xl. Val: Ask Carmen if she has any money in her DEI budget
  - xl. Lynne, come back in a week next Wednesday at 9am on Zoom. With sub groups having done some homework
- b. Supporting Arts Grant - \$2,189
  - i. Operating Support
    - 1. Ms. Cuscuna notes that we have received two grants for operation support, and spoke with Anita that it is up to Commission on what to do with it.

2. Chair Colatrella ask if the two funds could be married together to do something better.
  3. Ms. Cuscuna says yes, she believes so.
  4. Mr. Varamo notes that he created this PDF book to be printed and the intention to get corporations to give back to local organizations. Using PDF as webpage would be not good, because not easy to edit and should be a drop down on the menu.
  5. Chair Colatrella states that Aaron will ask Michelle from Town Clerk on potential budget to build out a website.
- c. CT Humanities - \$9,100
- i. Operating Support Grant
    1. To support development of commissions website

## **5. Chair Report – Lynne**

- a. Election of Officers
  - i. Chair Colatrella notes that its time to start election process and by March meeting we want to have slate together. If anyone is interested, please let Aaron know
  - ii. Ms. Cooper notes her term has expired but been in touch with Lauren Meyer.
  - iii. Chair Colatrella asks if Ms. Cooper and Mr. Ursone are willing to go through process to be renominated.

## **6. Committee Reports**

- a. **Convening – Marti and Lisa**
  - i. Ms. Etter states they are excited to get started with the website, because its something they have been waiting for.
- b. **Programming – Lou and Mike**
  - i. Chair Colatrella notes that she needs to follow up with the Director of Operations regarding the show mobile and its replacement. However, could be until the fall till replacement arrives.
  - ii. Mr. Ursone states could be hard to do Summer Series in Scalzi.
- c. **Diversity – Val and Dennis**
  - i. Ms. Cooper: Aaron, Carmen and I met before the holidays to talk about diversity goals and want to talk with her about projects or goals that may closely align. Ms. Cooper notes that she and Angie had done in prior years to measure grants and whether there is oversampling or under. Carmen stated that Commission didn't have the correct stats to do that, but commission should look at application for next year and work together on which information to collect

## **7. New Business**

- a. None

## **8. Adjournment**

- a. Chair Colatrella asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Etter made a motion and Ms. Cuscuna seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 am.