

Caroline Simmons
Mayor

Aaron Miller
Program Manager of
Arts, Culture, & Tourism



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
John Varamo
David Watkins (Board
of Reps)
Nina Sherwood (Board
of Reps)

Regular Meeting Notice

Date: Wednesday, May 17th, 2023
Time: 9:00 AM
Place: Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89318603128>

Meeting ID: 893 1860 3128
One tap mobile
+13092053325,,89318603128# US

Dial by your location
+1 309 205 3325 US
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 360 209 5623 US
Meeting ID: 893 1860 3128

Agenda

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. Chair Colatrella called the meeting to order at 9:07am
- b. Commissioners Present: Colatrella, Cooper, Cuscuna, Ursone, Varamo, Etter, Moran,
- c. Ex Officio: Sherwood
- d. Staff: Miller

2. Reading and Approval of Minutes

- a. Approval of Minutes from the March Meeting
 - i. Mr. Varamo moved to approve the minutes and Ms. Cooper seconded. The minutes are unanimously approved.

3. Staff Report – Aaron

4. Chair – Lynne

- a. *Introduction of John Varamo and Nina Sherwood*

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- i. Chair Colatrella welcomes John Varamo as the newest member of the commission and Representative Nina Sherwood who replaced the late Susan Nabel.
- b. *Mural Update*
 - i. Chair Colatrella notes there have been a lot of moving parts with language of owning the mural and environmental concerns. States she is willing to give it another month, but in a month, but if no progress made in a month would recommend giving the money back.
 - ii. Ms. Cooper states that it seems there is a lack of belief in the mural as funding was cut during budget process. Commission is volunteer and don't have time to look for funding.
 - iii. Mr. Varamo notes that he is disappointed at a resident and employee. When he last presented to BOF they stated they would love to see mural at train station but wouldn't provide additional funding till grant was in hand.
 - iv. Rep. Sherwood mentions the BOR approved the funding on April 3rd on the consent agenda, and it passed. States she would be supportive of an additional appropriation and would advocate for the funding if it came before the Board.
 - v. Mr. Varamo states that if Majority Leader Sherwood said she would advocate and we could go for \$25,000 this time, then would encourage the Mayor's office to ask for additional appropriation.
 - vi. Rep. Sherwood notes that she thinks the additional appropriation would have a good chance of passing because during the BOF cut everyone was brought back to FY22-23 levels of funding because of the reval and want to not spend additional funds.
 - vii. Mr. Moran asks if there was a total of \$75K for the mural could the project be done successfully?
 - viii. Chair Colatrella and Ms. Cooper answer yes.
- c. *Check in with Arts and Culture Grantees*
 - i. Chair Colatrella would like to check in with all the grantees who received a grant from the Commission and to see how everything is going.
 - 1. Notes that it has come to attention that some groups may be struggling or looking to use grants in other places.
 - ii. Ms. Etter notes that the list of groups has already broken down when they were originally reading, and commissioners could contact the ones on their list. Also notes she reached out to organizations that were not funded to explain reasoning.

5. Committee Reports

- a. *Convening – Lisa & Marti*
 - i. Database
 - 1. Mr. Miller notes that an email was sent to all organization in the database, but there were only four responses.
 - 2. Ms. Etter notes, it was a bit disappointing, as everyone wants the database, but nobody responded.
 - ii. NEA - \$130,000 Grant
 - 1. Ms. Etter notes that the regrating grant from NEA for organizations like ACC, could apply and Commission has the match through the budget and up to \$130,000. Commissioners agree would be good to apply
- b. *Programming – Lou & Mike*
 - i. Mr. Moran states the city may be working to procure a new show mobile but doesn't know when.
 - ii. Mr. Miller notes that is still a year out.
- c. *Diversity – Val & Dennis*

- i. Val notes that they have been in contact and involved Carmen with helping with language for RFP.

6. New Business

- a. Mr. Varamo notes that the “Off Main” event will be happening later this year.
- b. Ms. Etter notes they have an event on May 25th at the Palace.

7. Adjournment

- a. Chair Colatrella asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ursone made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Varamo seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am