

**Caroline Simmons**  
Mayor

**Leah Kagan**  
Director of Economic  
Development

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



**STAMFORD  
ARTS & CULTURE  
COMMISSION**  
FOSTERING THE PERFORMING, VISUAL, & CULTURAL ARTS

**Lynne Colatrella**  
Chair  
**Marti Etter**  
Secretary

**Members**  
Dennis Collins  
Michael Moran  
Lou Ursone  
John Varamo  
David Watkins (B.O.R)  
Nina Sherwood (B.O.R)

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## Meeting Notice

**Date:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024  
**Time:** 10:00 AM  
**Place:** Democratic Caucus Room & Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84868689341>

### Agenda

#### 1. Call to Order

- a. Chair Colatrella called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

#### 2. Roll Call

- a. **Present:** Colatrella, Ursone, Etter, Moran, Varamo,
- b. **Absent:** Collins
- c. **Staff:** Kagan, Miller

#### 3. Reading and Approval of Minutes

- a. Approval of Minutes from the November Meeting
  - i. Mr. Moran asked that minutes from the November meeting be revised to state who made a motion to approve and second the minutes, and that they be accepted after the revision.
  - ii. Mr. Varamo moved to approve the minutes pending the revision, Mr. Moran seconded and the minutes were approved.

#### 4. Chair – Lynne

- a. Supporting Arts Grant for FY24
  - i. Mr. Moran made a motion to accept the CT Office of the Arts Supporting Arts Grant for FY 24 Mr. Ursone seconded the motion, all approved.
  - ii. Commissioners stated they would like to accept the grant for development.

#### 5. Staff Report – Aaron

- a. Mr. Miller notes the grant ceremony is today, and most organizations have gotten their COI's in to the risk dept.

#### 6. Committee Reports

- a. Convening –Marti
  - i. NEA supplication for regranting for 2025

1. Ms. Etter notes that she thinks the Commission should apply for FY25 regrant, and it could double the amount of funding the commission has.
  - a. All commissioners agree that it would be a great to apply for and Ms. Etter notes she will write Anita.
2. Chair Colatrella asks Rep. Sherwood about the possibility of the Arts and Culture budget being increased by 10%.
  - a. Mr. Varamo and Mr. Ursone note that an ask of \$200,000 might be a better ask. Chair Colatrella asks that the commission ask for a 5% increase.
  - b. Rep. Sherwood notes that the Commission should send a letter to the BOF and BOR asking for them to not cut the budget, and state what the additional money would be used for
- ii. Update on 2 grant uses
- iii. Mural
  1. Chair Colatrella DSSD is the fiduciary and \$20,000 of the \$25,000 has been received.
  2. Mr. Miller notes that a revised timeline is needed, since mural is currently behind schedule.
  3. Ms. Kagan notes that she and Chair Colatrella have met to finalize RFP and get that out as soon as NEA approval comes back, with a reduced scope to and with the goal of getting mural painted in warmer months. DOT will accommodate the artist(s) once selected.
  4. Final total amount of funding is \$75,000, and Chair Colatrella notes that she believes it could be done for that amount.
- b. Programming – Lou & Mike
  - i. Chair Colatrella notes that the Alive @ 5 stage is up during the summer, and it would be great if Arts and Cultural groups could utilize the stage this summer.
- c. Diversity – Dennis
  - i. None

## **7. New Business**

- a. Nakian Statue
  - i. Mr. Varamo notes there is a back and forth with the legal department on a potential lease extension but waiting on legal review.
- b. Statue at Susan Nabel Park at CH
  - i. Chair Colatrella notes that she put the Commission on the Parks and Rec Commission agenda for March, and Mr. Varamo would be going to discuss where to place the statue of the children the commission voted to accept.

## **8. Adjournment**

- a. Chair Colatrella asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Etter made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Varamo seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 am.