

David R. Martin
Mayor

Thomas Madden, AICP
Director of Economic
Development

John R. Varamo Jr.
Program Manager of
Arts and Culture



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

Lynne Colatrella
Chair
Jennifer McIntosh
Vice-Chair
Marti Etter
Secretary

Members
Valerie Cooper
Lisa Cuscuna
Angie Durrell
Michael Moran
Lou Ursone

Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Minutes
Stamford Government Center, Stamford Connecticut
Wednesday, January 15, 2020

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair McIntosh called the meeting to order at 8:35AM.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Lynne Colatrella, Marti Etter, Lisa Cuscuna, Angie Durrell, Jenny McIntosh, Mike Moran
Commissioners Absent: Lou Ursone, Valerie Cooper
Staff: John Varamo, Program Manager of Stamford Arts & Culture

3. 2020 Officer Elections

Mr. Varamo presented a slate with Lynne Colatrella as Chair, Jennifer McIntosh as Vice Chair, and Marti Etter as Secretary. Mr. Moran made a motion to approve the slate as presented which was seconded by Ms. Cuscuna. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Reading and Approval of Minutes

Chair Colatrella asked if all commissioners have read the minutes from the meeting held on November 13, 2019. She then asked for a motion to accept these minutes. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Etter and was seconded by Ms. McIntosh. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Staff Report – John Varamo

- a. Stamford Arts & Culture Grant – Mr. Varamo discussed the Stamford Arts & Culture Grant with the commission and asked for their help in making improvements to the application process for 2020. The commissioners agreed to hold a separate meeting to go through the application. Mr. Varamo agreed to send out a Doodle poll to find a date that works best for as many people as possible.
- b. Art Appraisal Budget – Mr. Varamo had a discussion with Mayor Martin about the possibility of appraising the city's art collection after discovering a valuable work of art that was not previously inventoried. Mayor Martin agreed to request a special appropriation for \$10,000 to appraise the city's entire collection.
- c. Loaned Art Contracts – Mr. Varamo updated the commission on his efforts to have fully executed contracts for artworks that have been loaned by the city or to the city. These include the Carlus Dyer sculpture at the Stamford Train Station, which is owned by the city, and the Reuben Nakian sculpture at Old Town Hall, which is owned by Margot & Leonard Gordon.

6. Old Business

- a. Strategic Plan – Chair Colatrella gave an update on the status of the strategic plan RFP. Mr. Varamo mentioned that he posted the RFP on the city's website and to the Fairfield County Cultural Alliances' jobs page. He will also send an email to the art organizations list that the commission updates.
- b. End of Year Email – Ms. Etter mentioned that the end of year update went out to the commission's arts organization list as well as the Board of Reps and the Board of Finance.

7. New Business

- a. New Commissioner – The commissioners were informed that Dennis Collins is currently awaiting approval by the appointments committee to join the Arts & Culture Commission.
- b. DSSD Art in Public Places – Chair Colatrella discussed Stamford DSSD's summer 2020 art exhibition, Art in Public Places.
- c. Instagram – The commission discussed the possibility of hosting an Instagram photo contest for a public art scavenger hunt with potential prizes such as ticket to the Palace Theatre or Alive at Five.

8. Next Meeting

- a. Discussion – Next Meeting Agenda
- b. Confirmation
 - i. Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 18, 2020

9. Adjournment

Chair Colatrella asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 AM. Ms. Cuscuna made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Durrell. The motion passed unanimously. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted,



Marti Etter
Secretary
Stamford Arts and Culture Commission