

**David R. Martin**  
Mayor

**Thomas Madden, AICP**  
Director of Economic  
Development

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



**S T A M F O R D**  
**ARTS & CULTURE**  
**COMMISSION**  
FOSTERING THE PERFORMING, VISUAL, & CULTURAL ARTS

**Lynne Colatrella**  
Chair  
**Valerie Cooper**  
Vice-Chair  
**Marti Etter**  
Secretary

**Members**  
Dennis Collins  
Lisa Cuscuna  
Angie Durrell  
Jennifer McIntosh  
Michael Moran  
Lou Ursone

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**Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Stamford Government Center, Stamford Connecticut**  
**Wednesday, March 10, 2021**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Colatrella called the meeting to order at 8:38 AM

**2. Roll Call**

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

**3. Convening Committee (Marti & Lisa):**

- a. Two priorities should be focused on for short and medium term actions.
  - i. Get a consensus on what the community would like to see.
    1. Must reach out to our list of contacts, but also reach out to other organizations such as the Library and Stamford Museum to get a larger group of community members involved.
    2. Setting up activities, interviews, and document and report the results.
  - ii. Foster connections within the arts & culture community.
    1. Potentially create virtual platform for people to connect
    2. Create public meetings
    3. Challenge will be continuing to sustain these connections.
- b. Letter was created and will be shared that was drafted, will invite people to come to a zoom convening. Agenda would be about what the commission is doing and try to understand what would be most effective and useful for the commission.

**4. Diversity & Inclusion Committee (Valerie & Jennifer):**

- a. Val and Jenn will be meeting tomorrow.
- b. Easiest way to manage this and be successful would be to utilize groups that received the SAC grant and see how the commission could be more inclusive.
  - i. Talk to groups that have a minority voice and try to understand what their needs are. Ex: 4 Hispanic groups, Stamford Pride, The Cultured Pearl.

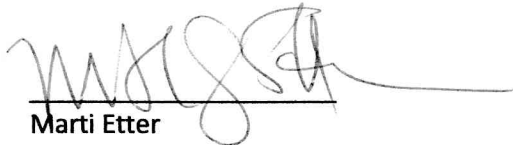
## 5. Funding Committee (Lynn & Angie):

- a. First priority is to elevate a 1% for art program in Stamford.
  - i. This is standard in many other communities across the country.
  - ii. Put together a timeline and want to meet with Board of Reps & Board of Ed. Hopefully meet with Matt Quinonez in Q2 2021 and Board of Ed and Mayor Q1 2022. By 2023, 1% for Art will be a new ordinance in the city, so all new development projects would be taxes 1% to be shared with arts & culture organizations and provide arts education.
- b. Second priority is to reduce and avoid cultural deserts.
  - i. Resources include artists, art orgs, parks and rec, Stamford Downtown, community centers, State of CT.
  - ii. Activities include review our arts inventory, identify where art is needed, research performance art, partner with Stamford Downtown to bring art themes to entire city and neighborhoods.
  - iii. By summer 2022, have 2 new neighborhoods have new art pieces and by summer 2024, all neighborhoods should be involved in the Stamford Downtown art exhibits.
- c. Learning from a broader voice in the community.
  - i. Commission & community to learn more, engage more, and identify needs of the community.

## 6. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,



Marti Etter  
Secretary  
Stamford Arts and Culture Commission