

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
Valerie Cooper
Vice-Chair
Marti Etter
Secretary

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

Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Minutes
Stamford Government Center, Stamford Connecticut
Wednesday, July 21, 2021

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Cooper called the meeting to order at 8:40 AM.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Marti Etter, Lisa Cuscuna, Valerie Cooper, Michael Moran, Lou Ursone

Commissioners Absent: Dennis Collins, Angie Durrell, Jennifer McIntosh, Lynne Colatrella

Staff: John Varamo, Program Manager of Stamford Arts & Culture

3. Reading and Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chair Cooper asked if all commissioners have read the minutes from the meeting held on May 19, 2021. She then asked for a motion to accept these minutes. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Moran and was seconded by Ms. Etter. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Staff Report – John Varamo

a. NEA Grant/American Rescue Plan Update

- i. Mr. Varamo stated that the city and the commission received preliminary from the NEA approval to apply for a National Endowment for the Arts American Rescue Plan Grant for Subgranting.
- ii. He and the new grants coordinator, Anita Carpenter, would work together to complete the grant application.

5. Old Business

a. Debrief from public convening & next steps

- i. Ms. Etter sent out notes from the two convening meetings before this meeting, which saw 36 people attend when combined. Some major points made include the desire for an online events calendar, they enjoyed some of the programming including the piano at Government Center, the option for a public Slack channel, and a designated Arts & Culture website.
- ii. The commission discussed having a designated Arts & Culture links page and created a committee to research this opportunity. Mr. Ursone, Ms. Etter, and Ms. Cuscuna volunteered to help.

- b. SAC Grant
 - i. The commission needs to meet to discuss changes that need to be made to the application process for the SAC grant. Mr. Varamo said he would send out a Doodle poll to the commission with a few dates in August that the commission could meet to discuss the grant.
- c. Arts Mayoral Debate
 - i. The commission would like to host an arts discussion with the Stamford mayoral candidates.
 - ii. The date October 4th was pitched as an ideal date and the event could be hosted at the Palace Theatre or the Kweskin Theatre. There is a fee to use The Palace, but no fee to use The Kweskin.
 - iii. The commission needs to reach out to the candidates to ensure the date works for their calendars.
 - iv. Mr. Ursone and Ms. Etter stated they would take the lead on this initiative.
- d. Original Deed Event
 - i. Mr. Varamo stated he spoke to Lyda Ruijter about the original deed event & pow wow. Ms. Ruijter said she would email Mr. Varamo with any updates as they are available.

6. Next Meeting

- a. Confirmation
 - i. Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 15, 2021

7. Adjournment

Vice-Chair Cooper asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 AM. Mr. Moran made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ursone. The motion passed unanimously. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

Marti Etter
Secretary
Stamford Arts and Culture Commission

b. SAC Grant

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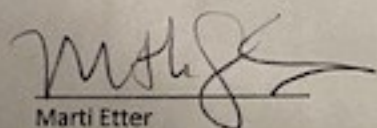
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