

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, August 25, 2021

1. Call to Order

Chair Colatrella called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Lynne Colatrella, Marti Etter, Lisa Cuscuna, Valerie Cooper, Dennis Collins, Michael Moran, Lou Ursone, Angie Durrell, Jennifer McIntosh

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

3. SAC Grant Application Review

- a. Mr. Varamo presented the commissioners with two examples of grant guidelines/requirements
 - i. One for the State of Connecticut Arts Endowment Fund Grant, and the other for the Arts Project Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.
 - ii. Chair Colatrella asked that Mr. Varamo read through all the examples of what these grants are allowed to fund, and what they are not allowed to fund.
 - iii. The commissioners discussed each guideline and decided if it applies to the SAC grant or not.
 - iv. Mr. Varamo stated he would send the commissioners a compiled list of the SAC Funding Guidelines based on the commission's review the state and federal grants.
- b. The commission asked for an updated timeline for the 2021 SAC grant, which Mr. Varamo said he would send via email.
- c. The commission agreed that future SAC grant funding is contingent upon the successful completion of previous SAC grant programming.
- d. Ms. Cuscuna suggested that the commission look at incorporating a more standardized grant review and scoring system based on the State of Connecticut's Regional Initiatives (REGI) Grant. This numeric scoring system would take into account a program's artistic merit, a social equity component, accessibility of the programming, and recipient reliability. Chair Colatrella asked if Ms. Cuscuna could put together a sample rubric for the commission before the next meeting on September 15. Ms. Cuscuna stated she would complete it before then and email it to all the commissioners.

4. Next Meeting

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

5. Adjournment

Chair Colatrella asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 AM. Mr. Moran 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,



Lynne Colatrella
Chair
Stamford Arts and Culture Commission