

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
**Cultural Arts Commission
Minutes
Wednesday, January 11, 2023**

Members Present: Karen Askin, Francis Bevington, Patricia Dubroof, Liz Ortuzar, Brian Rogers, Cristin Cash, Rosemary Storey, Melissa Sera

Members Absent: Therese Capal, Howie Jung

Councilmember: Mark Pierzchala

Staff Present: Andy Lett, Betty Wisda, Laura Creech

Guests Present: Liliane Blom, former member, Spencer Knoll, potential member

Karen Askin called the virtual online meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Re: Approval of the Minutes

The Cultural Arts Commission unanimously approved the minutes written for the December 14, 2022, meeting.

Re: Councilmember Report

- Mark is closing his business and preparing to retire.
- He recommends using the Community Forum as an excellent way to propose your budgets before mid-February.
- Met with Friends of Rockville Civic Ballet. Still wants barns renovated at King Farm Homestead barns for dual use with ballet programs and senior use during the day.

Re: Chairperson's Report

- No report

Re: Staff Report

- Under the direction of Eleanor Simpson and Erin Kwong, the Rockville Civic Ballet performed six sold-out performances of "The Nutcracker" on December 3, 4, 10, and 11 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Audience members enjoyed excellent choreography, beautiful costumes, and unique sets.
- The "Meet the Artists" for the Rockville Art League Members' Juried Winter Show was attended by art patrons at full capacity on December 4 at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery. Patrons were able to talk to the artists regarding their artwork.
- Under the direction of Dr. Juan Gallastegui, the Rockville Concert Band performed the "Holiday Themes" concert to a packed house on December 18 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Audience members enjoyed the holiday music, a unique visitor

from the North Pole, and an audience member conducting the band for “Sleigh Ride.”

- Under the direction of Linda Garrettson, the Rockville Chorus performed “the Celebration of Light” concert to a packed house on December 18 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Audience members enjoyed the fantastic show.
- Betty Wisda applied to the Maryland State Arts Council for a Public Art Conservation Grant for Fiscal Year 2023. She received notification that the City of Rockville was awarded a Public Art Conservation Grant for \$45,790. The funding will be used for conservation work on “Mosnaic” by Deirdre Saunder at Elwood Smith Community Center; “Untitled” by Valerie Theberge at the fountain basin at the corner of Maryland Avenue and Beall Avenue in Rockville Town Square; “Every Person Has a Song to Sing” by Judith Inglese at the Rockville Senior Center; and “Gaea’s Corner” by Deirdre Saunder at Croydon Creek Nature Center.
- Betty Wisda applied to the Maryland State Arts Council for an Art Relief Funding Grant for Fiscal Year 2023. She received notification that the City of Rockville was awarded the amount of \$48,297.07. The funding will be used to work with an expert to check out the current sound system and studio to solve the echoing issue and repair work to the wooden sprung floor at Rockcrest Ballet Center.
- The “Meet the Artists” for the Rockville Student Juried Art Exhibit and the Rockville Art League’s Heart of Winter Show is scheduled at 1:30 p.m. on January 22 at Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.
- Budget work sessions are beginning soon.
 - February 17, 2022, Proposed FY 2024 Budget and Capital Improvements Program Posted to the City's Website
 - February 27, 2023 Introduction of Proposed FY 2024 Budget and Capital Improvements Program
 - March 6, 2023, Budget Worksession / Budget Public Hearing
 - March 20, 2023, Budget Worksession
 - April 17, 2023, Budget Worksession / Budget Public Hearing
 - April 21, 2023, Close of Community Survey and Budget Public Record
 - May 1, 2023, Budget Worksession
 - May 8, 2023 Adoption of FY 2024 Budget and Capital Improvements Program

Re: Implementation Plan

- Francis shared the implementation plan outlining a redesigned AIPP Implementation plan that includes a three-year plan for art projects. CAC member feedback is needed before the plan is finalized.
 - Introduction explains where there are departures from the previous plan.
 - Program Overview - the National Endowment of the Arts has suggested that a better term for public art would be community art “by, for, and of” the community in which it is presented and broadened range than just visual art should be considered public art, recognizing performance art of all types enriches a community culture and dialog—established some objectives, values, and goals for the implementation plan. This isn’t new, as we reviewed it in previous meetings.
 - Program Management and Administration describes the various ordinances that impact implementation and the multiple parties involved in program

management—update plan is trying to introduce new methods for gathering public feedback in the public art process. These are meant to be like an a la carte menu of options for the City to choose from in terms of soliciting public feedback. We've established a process described in narrative form in the overview and a more detailed outline of it as an appendix.

- Funding – describes where funding comes from and the significant changes in the program implementation that we've focused on more in the past plan.
- What we are now describing as permanent art was called Gateway projects or significant works of art projects in the previous implementation plan. The new plan is establishing three tiers of public art for several reasons. First, to provide more entryway opportunities for local and emerging artists and to provide opportunities for professional artists to mentor new artists. Secondly, creating public art on several different scales would allow us to fund very small and very large projects and give the City a lot more flexibility in doing more types of projects in the AIPP program.
- Tier 1 Temporary Art - smaller in scale, lasting six months to a year, and not part of the City's permanent collection. Not meant to be installed. It should be a more straightforward process for first-time artists. Up-and-coming artists can seek out artist mentors, sponsors, or partnerships to educate artists on the "Call for Artists" process. It recommends a budget of up to \$15,000 because it's a threshold amount for City and easier to process funding.
- Tier 2 Semi-permanent Art – somewhat like art projects we have funded under the current implementation plan. These projects are meant to last 1-10 years and would include projects like murals. Moveable, non-fixed, and removable after the formal accession process. Not to be restored or maintained after their lifecycle is over. Recommended budget of \$50,000. Again, this threshold is because City spending thresholds for projects over \$50,000 require more approvals and more steps.
- Tier 3 Permanent Art – much like the existing implementation plan emphasizing permanent art. We need to be mindful of why we are creating permanent art. Will it be to commemorate a significant event or memorialize a historical figure? Are we trying to develop community landmarks to build neighborhood identity to provide more context as to why we, as a commission feels, it's appropriate to have a permanent art?

Re: Arts in Public Places – Permanent Works of Art

- No report – discussed implementation plan.

Re: Arts in Public Places - Temporary Works of Art

- Betty Wisda met virtually with the members of the Artist Nomination Committee for the Rockville Senior Center Mural on Monday, December 19, to discuss the Call for Artists, the selection process, and the community input survey. The committee consists of Cultural Arts Commissioners Frances Bevington and Howie Jung; Senior Citizens Commissioner Kevin Leary; and Tom Lynch, Recreation and Park Advisory Board representative.

- Betty Wisda met virtually with the members of the Artist Nomination Committee for the Rockville City Hall Generator Screen Mural on Wednesday, December 21, to discuss the Call for Artists, the selection process, and the community input survey. The committee consists of Cultural Arts Commissioners Karen Askin and Cristin Cash; Jack Thirolf, Recreation and Park Advisory Board representative; Environment Commissioner Ted Stauderman; and Human Rights Commissioner Amy Frieder.⁷⁶ The Call for Artists for the Rockville Senior Center Mural and the Call for Artists for the Rockville City Hall Generator Screen Mural were distributed to artists who live in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.
- The Call for Artists for the Rockville Senior Center Mural and the Rockville City Hall Generator Screen Mural was posted on the Art in Public Places page of the City's website. Betty Wisda distributed the Call for Artists to 80 regional public arts colleagues on December 22.

Re: Human Rights Commission

- Brian reported that the HRC is focusing on the MLK JR day event to be held on January 16 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 pm at Richard Montgomery High School.
- HRC has elected a student ambassador for their new program.
- Establishing a Pride Event sub-committee.

Re: Old Business

- Patricia wants F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival on the CAC agenda. Once it is created, the newly forming Education Commission will be a great connection. Jonathan Franzen, author of "Crossroads," will be this year's honoree. Still looking for a treasurer. FSFLF will do a call for artists for the festival poster. The theme for this year is "*Mental Illness*" in fiction. A workshop will be held on gathering stories, specifically focused on interviewing and honoring veterans.

Re: New Business

- None

Re: Announcements

- Patricia is starting something new called "Creativity Boosters," showing simple ways to relax and recharge in 15 minutes. It's on zoom once a month. She will send a link if you are interested.

Re: Next Meeting

- The next meeting CAC will be held virtually at 7 p.m. on February 8, 2023.

Re: Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.