

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Cultural Arts Commission

Minutes

February 9, 2022

Members Present: Karen Askin, Francis Bevington, Liliane Blom, Therese Capal, Connor Lee, Patricia Dubroof, Melissa Law, Howie Jung, Rosemary Storey

Members Absent: Brian Rogers

Councilmember: Mark Pierzchala

Staff Present: Laura Creech, Andy Lett, Betty Wisda,

Guests Present: Netanel Portier, Mural Arts Philadelphia

Karen Askin called the virtual online meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Re: Approval of the Minutes

The Cultural Arts Commission unanimously approved the minutes as written for the January 12, 2022 meeting.

Re: Guest Speaker

Netanel Portier to discuss Mural Arts of Philadelphia presented on their program. The presentation included a slide show about how the Mural Arts of Philadelphia started to engage young adults who were creating graffiti. Since its inception, the program has produced hundreds of murals throughout Philadelphia.

Key take away includes:

- The Mural Arts program was created under the Philadelphia Department of Recreation and Parks. Currently operates as a hybrid city/non-profit organization.
 - Funding is approximately 1/3 city and 2/3 institution private funding, grants, and donations.
- The program's success is attributed to its extensive collaboration with civic organizations, non-profits, city departments, and private property owners.
- Work is centered around community and understanding the challenges they face.
- The frequently work with polytab material to design murals in 5x5 sheets. The process allows more individuals to be involved in the painting process.
- The Mural Arts Institute provides training for individual artists and organizations on engaging the community and processes they use.
- To donate to the Philadelphia Mural Arts program individuals and go to <https://www.muralarts.org/donate/>

Re: Councilmember Report

- Next Mayor and Council meeting will be in-person on Feb. 28.
- First budget hearing will be on March 7.
- Suggests commission members request staff training funds to attend trainings like the Philadelphia at Mural Arts Institute.
- Mark encouraged board members to show up early and often to meetings and let Mayor and Council hear your requests. Personal presentations are an important tool for advocating the Arts. As an example, the Human Rights Commission who assigned each member to speak on behalf of Human Rights Commission.
- Cautiously optimistic that the Arts position will be reinstated as part of the FY2023 budget.

Re: Chairperson's Report

- No report
- Karen welcomed incoming commission member Rosemary Storey and shared her gratitude to outgoing commission member Liliane Blom for her 12 years of exceptional dedication to the board and community.

Re: Staff Report

- Andy said the city manager had requested information on the arts coordinator position for possible inclusion in FY2023 proposed budget.
- Mayor and Council discussed the Master Plan proposals for RedGate Park at their February 7, 2022 meeting.
- On March 7, 2022 Mayor and Council will take comments from the public on the City's FY2023 budget proposal.
- The Artist Nomination Committee met to review the applications submitted by interested artists for the Rockville Skate Park Art Project on January 19.
- Staff of WMATA's Art in Transit program met virtually with Betty Wisda on January 20 and January 31 to discuss the approach and call for artists for the Rockville Station Temporary Bus Shelters Art Project.
- City staff attended the virtual meeting of the Planning Committee for the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc. on January 25.
- Under the direction of Linda Garrettson and accompanied by Sasha Beresovsky, the Rockville Chorus began in-person rehearsals in the Social Hall on January 31.
- E.A.R.N. Contractors, Inc. completed painting the rooms and the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery hallways on February 1.
- The Rockville Civic Ballet hosted a virtual production meeting of "Cinderella" on February 3 with Eleanor Simpson and Erin Kwong, directors of the Rockville Civic Ballet, and the City's theatre staff. The in-person rehearsals for this production begin February 6.
- Under the direction of Dr. Juan Gallastegui, the Rockville Concert Band will present a "Swing! Swing! Swing!" concert with guest ensemble Rockville Swing Band at 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 13 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Tickets are required to this free concert to ensure social distancing seating due to COVID-19.

- Members of the Rockville Art League are submitting artwork for consideration to be juried into the “Lost, Found, and Looking Forward” exhibit. This cross-promotional campaign with the Rockville Art League and the Rockville Concert Band will promote the exhibit and the presentation of the world premiere of a commissioned piece of Johan de Meij. The theme of the exhibit and the commissioned work is COVID-19.

Re: Arts in Public Places

- Matthew Geller reported that due to a shortage of fiberglass, the installation of the sculpture at Rockville Swim and Fitness Center had been delayed until late spring.
- Held site visit for finalists of the Rockville Skate Park art project and will submit their proposals to the committee.

Re: Cultural Arts Organizations and Creatives Summit Planning Task Force

- No report.

Re: Human Rights Commission

- Conor presented notes that Brian Rogers prepared after attending the Jan. 26 meeting. Highlights of the meeting were the Martin Luther King virtual event and community breakout rooms, planning for Pride Celebration on June 26, working with the Asian Pacific Task Force.

Re: Old Business

- Staff spoke with WMATA again about creating temporary art on the temporary bus stop structures at the Rockville Metro station. They would like the City to work with VisArts, Montgomery College and Rockville Art League groups to have artists submit conceptual designs or photo work for final selection and approval to WMATA. They will install the art on the structures. WMATA only offering to pay small amount for concept designs with \$250 for art and \$100 for photography. They are working on getting funds for installation, printing, and an honorarium to be paid by City.
- Commission members discussed a proposal sent by Conor before the meeting to create a Student Ambassador Program for CAC like the one created for the Human Rights Commission. Liliane suggested starting small. Conor made a motion to create a Student Ambassador Program Sub-committee. The motion was unanimously approved. Anyone interested should contact Andy or Conor.

Re: New Business

- Betty suggested that we create a separate AIPP committee for permanent art and art in public architecture and another for temporary art, which involves working with the community, students, and special art projects such as wood carvings, murals, or murals asphalt art projects. Liliane motioned to create a new Sub-

committee under AIPP titled Special Art Projects sub-committee.

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Re: Announcements

- Karen reapplied for her position as Chairperson of CAC.

Re: Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held virtually at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 2022.

Re: Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.