

# CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

## Cultural Arts Commission Minutes

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Members Present: Karen Askin, Therese Capal, Cristin Cash, Liz Ortuzar, Howie Jung, Francis Bevington, Patricia Dubroof, Spencer Knoll, Brian Rogers,

Members Absent: Melissa Sera, Rosemary Storey

Councilmember: Mark Pierzchala

Staff Present: Andy Lett, Betty Wisda, Laura Creech

Guests Present: Abe Bruckman, Grants Manager, Barack Matite, Deputy City Manager, City of Rockville

Chairperson 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 March 8, 2023, minutes.

### Re: Chairperson's Report

- Karen was part of the interview panel for the new Arts position. They completed the second round of interviews with an excellent candidate identified.
- Karen plans to speak for the CAC at the Mayor and Council meeting on April 24. She will address the City's proposal to remove 1/10 of 1% of funds for public art projects from the budget.

### Re: Councilmember Report

- The majority of the last Mayor and Council meeting was spent on discussing the budget. Considering a 2-cent increase in property taxes to cover the shortfall in capital improvements. The City has not raised taxes in a long time, but property values have increased, so taxes have not needed to raise them. Montgomery County is considering a 10-cent increase in property taxes. There needs to be a reckoning between Rockville and the County. If the county does not pass the increase, they would have to make cuts and could cut the double tax break for the City. We have enormous capital expenditures that are not moving forward. These include Taft Court, renovations of the Swim and Fitness Center outdoor pools, RedGate Park, and King Farm Homestead.
- The next Mayor and Council term will have six council members instead of four.

## Re: Staff Report

- Having tremendous success with the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery exhibits. Great relationships with artists and renters.
- Arts, Culture, and History Manager interviews have concluded. The City Manager and Deputy City Manager are scheduled to meet with the interview's recommended candidate later in April. This is to review the position and confirm interest in duties.
- Matite reintroduced himself to CAC. Additionally, he discussed the newly created Arts, Culture, and History position that reports to him. As part of their due diligence, he said they are looking into a potential candidate. No formal offer has been made. It should be finalized in 2-3 weeks. According to him, art composition revitalizes many communities.
- The Rockville Concert Band performed a "Zarzuela & Pasodobles" concert on March 12 at the F Scott Fitzgerald Theatre under the direction of Dr. Juan Gallastegui. There were 385 people in attendance at this concert celebrating Spanish drama and dance. Several audience members noted that the band performed challenging musical selections during this concert.
- The Rockville Civic Ballet presented "Lancelot" under the direction of Eleanor Simpson and Erin Kwong. 890 people attended the ballet performances on March 25 and March 26. The enthusiastic audiences enjoyed the excellent choreography, the fantastic sets, and the beautiful costumes.
- The Rockville Concert Band performed "A John Philip Sousa Tribute" at the F Scott Fitzgerald Theatre on April 2 under the direction of Dr. Juan Gallastegui. 425 people attended this concert featuring the biggest name in wind band music in the United States.
- On April 11, Betty Wisda, the City's staff liaison, attended the F Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival meeting.
- On April 30, the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery will host a "Meet the Artists" event for the Maryland Pastel Society exhibit. Attendees were able to view the artwork and speak with the artists. The exhibit runs through May 12.
- Before going to the Mayor and Council, the City Attorney's office requested that the CAC review the Ordinance changes again. It is still to be determined when we will go to M&C.
- The Community Planning and Development Services team seeks community feedback on the Rockville Town Center Master Plan. City boards, commissions, and committees are being asked to inform their members about this initiative and attend meetings to receive feedback on the master plan update.

## Re: Arts in Public Places – Significant Works of Art

- Conservation work is being done on four pieces. Maryland State Arts Council funded the project.
- Lincoln Park Civic Association requested two pieces of artwork for neighborhood parks. People are more likely to produce ideas for art projects in their neighborhoods as

additional art is displayed throughout the city. To accomplish this, the CAC needs to create a vehicle to receive input from the community. Andy forwarded the Lincoln Park Civic Association request to CAC members.

### Re: Arts in Public Places- Temporary Works of Art

- Public surveys were launched for the Senior Center and City Hall Generator screen murals.
- Francis wants to hold a subcommittee meeting to review the public comments before she and Cristin present the mural project to the Mayor and Council.
- Rockville Senior Center mural and Rockville City Hall Generator Screen mural are consent agenda items at the Mayor and Council meeting on April 24. The motion is for approval of implementing these murals based on the recommendations of the Artist Nomination Committee and the Cultural Arts Commission. The recommendation is that Katie Giganti be awarded the \$12,500 art commission for her Rockville Senior Center Mural proposal. In addition, Shawn James be awarded the \$12,500 art commission for his proposal for the Rockville City Hall Generator Screen Mural.

### Re: Human Rights Commission

- Planning continues for the Pride Festival in Rockville Town Center on June 24-25. We have three performers lined up so far. The City of Rockville gave \$3,000 towards the event.

### Re: Old Business

- The drafted language for the ordinance changes Andy worked on with the new city attorney was approved. There were not many changes to the original implementation plan proposed by previous CAC members.
- It was unanimously approved to move forward with the updated implementation plan.

### Re: New Business

- Karen encourages everyone to speak at the Mayor and Council meeting on April 17 during the community forum.
- Patricia made a motion, which was unanimously passed, for Karen to advocate for total funding of Art in Public Places and support the position of the new Arts Manager before the Mayor and Council.

### Re: Announcements

- Patricia has new 15-minute booster sessions. This month's room for mediation, Amanda Gorman's text, and honoring autism month can be found at [assistinghands.com/Potomac](http://assistinghands.com/Potomac).

- Rockville Arts Festival will be held May 6-7 with 130 artists. The festival will have a chalk art competition. Will also be doing a new series on migration where people can make puzzle pieces to put together as part of a community art project.
- Cristin Cash will give a talk about museums and cultural heritage/repatriation with the Art League of Germantown.
- In the last five years, VisArts has done more contemporary art. The current VisArts galleries are devoted to ceramics. Karen encourages everyone to stop by. There are a lot of talented professionals and teachers there.
- The F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival committee met yesterday. This year's festival will be held at the Unitarian Church or Montgomery College. Betty and Elizabeth will conduct a walk-through to determine if MC meets the festival's criteria. Due to the lack of responses to the Literary Festival's previous "Call for Artists", we are sending out a second "Call for Artists". We hope to receive an increased number of responses this year. We are looking for volunteers to help. In June, the Festival will celebrate F. Scott Fitzgerald's birthday. On the eve of the October Festival, a reading will take place. We will be adding information to the Explore Rockville website.

### Re: Next Meeting

CAC will meet via Webex at 7 p.m. on May 10, 2023.

### Re: Adjournment

At 8:22 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.