



Meeting: February 15, 2022

Members Present:

Dan Smith – Chair
Patricia Gallagher – Vice Chair
Clayton Austin – Treasurer
Ruth Bandler – Secretary - Virtual
Lisa Casazza
Sharon Chang
Michele Greet
Brian Howell - Virtual
Steve Latourette
Susan Morris
Yolanda Ortiz
Jessica Russo Revand
Padma Surapureddi
Debra Wright - Virtual

Members Absent, Excused:

Members Absent, Unexcused:

Melissa Grow

Staff:

Megan DuBois – Cultural Arts Manager

Guests:

Chris Bruno, Director, Economic Development Office
Danette Nguyen, Assistant Director, Economic Development Office

Visitors:

None

Dan Smith called the Commission on the Arts (CoA) Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes for January 2022 – Ruth Bandler, Secretary *(included in the read-ahead packet)*

- A *motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes.*

Vacant Space Discussion with Economic Development Office – Dan Smith, Chair

- Dan introduced two guests from the Economic Development Office (EDO) to continue a discussion started during the November 2021 CoA meeting. Chris Bruno, Director, and Danette Nguyen, Assistant Director, said their office wants to partner with the CoA on the use of vacant spaces throughout the city for the arts. The EDO has relationships with property owners. They would like to support public art in the city and to connect GMU with the city's business community. Jessica told them that theater groups are looking to lease vacant space for periods of time long enough to cover rehearsal and performance periods. They said they can work with her on this. Jessica said she will email them a proposal.

Treasurer's Report – Clayton Austin, Treasurer *(included in the read-ahead packet)*

- Clayton summarized the budget status and commission/foundation flow chart for FY22. The flow chart was distributed during the meeting.
- **Action: Clayton will email the commission/foundation flow chart to those who participated virtually.**

Cultural Arts Manager's Report – Megan DuBois, Cultural Arts Manager *(calendar included in the read-ahead packet)*

- Megan said she highlighted events of our grant recipients in the CoA calendar.

New Commissioners – Dan Smith, Chair

- Dan introduced and welcomed two new commissioners: Michele Greet and Padma Surapureddi. He said we are now at our full strength of 15 commissioners.
- Steve was recently reappointed for another 3-year term.

Old Business -

- **Status, Overview of the Commission on the Arts Presentation – Pat Gallagher, Vice Chair**
 - o Pat said this is still in progress. Comments are still being accepted from those who wish to offer them.
 - o **Action: Pat will send this presentation to the new commissioners.**
- **Status, Assessments/Reviews of Current Programs – Pat Gallagher, Vice Chair**
 - o Pat said this is still in progress. Comments are still being accepted from those who wish to offer them.

New Business – Dan Smith, Chair

- **Willard-Sherwood Health and Community Center – Dan Smith, Chair**
 - o Dan reminded the members that Rob Stalzer, City Manager, encouraged us to quickly set up a follow-up session with him and other city staff, and that we should be ready with our “what do we want” list. Much of this was compiled by Melissa and the Performance Committee last week. Dan asked for additional suggestions by Friday.
 - o **Action: Dan will work with Megan to set up a follow-up session with city staff, including Brooke Hardin, Director of Community Development and Planning, aiming for Saturday morning, February 26.**
 - o **Jessica will create a google doc for members to submit their top three wishes. Members will submit their suggestions by Friday. The Performance Committee will compile the items into a wish list for the Willard-Sherwood project.**
 - o *Clayton made a motion which was seconded and passed unanimously to instruct members who attend the working session to understand they are representing the collective wisdom of the CoA.*
- **Joan Cross Award – (award background included in the read-ahead packet)**
 - o *In accordance with the provisions of CoA's procedures for this award, Pat made a motion which was seconded and passed unanimously for the CoA to facilitate orderly continuation of the Joan Cross Award.*

Committee Reports – Dan Smith, Chair

- **Arts Awards – Jessica Russo Revand**
 - o Jessica said the event is scheduled for April 29. Announcement letters were sent to the honorees.
- **ArtScreen – Steve Latourette** *(included in the read-ahead packet)*
 - o Steve said last week's event went well. One of the projection screens didn't work, but the audience was small enough that sufficient spacing was maintained despite closing off half of the room.
- **City of Fairfax Band Association (CFBA)**

- Ruth said the adult bands plan on resuming rehearsals tomorrow. Both CFB and MSCB have concerts in April. Commissioners can always get comp tickets at Will Call by identifying themselves as members of the CoA.
- Steve added that there will be a small ensemble concert on March 20, 4pm, Johnson M.S., featuring the Fairfax Swing Band and the Alte Kameraden German Band.
- **Language Arts 123 Committee – Sharon Chang**
 - Sharon said there will be a committee meeting this Thursday.
- **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) – Pat Gallagher** *(included in the read-ahead packet)*
 - Pat referred the members to the report.
- **Performing Arts – Melissa Grow** *(included in the read-ahead packet)*
 - Jessica said tentative dates for next year are in the committee report. She reminded members to sign up for ushering for any Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series (BLOTHPS) dates with less than two ushers listed.
 - **Action: Members should send suggestions for 2022/2023 performers to Melissa by February 28.**
 - **Commissioners should sign up for BLOTHPS ushering dates with less than two ushers listed.**
- **Public Art – Debra Wright, Chair** *(included in the read-ahead packet)*
 - Debra summarized the report.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm.