



City of Fairfax
Commission on the Arts

Meeting: December 21, 2021

Members Present:

Dan Smith – Chair
Patricia Gallagher – Vice Chair
Clayton Austin – Treasurer
Ruth Bandler – Secretary - Virtual
Sharon Chang
Melissa Grow
Steve Latourette
Susan Morris
Jessica Russo Revand - Virtual
Debra Wright - Virtual

Members Absent, Excused:

Carol Caputo
Lisa Casazza
Molly Grimsley
Yolanda Ortiz

Members Absent, Unexcused:

Staff:

Megan DuBois – Cultural Arts Manager

Guests:

None

Visitors:

None

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

Approval of Minutes for November 2021 – Ruth Bandler, Secretary (*included in the read-ahead packet*)

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

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

- Clayton summarized the budget status for FY22.
- Megan announced that the stand lights have arrived (for use in the Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series [BLOTHPS]).
- Clayton reminded the commissioners that we still need a 5th member for the Foundation on the Arts. Dan and others provided some background information on the position. Dan asked for volunteers. Melissa volunteered.

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.
- Megan said the Virginia Commission for the Arts will be holding its 2022 ArtWorks conference virtually on Wednesday afternoons spread over several months; she encouraged the commissioners to attend.
- **Action: Megan will send the commissioners the ArtWorks conference information/schedule.**

Old Business -

- **Status of Referral of Fairfax Art League's request for assistance obtaining gallery space (from the November Commission meeting) – Dan Smith, Chair**
 - o Dan deferred this topic to February. Megan said the City's Economic Development Office will join us in the discussion.

New Business – Dan Smith, Chair

- **Member recognition –**
 - o Dan said he wanted to recognize Molly for her service to CoA, but she was unable to attend tonight's meeting.
- **American Rescue Plan Act update –**
 - o Dan provided updates from recent city meetings.
 - o Debra said the city is noticeably behind other local areas in not having a dedicated arts center. Debra will look into obtaining information from other local areas regarding how much income such centers bring into a city, e.g., the presence of the arts centers brings in people to a downtown area who then patronize nearby stores and restaurants.
 - o **Action: Dan encouraged the commissioners to attend the upcoming Open Houses to provide their input for a dedicated Center for the Performing and Visual Arts. Megan will send us the Open House schedule.**
- **Overview of Commission on the Arts – (included in the read-ahead packet)**
 - o Dan and Pat discussed the Commission on the Arts Presentation slides (in the read-ahead packet).
 - o **Action: Commissioners should review the presentation and submit comments to Dan and Pat.**
- **Assessments/Future programs –**
 - o Dan said he wants the commission to improve promotion of our existing projects and events before we begin any new projects.

Committee Reports – Dan Smith, Chair

- **ArtScreen – Steve Latourette**
 - o Steve discussed the January 14 ArtScreen event.
- **Arts Awards – Jessica Russo Revand (included in the read-ahead packet)**
 - o Jessica asked for nominees for the John Mason and Business for the Arts Awards. A question was raised about the acceptability of nominating a large donor. It was decided that some guidelines need to be developed for future awards.
 - o **Action: Commissioners should send suggestions for nominees for the John Mason and Business for the Arts Awards to Jessica.**
- **Grants – Pat Gallagher (included in the read-ahead packet)**
 - o Pat summarized the Grants report which included policy guidelines and clarifications for the committee to address before the 2022 grants cycle begins.
- **Language Arts 123 Committee – Sharon Chang**
 - o Quote-a-Palooza - Sharon said she's waiting to hear from her contact who the business participants are. This may cause a delay to the planned launch in January.
 - o Language Arts 123 Literary Composition Competition – Sharon expects to have the competition information posted next week. Sharon confirmed the budgeted prize funds with Clayton.
- **City of Fairfax Band Association (CFBA) (included in the read-ahead packet)**
 - o Ruth summarized the report.
- **Performing Arts – Melissa Grow (included in the read-ahead packet)**
 - o Melissa summarized the report.

- **Action: Melissa reminded the commissioners that we want two ushers per BLOTHPS event and urged everyone to sign up for ushering dates with less than two ushers listed. Commissioners should submit their sign-up dates to Melissa.**
- **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) – Pat Gallagher** (*included in the read-ahead packet*)
 - Pat summarized the report.
- **Public Art – Dan Smith, CoA Chair**
 - With Carol's resignation from the CoA, the Public Art Chair is vacant. Committee members will meet in January and hope to designate a chair during the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.