



*City of Fairfax*  
**Commission on the Arts**

Meeting: November 16, 2021

**Members Present:**

Dan Smith – Chair  
Patricia Gallagher – Vice Chair  
Clayton Austin – Treasurer  
Ruth Bandler – Secretary  
Carol Caputo  
Lisa Casazza  
Sharon Chang  
Molly Grimsley  
Melissa Grow  
Steve Latourette  
Susan Morris  
Yolanda Ortiz  
Jessica Russo Revand

**Members Absent, Excused:**

Debra Wright

**Members Absent, Unexcused:**

**Staff:**

Megan DuBois – Cultural Arts Manager

**Guests:**

David Meyer – Mayor, City of Fairfax  
Brian Howell – new member, term starts Jan 2022  
Padma Prasad – President, Fairfax Art League  
Catherine Mommsen Scott – Secretary, Fairfax Art League

**Visitors:**

None

Dan Smith called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

**Public Comment – Fairfax Art League (FAL)**

- Two members of the FAL asked to attend the CoA meeting to inform us that they are desperate for art display space and to ask the CoA if they can help the FAL. Dan asked CoA's Public Art Committee and Performing Arts Committee to work together to try to help the FAL find display space.

**- Action: The Public Art Committee and Performing Arts Committee will work together to try to help the Fairfax Art League find display space.**

– Additional comments (later in the meeting after the FAL guests left) – Megan said she previously offered the FAL the use of display space at Old Town Hall, but the FAL turned it down. Carol explained that in the present climate with staffing shortages, OTH is no longer fully staffed during the day. So the FAL would have to pay for a staffer for each hour that they want the display to be available to the public. Megan said Green Acres is staffed.

**- Action: Carol will relay to the FAL that Green Acres is staffed and can be used for display space.**

### **Mayor's Remarks**

- Mayor Meyer said he came to the CoA meeting for the following –
  - 1) He thanked us for our 10/25/21 memo supporting the use of ARPA funds for a Center for Performing and Visual Arts. He said it was extremely well done and he has distributed it to colleagues.
  - 2) He thanked Carol Caputo for her excellent service; this is her last CoA meeting before her resignation from the CoA.

### **Approval of Minutes for October 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.

### **New Commissioners – Dan Smith, Chair**

- Dan introduced and welcomed the new commissioners.
  - Brian Howell – term starts January 2022
  - Susan Morris
  - Yolanda Ortiz

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

- Megan was pleased to report that the City will be handled as a separate entity (separate from the County) in this year's Americans for the Arts (AFTA) Arts & Economic Prosperity study. This study will show the economic impact of the spending of arts and culture organizations in the City and the economic impact of audience's event-related spending.

### **Business Update – Dan Smith, Chair**

- **Language Arts 123 Committee – Sharon Chang** *(included in the read-ahead packet)*
  - o **Action: Sharon reminded the members that the committee is still looking for topic ideas for this year's Language Arts 123 Competition. Megan said she needs them by mid-December for publicity deadlines.**
  - o **Action: Sharon said the committee is looking to add additional members; let her know if you're interested in joining the committee.**
- **Public Art Committee (PAC) – Carol Caputo** *(included in the read-ahead packet)*
  - o Carol summarized the committee report.
- **City of Fairfax Band Association (CFBA)** *(included in the read-ahead packet)*
  - o Ruth summarized the report.
- **Performing Arts Committee – Melissa Grow**
  - o Melissa reported on attendance and audience reception for the first three Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series (OTHPS) events. She reported lower attendance this fall than in pre-COVID times, but those who attended were very pleased with the performances. Some people might have been "turned off" by having to pre-register. Megan said pre-registration has been implemented for OTHPS events through December; the policy should be reviewed before January.
  - o Melissa reported that an additional event has been scheduled, the Army Band Wind Quintet on February 11. Steve pointed out that it overlaps an ArtScreen event.
  - o **Action: The requirement for OTHPS pre-registration should be reviewed before publicity starts for the January events.**
  - o **Action: Melissa reminded the members that we want two ushers per OTHPS event and urged the members to sign up for additional ushering slots. Melissa will send the link to the Google Docs usher sign-up sheet to the CoA.**

- **Action: Dan asked for a “slick email” that he can use to invite the Mayor and City Council to OTHPS events.**
- **Action: Melissa asked the members to target publicity to audience segments that are related to OTHPS event themes.**
- **Action: Melissa asked to expedite the purchase of stand lights for OTHPS performers, since the lighting in Old Town Hall isn’t ideal for musicians to read music. A suggestion was made to get input from Jeff Seffens re: make and model of recommended lights.**
- **ArtScreen Committee – Steve Latourette**
  - Steve reported on the first ArtScreen event. As with OTHPS, attendance was down below pre-COVID levels. Screens were set up at both ends of the room. The audience took advantage of that to spread out even more than expected.

#### **Old Business – Dan Smith, Chair**

- **Arts Awards and Recognition Working Group** - Dan reminded the members that the working group chair position is still vacant. Megan said we’re getting close to the event date. Jessica agreed to serve as chair.

#### **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Dan Smith, Chair**

- Dan suggested we create an Arts Advocacy Committee to support our push to allocate ARPA funds for a Center for Performing and Visual Arts. Jessica volunteered to participate.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.