



Thursday, February 1, 2024 | 5 p.m.
Sandler Center for the Performing Arts | Classroom 1

The Business Meeting of the Arts & Humanities Commission was held on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 5:04 p.m. on the second floor of the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts in Classroom 1.

Commissioners Present:

- **OFFICER:** Dr. Cynthia Romero, Chair
- **OFFICER:** Olga Torres-Baker, Vice Chair
- **OFFICER:** Hon. Winship C. Tower (Ret.), Secretary
- **OFFICER:** Alicia "Sunny" Phillips Peoples, Treasurer
- Michael Cloud-Butler
- Mia Guile, Public Art Committee Chair
- Raeesah Islam
- Mark Johnson

Cultural Affairs Department (CAD) Staff Present:

- Emily Brookover, Public Art & Placemaking Manager
- Mari R. Coronado, Executive Assistant II
- Emily S. Labows, Director
- Hillary L. Plate, Public Programming & Partnerships Manager

Absent:

- Emma "Em" Davis, Champion for the Arts Committee Chair
- Susan C. Grube, Advocacy Committee Chair
- Beth Hundley, Deputy Director

Guest:

- Mabinty Scott, Council Aide to Council Member Sabrina Wooten

I. WELCOME

Dr. Cynthia Romero, Chair opened the meeting at **5 p.m.**

II. MINUTES

There were no corrections to the December Business Meeting minutes.

Motion I.

A motion was made by *Hon. Winship C. Tower (Ret.), Secretary*, seconded by *Alicia "Sunny" Phillips Peoples, Treasurer* for approval of the minutes from the February 1st Meeting. There was no discussion. **The motion *unanimously* passed to approve the minutes for the February 1st Business meeting.**

Members voting **AYE**: Romero, Torres-Baker, Tower, Peoples, Cloud-Butler, Guile, Islam, Johnson
Members voting **NAY**: Zero
Members **ABSTAINING**: Zero
Members **ABSENT**: Davis, Grube, McLeod

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion II.

A motion was made by *Hon. Winship C. Tower (Ret.), Secretary*, seconded by *Mr. Michael Cloud-Butler* for approval of the December Treasurer's Report. There was no discussion. **The motion *unanimously* passed to approve the November Treasurer's Report.**

Members voting **AYE**: Romero, Torres-Baker, Tower, Peoples, Cloud-Butler, Guile, Islam, Johnson
Members voting **NAY**: Zero
Members **ABSTAINING**: Zero
Members **ABSENT**: Davis, Grube, McLeod

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Update on FY24 Community Cultural Arts Grant (CCAG)
 - \$6,100 funding remaining.
 - One (1) grant awarded for \$3,900 to Virginia Beach Library Foundation.
 - Virginia Opera Association opted to withdraw their application request for \$2,000.
- B. Update on January Grant Workshops
 - *Hillary L. Plate, Public Programming & Partnerships Manager* facilitated the workshops.
 - There are plans to offer summer and winter sessions.
 - AHC Liaisons were recommended to remind their organizations to participate in the future sessions.
 - *Olga Torres-Baker, Vice Chair* requested the list of attendees/participants at the workshop.
- C. Review of FY25 Project Grant Process
 - Foundant tutorials and staff assistance are offered to the Commission to help prepare for the grant applications.
 - Grant deadline is February 6, 2024 by 5 p.m.
 - The presentation date is Thursday, March 21, 2024 from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 - The deliberation date is Friday, March 22, 2024 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 - New organizations will be given 15 minutes to present while returning organizations receive 10 minutes.
 - Lunch is to be catered by Taste and Gourmet Gang.

D. Update on 90-Day Festival Task Force

- *Dr. Cynthia Romero, Chair* representing the AHC was appointed to the Festival Task force.
- The first meeting on February 15 at the Visitors & Convention's Bureau.
- Will continue to provide updates and will share the agenda to the Commission

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Leadership Organizational Development (LOD) Grant

- \$3,000 funding remaining with none awarded to date.
- First time applicant, D. Green Storytelling is requesting \$750 LOD funding to hire consultants for their website and Facebook page. Their audience targets schools, daycare centers, churches, women's' organizations and retirement communities. The stories told have meaningful messages.

Motion III.

A motion was made by *Olga Torres-Baker, Vice Chair*, seconded by *Hon. Winship C. Tower (Ret.), Secretary* for approval to award \$750 LOD funding to D. Green Storytelling. There was no discussion. **The motion *unanimously* passed to award \$750 LOD funding to D. Green Storytelling**

Members voting **AYE:** Romero, Torres-Baker, Tower, Peoples, Cloud-Butler, Guile, Islam, Johnson
 Members voting **NAY:** Zero
 Members **ABSTAINING:** Zero
 Members **ABSENT:** Davis, Grube, McLeod

B. Virginia Musical Theatre-City Council Grant Appropriation

- Virginia Musical Theatre's request for \$150,000 to City Council was approved 11-0 at the January 16 session.
- The ordinance reads \$150,000 would be appropriated to the Arts & Humanities Commission budget to pay the supplement grant for FY24 Programming.

Motion IV.

Dr. Cynthia Romero, Chair asked the Commission to vote in affirmation of the action of City Council giving funding of \$150,000 to Virginia Musical Theatre.

The motion *unanimously* passed.

Members voting **AYE:** Romero, Torres-Baker, Tower, Peoples, Cloud-Butler, Guile, Islam, Johnson
 Members voting **NAY:** Zero
 Members **ABSTAINING:** Zero
 Members **ABSENT:** Davis, Grube, McLeod

Motion V.

A motion was made by *Olga Torres-Baker, Vice Chair*, seconded by *Mr. Michael Cloud-Butler* for approval of today's Treasurer's Report. There was no discussion. **The motion *unanimously* passed to approve today's Treasurer's Report.**

Members voting **AYE:** Romero, Torres-Baker, Tower, Peoples, Cloud-Butler, Guile, Islam, Johnson
Members voting **NAY:** Zero
Members **ABSTAINING:** Zero
Members **ABSENT:** Davis, Grube, McLeod

C. Committee & Liaison Assignments:

- Per request of Em Davis, Her committee seats are to be assigned.
- Committee Chair for Champion for the Arts- *Dr. Cynthia Romero, Chair* will approach *Ms. Ashley McLeod* to Chair the committee.
- Liaison for The Virginia Beach Art Center – *Hon. Winship C. Tower (Ret.), Secretary* volunteered.
- Liaisons for Symphonicity- and Tidewater Winds are open for consideration.

D. Attendance Policy Discussion

- *Dr. Cynthia Romero, Chair* reminded the Board Members about the honor of serving on the Commission and the high expectation to attend the board meetings.
- Attendance is tracked by Cultural Affairs staff and monitored by the City Manager's Office.
- Excessive absences may become an issue when it's time to be reappointed and might warrant a call from the Chair.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Advertising and Marketing Committee

- A marketing report was provided in the agenda packet.

b. Advocacy Committee

- Thanks was given to all the arts communities in attendance at the January 18, "A Community Conversation" Budget Meeting.
- It was a warm and inviting conversation to welcome feedback.

c. Champion for the Arts Committee

- The Committee reviewed and approved the current nomination form and draft press release.
- The nomination period will take place from February through April.
- The forms are due on April 1, 2024.

- The committee will meet in May to select the recipient, make the announcement in July and hold the award reception in August at the Sandler Center.

d. Cultural Equity Committee

- The Cultural Equity Committee has been asked by City Council to take the lead in drafting the Virginia Beach Land Acknowledgement Statement, which will be led by *Mr. Michael Cloud-Butler*.

e. Public Art Committee

- Preliminary work has begun on creating a Request for Qualification (RFQ) for interactive public art at City View Park in District 7. Parks and Recreation will work with Cultural Affairs and the project will focus on accessibility, community, whimsy and interactivity. Staff is currently working on determining the budget, scope of work, and possible site restrictions.
- Two overpasses in Virginia Beach are in the works of getting a mural: 264 & Rosemond and 264 & London Bridge. Research is being done to determine budget needs and potential timeline. The project process requires approval from the Art and Architectural Review Board which reviews and advises the Governor on the artwork design for property owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- The Virginia Beach Restaurant Association in partnership with photographer Nathan Beck opened a new exhibition on January 8th at the Sandler Center Gallery. The exhibition features photography of various Virginia Beach restaurant-related themes and will be open through the end of March.

VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- Michael Cloud-Butler** : Virginia Beach sits on American Indian Country.
- Mark Johnson**: It's a privilege to live in Virginia Beach and has a great time learning and would like to help with the planning of City View Park.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following were in attendance to share information about their organization and programs to the Commission:


- Virginia Musical Theatre: Mark Hudgins/Martha McClees
- Tidewater Bluegrass Society Inc.: Larry Hovart/Juan Gelpi
- D. Green Storytelling; Darlene Green
- Little Theatre of Virginia Beach: Kay Burcher
- ViBe Creative District: Kate Pittman
- Virginia Beach Artist Cenia Crespo
- Virginia Symphony Orchestra: Shannon Kelly
- Arts Advocate: Brian Kirwin

IX. MEETING NOTICES

- Reminder: No March Meetings due to AHC Grant presentations and deliberations.
- Thursday, March 21, 2024: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Sandler Center - Classroom 1)
- Friday, March 22, 2024: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Sandler Center - Classroom 1)

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at **4:52 p.m.**



Called to order by
Dr. Cynthia Romero, Chair
Arts & Humanities Commission



Minutes prepared by
Mari R. Coronado, Executive Assistant II
Cultural Affairs Department

VIX. ATTACHMENT

February 1, 2024 Agenda Packet