



Thursday, July 13, 2023 • 5pm  
Sandler Center for the Performing Arts/Classroom 1

The Arts and Humanities Commission was held on Thursday, July 13, 2023, at 5:00 pm in Classroom 1 at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts.

**Commissioners Present:**

- **OFFICER:** Susan C. Grube, Chair
- **OFFICER:** Emma “Em” Davis, Secretary
- **OFFICER:** Hon. Winship C. Tower (Ret.), Treasurer
- Raeesah Islam
- Cynthia Romero, MD
- Olga Torres-Baker

**Cultural Affairs Department (CAD) Staff Present:**

- Emily S. Labows, Director
- Hillary L. Plate, Programs and Cultural Partnership Coordinator
- Mari R. Coronado, Executive Assistant II

**Absent:**

- Michael Cloud-Butler
- Mia K. Guile
- Mark A. Johnson
- Alicia “Sunny” Phillips Peoples
- Beth Hundley, Deputy Director

**Guests:**

- **CITY MANAGER’S OFFICE:** Monica Croskey Chaparro, Assistant City Manager
- Mabinty Scott, Council Aide to Council Member Sabrina Wooten

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**

*Ms. Susan C. Grube, Chair* called the meeting to order at **5:08 pm**.

- The Commission had a group photo taken by the city photographer for the website.
- Ms. Brenda Roberts was invited to receive a recognition for her time served on the Commission and was presented with a Service Certificate and gift from the Commission.
- FY23 AHC Officers recognized with service certificates were:
  - Tower (FY23 Treasurer)
  - Davis (FY23 Secretary)
  - Grube (FY23 Chair)
- Ms. Susan C. Grube, Chair* welcomed Assistant City Manager Monica Croskey Chaparro and Council Member Sabrina Wooten’s aide Ms. Mabinty Scott to the meeting.

## II. Approval of Minutes

### Motion I.

A motion was made by *Dr. Cynthia Romero*, seconded by *Ms. Olga Torres-Baker* for approval of the minutes from the June 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting. There was no discussion. **The motion *unanimously* passed to approve the minutes for the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.**

Members voting <b>AYE</b> :	Davis, Grube, Islam, Romero, Torres-Baker, Tower
Members voting <b>NAY</b> :	Zero
Members <b>ABSTAINING</b> :	Zero
Members <b>ABSENT</b> :	Cloud-Butler, Guile, Johnson, Peoples

## III. Treasurer's Report

a. July Treasurer's Report: *Treasurer Winship Tower* reported that on a balanced budget.

### Motion II.

A motion was made by *Ms. Emma "Em" Davis, Secretary*, seconded by *Dr. Cynthia Romero* for approval of the July Treasurer's Report. There was no discussion. **The motion *unanimously* passed to approve the July Treasurer's Report.**

Members voting <b>AYE</b> :	Davis, Grube, Islam, Romero, Torres-Baker, Tower
Members voting <b>NAY</b> :	Zero
Members <b>ABSTAINING</b> :	Zero
Members <b>ABSENT</b> :	Cloud-Butler, Guile, Johnson, Peoples

## IV. Old Business

- a. Secret Ballot Election of AHC officers for FY24
- Blue secret ballots for FY24 Officers were provided to the Commission to vote during the meeting.
  - The elected winners would be announced before the end of the meeting.

## V. New Business

- a. AHC Business Cards and AHC Photos
- Business cards orders arrived, and orders can be submitted for any new requests.
  - The Commission headshots from the City photographer will be forwarded by the end of the week.
- b. Announcement of FY24 AHC Officers
- The results of the ballots counted and the FY24 Officers announced were:
    - *Chair:* *Dr. Cynthia Romero*
    - *Vice Chair:* *Ms. Olga Torres- Baker*
    - *Secretary:* *The Hon. Winship Tower (Ret.)*
    - *Treasurer:* *Ms. Alicia "Sunny" Peoples*

Newly elected *Chair Dr. Cynthia Romero* presided over the remainder of the meeting and conveyed thanks and gratitude to outgoing Chair *Ms. Susan C. Grube* for her leadership which was followed by a round of applause.

## VI. Committee Reports

### a. Advertising and Marketing

- Committee Chair *Ms. Alicia "Sunny" Phillips Peoples* was absent. Ms. Emily S. Labows, Director referred to the Advertising/Marketing Report in the agenda packet. Thanks was expressed to *Mr. Alex Dye, Communications and Media Coordinator II* for a wonderful job with his reports.

### b. Advocacy

- *Ms. Susan C. Grube*, is working with *Ms. Beth Hundley, Deputy Director* in drafting an impactful thank you letter to City Council for the additional \$70,000 funding they awarded to the Arts and Humanities Commission.

### c. Champion for the Arts

- The Press Release announcing Rose Daria as the 2023 Champion For The Arts Recipient was shared with the Commission and *Chair Dr. Cynthia Romero* reported that planning and preparations are in place for the August 3<sup>rd</sup> reception for Rose Daria.
- The catering menu is to include Filipino Food to pay homage to Filipino culture.
- The Award has already been engraved and the paver is being processed.
- Floral arrangements are to spotlight pink roses, Ms. Daria's favorite.
- The program budget review was presented for approval to re-allocate \$760 from the Marketing/Advertising Budget to the Champion for the Arts Event to accommodate the addition of the main stage and Sandler Center staff stagehands and tech support.

### **Motion III.**

A motion was made by *Vice Chair Olga Torres-Baker*, seconded by *Ms. Emma "Em" Davis* for approval of re-allocating \$760 from the Marketing/Advertising Budget to the Champion for the Arts Event to accommodate the addition of the main stage and Sandler Center staff stagehands and tech support. There was no discussion. **The motion *unanimously* passed to approve the \$760 allocation from the Marketing Budget to the Champion for the Arts event on August 3, 2023.**

Members voting **AYE:** Davis, Grube, Islam, Romero, Torres-Baker, Tower

Members voting **NAY:** Zero

Members **ABSTAINING:** Zero

Members **ABSENT:** Cloud-Butler, Guile, Johnson, Peoples

- The Sandler Center Foundation is sponsoring the alcohol toast, handling the acquisition of the ABC license, and coordinating the Sandler Center volunteers to handle the beverages during the ceremony.

d. **Cultural Equity**

- The presentation from last month was included in the agenda packet for the Commission to review. *Committee Chair Olga Torres-Baker* reported that the Cultural Equity Committee is scheduled to meet in August and welcome any feedback from the presentation last month to share at their next community meeting.

e. **Public Art**

- *Ms. Emily S. Labows, Director* provided the update on behalf of *Committee Chair Mia Guile's* absence. A consent vote is needed for two ViBe fence mural submissions. The first submission didn't have a sketch, but the concept was provided. The second submission by Artist Jana Simmons for the Hummingbird sketch needs consent approval.

**Motion IV.**

A motion was made by *Ms. Raeesah Islam*, seconded by *Hon. Winship C. Tower (Ret.)*, *Secretary* for approval of the two ViBe fence mural submission concepts: one by Anne-Marie Savino for the dolphin concept and the second by Artist Jana Simmons for the Hummingbird sketch. There was no discussion. **The motion *unanimously* passed to approve the two ViBe Fence mural submission concepts from Artist Savino and Artist Simmons.**

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

- The Public Art Committee endorsed a mural for the Visitors Center. It now needs endorsement from the Arts & Humanities Commission before being forwarded to the Resort Advisory Commission (RAC) for final approval to participate in ViBe Mural Festival in August. This is an endorsement/approval to move forward with the project.

**Motion V.**

A motion was made by *Ms. Emma "Em" Davis*, seconded by *Ms. Olga Torres-Baker* to endorse the idea of installing a mural at the Visitors Center for the ViBe Mural Festival in August. There was no discussion. **The motion *unanimously* passed to approve the idea of having a mural installation at the Visitors Center for the 2023 ViBe Mural Festival.**

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

**VII. Commissioners Comments**

- **Olga Torres-Baker:** She invited the Commission to attend the 2023 Norfolk Latino Music Festival on Saturday, July 22 from 2 pm to 11 pm.

She also shared that she has collaborated in the past with *New Commissioner Mark Johnson* and is a great advocate for the Arts.

- **Hon. Winship Tower:** She shared Ballet Virginia's fall repertoire performances to include "Moving Forward" on Oct 13/14 at Zeiders; "The Nutcracker on Dec 15-17 at the Sandler; "Diversity in Dance" on Feb 9/10 at Zeiders and "Cinderella" on March 16<sup>th</sup> . She will forward the press release to staff to share in the Arts Group Newsletter.
- **Susan Grube:** *Ms. Susan Grube* also added that Ballet Virginia is in partnership with the Sandler Center Foundation and Virginia Beach Schools to do after-school dance class programs for four of the Title I Schools.
- **Hillary Plate:** She shared that for VBGIGS, the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater is in partnership with Virginia Stage Company for Fiddler on the Roof in the Fall. The fusion of Ukrainian- Jewish music and culture will be spotlighted.

**VIII. No Public Comments**

**IX. Next Meetings: Sandler Center for the Performing Arts**

- a. No August Meeting
- b. September 7, 2023  
Sandler Center for the Performing Arts
  - 4 pm /Executive Committee Meeting (Conference Room)
  - 5 pm/ Business Meeting (Classroom 1)

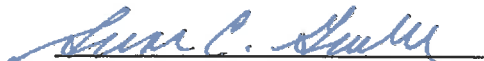
**X. Adjournment**

**Motion VI.**

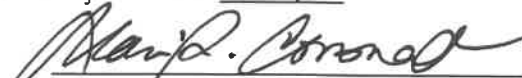
A motion was made by *Ms. Olga Torres-Baker*, seconded by *Ms. Susan Grube* to adjourn the meeting. There was no discussion. **The motion *unanimously* passed to adjourn the July 13<sup>th</sup> Arts and Humanities Business Meeting.**

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at **5:47 pm.**



Called to order by  
Ms. Susan C. Grube  
AHC Chair



Minutes prepared by  
Mari R. Coronado  
CAD Executive Assistant II

**XI. Attachment**

July 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting Agenda Packet