



CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Arts & Humanities Commission

Business Meeting Minutes

Thursday- February 2, 2023, 5:00 pm

Sandler Center for the Performing Arts/Classroom 1

Commissioners Present:

- Susan C. Grube, Chairman (via conference call)
- Emma "Em" Davis, Secretary
- Michael Cloud Butler
- C. Cheyney Cole, Jr.
- Mia Guile
- Alicia "Sunny" Phillips Peoples
- Olga Torres-Baker

Cultural Affairs Department Staff Present:

- Emily S. Labows, Director
- Beth Hundley, Assistant Director
- Hillary L. Plate, Cultural Programs & Grants Coordinator

Absent:

- Raeesah Islam
- Brenda J. Roberts, Vice Chair
- Cynthia Romero, MD
- Hon. Winship C. Tower (Ret.), Treasurer

I. Welcome

Secretary Em Davis called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. *Chair Susan C. Grube* joined the meeting via conference call.

II. Minutes from December Meeting

Motion I.

Ms. Olga Torres-Baker made a motion to approve the November Minutes. It was seconded by *Mr. C. Cheyney Cole, Jr.* There was no discussion. All those in favor said "Aye". None opposed and the motion carried to approve the December Minutes.

III. Treasurer's Report

Secretary Em Davis read figures from the report.

Motion II.

Ms. Olga Torres-Baker made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. It was seconded by *Mr. C. Cheyney Cole, Jr.* There was no discussion. All those in favor said "Aye". None opposed and the motion carried to approve the Treasurer's Report.

IV. Old Business

- a. Community Cultural Arts Grant Update: The Community Cultural Art Grant (CCAG) funding for Art of Living Foundation is pending payment until their balance sheet is received.
- b. Project Grant Workshops Update: *Ms. Hillary Plate* hosted three(3) virtual grant workshops and one (1) in-person session. The turnout was smaller than previous years which allowed for more one-on-one time with the organization.

In regard to Commission Liaisons, it was also discussed that *Ms. Sunny Peoples* would be the assigned Commission Liaison for the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater. Each Commissioner is to reach out to their assigned organization to provide guidance and assistance if they are applying for the project grant due on February 7.

- c. FY24 Project Grants: The Commission was reminded of the following:
- The deadline for the project grants is 5 pm, Tuesday on February 7, 2023.
 - Grant presentations will be held on Thursday, March 30 and deliberations on Friday, March 31.
 - The location will be in the Sandler Center on the second floor in Classroom 1.
 - The same presentation schedule will be used with ten (10) minutes allotted for returning applicants, fifteen (15) minutes for new applicants and five (5) minutes at the end for Q&A.
 - Lunch is to be served on both days catered from Taste.
 - The Commission is to practice logging on to ensure there are no technical issues.

V. New Business

- a. FY23 Leadership and Organizational Development (LOD) Grant: Ms. Katherine Custer from Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) requested LOD Grant funding of \$750 to attend and present at the National Art Education Association (NAEA) Conference in San Antonio, Texas, from April 11-16, 2023, as a key component of her continuing professional development.

Motion IV.

The Executive Committee recommended approving the LOD Grant funding of \$750 to MOCA for Ms. Custer to attend the Conference in Texas. All those in favor said "Aye". None opposed and the Commissioner approved the recommendation to fund Ms. Custer from MOCA.

- b. Guest Speaker: Leaders of Tomorrow Youth Center (LYTC): Mr. Marckel Bonds arrived in place of Ms. Jasmin Walters who was ill. Mr. Bonds introduced Leaders of Tomorrow Youth Center as a non-profit based in Baltimore, Maryland that empowers underserved youth in Maryland and DC area to develop their artistic talents through arts education programming. They are in partnership with numerous schools and organizations and are committed to their cultivate their mission. He provided literature to the Commission and networked with the attending organizations present at the meeting.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Champion for the Arts Committee: *Secretary Em Davis* will be meeting with co-chair *Dr. Cynthia Romero* to discuss revisions to the nomination form for release later this month. The press release is scheduled for July with the ceremony taking place in August at the Sandler Center. They are in search for a person who has made an impact in the Community.
- b. Advertising & Marketing Committee: *Ms. Sunny Peoples* referred the Commission to peruse the Marketing Report prepared by Mr. Alex Dye. She noted that the city had undergone branding changes, introducing the new city logo and a new website.
- c. Advocacy Committee: No report.
- d. Public Art Committee: *Mr. C. Cheyney Cole, Jr.* reported approval is needed from the Commission for the art renderings for the 21st Street Surfboard Art Project before it can go to fabrication for completion by Spring 2023.

Motion III.

The Executive Committee recommended the seven (7) art renderings for the 21st Street Surfboard Art Project from Artist Joseph M. Zarrilli be approved with the potential of additional languages being added. All those in favor said "Aye" and the Commission approved the recommendation.

- e. Cultural Equity Committee: *Ms. Olga Torres-Baker* shared that the committee has scheduled a Community Conversation to take place virtually on March 2 from 5 pm – 7 pm and will continue updating the Commission on their progress.

VII. Commissioner Comments

- a. *Ms. Mia Guile* shared that her German visitors were impressed with their tour of Virginia Beach and *Ms. Guile* was then informed of a German advertisement promoting tourist to "Go to Virginia Beach for your dream vacation."

VIII. Public Comments

- a. TRS Productions/Tanya Shadley: Introduced herself to the Committee, sharing that TRS Productions is a Performing Arts Production company for children that teaches performance, technique, stage craft, set design, servicing children with quality skill sets while providing performance opportunities throughout the community.
- b. MOCA/Katherine Custer: Exhibitions are closing on Sunday and MOCA will be closed in February for changeovers.
- c. ViBe Creative District/Kate Pittman: Two items were distributed to the Commission to raise awareness of a Season for Nonviolence occurring January 30 through April 4. An invitation flyer was given to visit the Season for Nonviolence Parklet on Cypress Avenue on 20th Street at the ViBe. Kindness rocks were passed around for each commissioner to take in honor of the Season for Nonviolence.
- d. Zeiders American Dream Theater/Sibel Galindez: The Z: Fringe Festival received 51 submissions, surpassing their goal of 35. Festival selections were chosen by random lottery. The Z Fringe Festival, April 7-8, is 2 days of locally produced, performance-based works in the Main Stage, Studio, and on the terrace with ticket proceeds for each show going back to the producing artist. A new program was introduced- "The Heart of Art" and the Commission was invited to the June showcase.
- e. Ballet Virginia/Lydia Coco: The Commission was thanked for their continued support. They have had a successful season and announced event dates for Heart & Soul to be performed at the Zeiders American Dream Theater. Event flyers were shared out.

IX. Next Meeting

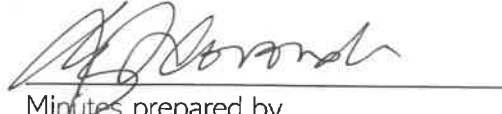
- a. No March Executive Committee and Business Meetings due to FY24 Project Grant Presentations & Deliberations
- b. Thursday, March 30, 2023: Grant Presentations/ Classroom 1
- c. Friday, March 31, 2023: Grant Deliberations/ Classroom 1
- d. Location: Sandler Center for the Performing Arts Building, 201 Market Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23462, Second floor
- e. *Ms. Hillary Plate* reminded the organizations to notify staff immediately of any conflicts with their assigned presentation time. Bring presentations on a flash drive and arrive at least fifteen (15) minutes early. Grants decision are announced in June after budgets are approved by City Council. Contracts are sent out in July with a return deadline of August.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at **5:50 pm.**



Called to order by
Ms. Emma "Em" Davis
AHC Secretary



Minutes prepared by
Mari R. Coronado
CAD Executive Assistant II

XI. Attachments

- February 2, 2023 Agenda Packet