



Thursday, November 2, 2023 • 5 p.m.
Sandler Center for the Performing Arts/Classroom 1

The Business Meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission was held on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 5:02 pm on the second floor in Classroom 1 at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts.

Commissioners Present:

- **OFFICER:** Dr. Cynthia Romero, Chair
- **OFFICER:** Olga Torres-Baker, Vice Chair
- **OFFICER:** Alicia “Sunny” Phillips Peoples, Treasurer
- Susan C. Grube, Advocacy Committee Chair
- Michael Cloud-Butler
- Mia Guile, Public Art Committee Chair

Cultural Affairs Department (CAD) Staff Present:

- Emily S. Labows, Director
- Beth Hundley, Deputy Director
- Emily Brookover, Public Art & Placemaking Manager
- Mari R. Coronado, Executive Assistant II

Guests:

- **CITY MANAGER’S OFFICE:** Monica Croskey Chaparro, Assistant City Manager
- **OFFICER:** Hon. Winship C. Tower (Ret.), Secretary
- Mabinty Scott, Council Aide to Council Member Sabrina Wooten

Absent:

- Emma “Em” Davis, Champion for the Arts Committee Chair
- Mark A. Johnson
- Raeesah Islam, AHC Commissioner
- Hillary L. Plate, Public Programming & Partnerships Manager
- Ashley McLeod

I. WELCOME

Dr. Cynthia Romero, Chair opened the meeting at **5:02 p.m.**, informed the Commission of the newly formatted agenda packet and gave a gentle reminder of their role to help the City fulfill its mission in regards to the Arts.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion I.

A motion was made by *Michael Cloud-Butler*, seconded by *Alicia "Sunny" Phillips Peoples, Treasurer* for approval of the minutes from the September 7th Meeting. There was no discussion. **The motion *unanimously* passed to approve the Minutes for the September 7th meeting.**

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

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Alicia "Sunny" Phillips Peoples, Treasurer, reported that all grant award payments have been disbursed with exception of Teens with a Purpose who is to submit their Final Report.

Motion II.

A motion was made by *Susan C. Grube*, seconded *Michael Cloud-Butler* by for approval of the October Treasurer's Report. There was no discussion. **The motion *unanimously* passed to approve October Treasurer's Report.**

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

IV. OLD BUSINESS

a. National Arts & Humanities Month Update

On October 3rd, the Arts & Humanities Commission with the Cultural Affairs Department hosted a meet and greet at the Whitehurst Buffington House in recognition of National Arts and Humanities Month. 50+ guests were in attendance for the reception and 56 community supporters at the Reading of the Proclamation at the 6 p.m. City Council Meeting.

Dr. Cynthia Romero, Chair thanked all those who participated in the event.

b. Ad-Hoc Committee for Leadership Organization Development (LOD) Grant Policy Review *Emma "Em" Davis*, Champion for the Arts Committee Chair was absent and will provide a report at the next meeting.

c. FY24 Annual Plan: The final approved copy is being provided to the Commission for reference.

d. FY24 Liaisons: The final approved copy is being provided to the Commission for reference.

e. FY24 Committees: The final approved copy is being provided to the Commission for reference.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. FYI: City of Virginia Beach FY24-25 Focused Action Plan

Beth Hundley, Deputy Director reported that *Assistant City Manager Monica Croskey Chaparro* was the lead for this report that translates the city's vision and goals into three key focus areas: Govern, Envision and Invigorate.

The initiative associated with the Arts and Humanities Commission is under the **GOVERN** Category:

- 1.4- Complete a comprehensive review of the City's Community Organization Grant (COG), Regional Grant and Arts & Humanities grant processes

Cultural Affairs would be held accountable for the following initiatives under the **INVIGORATE** Category:

- **3.10** - Conduct a community engagement effort to develop district identities for the 10 new Council districts
- **3.11**- Explore and implement opportunities to partner with the community and small businesses to activate creative placemaking and cultivate a sense of identity to strengthen the civic, cultural, and economic environments for areas throughout the city
- **3.12**- Conduct capacity mapping to identify potential areas for community-based revitalization projects and placemaking effort
- **3.13**- Enhance the reach and distribution of arts throughout the city
- **3.14**- Explore dedicated funding opportunities that comparable municipalities use to support culture and art

Dr. Cynthia Romero, Chair thanked the Assistant City Manager for her work putting the plan together.

b. FYI: City of Virginia Beach Comprehensive Plan 2040

This report is updated every five(5)years and shares what direction the City is going on the subject matter of development and transportation. The City Planners have announced four public meetings and *Dr. Cynthia Romero, Chair* requested for each meeting to have representation from the Art & Humanities Commission present. A sign-up sheet will circulate after the meeting to find cover for all the meetings.

1. Saturday, Nov 4: 2 pm – 4 pm (College Park Elementary School)
Dr. Cynthia Romero, Chair
2. Monday, Nov 6: 6 pm – 8 pm (Kellan High School)
Olga Torres-Baker, Vice Chair
3. Wednesday, Nov 8: 6 pm – 8 pm (Bayside Recreation Center)
To be determined
4. Thursday, Nov 9: 6 pm – 8 pm (Virginia Beach Convention Center)
Alicia "Sunny" Phillips Peoples, Treasurer
Mia Guile, Public Art Committee Chair

At the December Meeting, *Dr. Cynthia Romero, Chair* introduced discussion asking Cultural Affairs staff to add a virtual Foundant tutorial on the agenda after Public Comments to help the Commission get acclimated to the process prior to the deliberations in March 2024.

c. *FYI: Community Cultural Arts Grant Deadlines*

The next deadline is November 30 to be reviewed at the December 7th meeting. A marketing media blitz to the arts organizations and community is being scheduled to help bring awareness of the available grant funding.

d. *2023 AHC Holiday Social Discussion*

Dr. Cynthia Romero, Chair will touch base with *Em Davis* in regard to a repeat-hosting of the Holiday Social and gave a reminder that this is the last year *Em Davis* will be serving on the Commission.

e. *Organization Thank You Letters:*

The agenda packet showed copies of organization thank-you letters from The Hurray Players, The ViBe Creative District and Virginia Symphony Orchestra.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. *Advertising and Marketing Committee*

- There was extensive media coverage on the Public Utility box wraps.
- Cultural Affairs has been approached with more utility box wrap opportunities.
- *Olga Torres-Baker, Vice Chair* asked that if any artwork needs attention to please notify staff.
- Formal thanks to *Alex Dye* for overseeing the marketing and social media platforms.

b. *Advocacy Committee*

- *Committee Chair Sue Grube* sent handwritten thank you notes to City Council for their support of the arts.
- The Assistant City Manager gave confirmation that handwritten notes are impactful in the City Manager's Office.

c. *Champion for the Arts Committee*

There is no report.

d. *Cultural Equity Committee*

Committee Chair Olga Torres-Baker provided updates/changes to the presentation:

- *Slide 3:* Added two more members to the list of contributors
- *Slide 6:* Included the in-person community conversation
- *Slide 7:* Included the alignment of the AHC Mission and Cultural Affairs mission
- *Slide 10:* Added 3 more action steps
- *Slide 11:* Specified the Cultural Equity Committee meeting dates beginning quarterly in January 2024. (January, April, July and October)
- *Slide 12:* First review will be at the end of 2024 and every two years afterwards
- *Slide 13:* Motion to approve

Committee Chair Olga Torres-Baker will use the Public Art Committee's Operating Procedures as a guide.

Emily S. Labows, Director confirmed that once the Cultural Equity Presentation is approved, it will be polished with the Commission logo and branding.

Motion III.

A motion was made by *Susan C. Grube*, seconded by *Alicia "Sunny" Phillips Peoples, Treasurer*, for approval of the Community Cultural Equity (CEC) Report & Update. There was no discussion. **The motion *unanimously* passed to approve the CEC Equity Report and Update.**

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

Beth Hundley, Deputy Director read a congratulatory text on behalf of *Hillary Plate, Public Programming and Partnerships*, who was unable to attend the meeting. *Susan C. Grube* joined in praising the CEC and *Ms. Plate* for their level of consideration and masterfully crafting the document.

e. *Public Art Committee*

Mia Guile provided the following Public Art Committee update:

Mt Trashmore Mural

- "Helping Hands" mural by local artist Aimee Bruce
- Installed in 2018, planned 2-year lifespan.
- Parks & Recreation have decided to begin construction on the long-awaited new staircase.
- Staircase to be removed mid-November, with new stairs beginning construction early December.
- Artist has been notified and is supportive.
- Parks and Recreation has no plans at the moment for artwork on the new staircase.

Historic Kempsville Public Art RFQ

- 62 applicants total, tremendous response.
- Selection committee members include:
 - Emily Labows, City of Virginia Beach
 - Emily Brookover, City of Virginia Beach
 - Mia Guile, Public Art Committee
 - Alison Byrne, MOCA
 - Hank Morrison, City Planner, City of Virginia Beach
 - Mark Reed, Historic Preservation Committee, City of Virginia Beach
 - Patricia Young, Historic Kempsville Citizens Advisory Committee
 - Bobbie Gribble, Historic Kempsville Citizens Advisory Committee
- Matrices are being calculated, committee to meet Wed, Nov 8 to determine finalists.

- Phase II finalist presentations and interviews will be conducted early 2024.

Woodstock Skate Park Sculpture

- Public Works is currently working with Parks & Recreation to complete electrical requirements.
- Once electrical work concludes, we should have a better timeline for installation, etc.
- Planning for an unveiling in early 2024 with the new councilmember for District 1.

Maintenance Updates

- Delight has been restored (patina corrected, cleaned and waxed)
 - Located at the Oceanfront – 33rd & Atlantic
 - Artist Mike Cunningham
 - Four bronze dolphins jumping through a hoop over the waves.
 - 3 other bronze sculptures have been cleaned and waxed.
 - The Kiss by Gary Alsum in Town Center
 - Children Playing by Robert Cunningham at the court complex
 - Friendship Anchor (artist unknown) at Kempes Landing Park
- Plans for continued maintenance of current collection, ongoing.

Potential Public Art Locations & Projects

- The committee discussed a variety of community locations for potential public art.
 - City parks, highway over/underpasses, city construction sites, areas with high pedestrian traffic, public utility sites
- The committee also brainstormed ideas for upcoming projects.
 - Focused on a goal of choosing one large project with multiple medium to small projects.

Mia Guiles promoted the interactive public art district GSI mapping for the Commission to try out.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following organizations presented event updates and announcements:

- ViBe Creative District (Kate Pittman)
- Linda Dyer (Zeiders Dream Theater)
- James Bryan (Little Theatre of Virginia Beach)

VIII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- Michael Cloud-Butler: The work of the Cultural Equity Committee has been a labor of love; the City has grown since 1966 and is in the forefront of maturing change
- Sue Grube: Enjoyed the productions of Little Theatre of Virginia Beach; Ballet Virginia at Zeiders; Fiddler on the Roof by Virginia Stage Company and shared a gifted program that the Sandler Center Foundation in collaboration with Ballet Virginia and the Virginia Beach City Schools. There are three elementary schools that have after school programs called the “Excellence” program and have the option to participate in ballet. 120 students are participating in four schools.
- Sunny Peoples: Shared an upcoming event called Wakanda Giving by TACA/ Rita Cohen in collaboration with Norfolk State and Hampton University, Williams and Mary and VCU

on Nov 18 at 6 pm at ODU that will include a dinner, fashion show and performances. Lastly, Access Virginia was on the campus of Norfolk Campus Tidewater Community College for Disability Awareness.

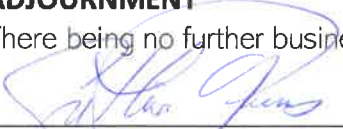
- Olga Torres-Baker: Today is Day of the Dead, a Mexican tradition and she brought some sweet bread to share; honored to be part of this Commission and to share her personal experiences
- Dr. Romero: In the spirit of Thanksgiving, she is grateful for the opportunity to be on this Commission, and this is the best time to fill our calendars with events to give continued support to all the arts organizations.

IX. NEXT MEETING- Thursday, December 7, 2023 (Sandler Center for the Performing Arts)

- a. 4 pm: Executive Committee Meeting- 2nd Floor/Conference Room
- b. 5 pm: Business Meeting- 2nd Floor/Classroom 1

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm.



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

November 2, 2023 Agenda Packet