

Approved Minutes of the Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture (ACAC)

November 19, 2015, Cutter Gallery

Attending: Barbara Costa, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Jonathan Hyde, Leland Stein, Aimee Taberner, and Amy Mongeau (cultural liaison)

Absent: Carla Dorato and Adria Arch

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm.

1. **Minutes** of ACAC October 1 meeting were unanimously approved.
2. **Cultural District application update.** Map of proposed district submitted in September. Recently received preliminary approval from Mass. Cultural Commission (MCC) for full district, from Marathon Street to Jason Street, with provisions.

MCC voiced concern regarding how areas would be connected, via wayfinding. Jan Whitted of Artbeat, representing the Capitol Square Business District on the Cultural District Managing Partnership, suggested some ideas. Ted Fields mentioned possibility of three additional locations for public art. Cecily Miller (Arlington Public Art consultant), Jan Whitted, Ted Fields, Adria Arch, Jill Manca (Arlington Public Art), B. Costa, S. Marlin-Curiel to meet on December 9th to discuss options to coordinate these efforts with youth banner project, Capitol Square banners, and East Arlington Mass Ave public art project with Cecily Miller.

The MCC recommended a managing partnership agreement be put in place to ensure commitment. The Managing Partnership will decide if one is necessary. S. Marlin-Curiel has forwarded a sample from another town.

Next steps:

1. Update those who attended meeting April 2 meeting at Old Schwamb Mill
 2. Library needs to start a new application and share the log in information with participants. Determine if library can be point person for compiling application.
 3. Email those who attended June 25th planning meeting and offered to write specific pieces of the application to request they submit their parts to designated library staff by January 15th.
 4. Library staff (or Jonathan Hyde) to compile application. Members of ACAC to help with technical editing.
 5. Managing partnership should meet in late January or early February to review application and plan public meeting.
 6. Plan and advertise public meeting for early March, after Board of Selectmen passes their resolution.
 7. Application can be submitted shortly thereafter, by end of March.
 8. Plan site visit for the spring. Determine when MCC generally visits – weekday/weekend, time of day – to ensure that planned events are publicized.
3. **Cultural plan preliminary process update.** S. Marlin-Curiel and J. Hyde met with Town Manager to discuss potential budget and next steps. S. Marlin-Curiel gave Adam

Chapdelaine copy of Ashburnham Creative Economy Plan and Salem Partnership Plan as example of what a desired deliverable would be. A. Chapdelaine will think more about the cost of the cultural plan, within the context of other related town initiatives.

Discussion of benefit of a part-time staff person to assist with the logistics of the plan, fundraising, and grant writing to support the broader cultural economy, and to serve on the Cultural District Partnership. Discussion of drafting a position description to present to A. Chapdelaine. S. Marlin-Curiel to discuss this with A. Arch to see if she can draft it, in part based on Cultural Liaison position description.

Discussion of B. Costa and S. Marlin-Curiel's meeting with Jenn Erickson of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), regarding technical assistance for cultural/arts organizations in participating communities. MAPC is also developing an Arts Tool Kit for the State of MA. MAPC could provide assistance with Arlington's cultural plan in the form of collecting data and meeting facilitation, and determining needs, for phase 1 of the proposed plan. Applications will be available in November. Need clarification regarding whether ACAC needs to submit a letter of intent. To be eligible for assistance, Arlington needs to be part of a Community Compact. Need to follow up with Town Manager regarding status of compact, and confirm deadline and next steps with MAPC. Also, determine if our existing cultural planning consultant budget is sufficient to match MAPC.

Debrief of meeting of S. Marlin-Curiel, B. Costa and Lillian Hsu, advisor to the commission, on staff at the Cambridge Arts Council and a volunteer member of Salem's Public Art Board.

Discussion of need to make budget request for next year, and the importance of using the allocated budget for a cultural planning consultant in this fiscal year.

4. Update on projects in Town.

Cecily Miller (Arlington Public Art consultant) has a meeting scheduled for December 8th, and office hours scheduled at the library, to discuss the East Arlington public arts initiative. Considering one, rather than three, public art sites for the East Arlington corridor.

S. Marlin-Curiel mentioned that Magnolia Park is slated for renovation, and that we may want to consider advocating for a public gathering place so the space may be utilized for cultural opportunities.

Discussion of True Story Theater living brochure project. Continue to consider whether this could benefit ACAC initiatives.

B. Costa updated on Arlington Center for the Arts/ Gibbs School situation. S. Marlin-Curiel reported on attending meeting with consultant, Matt Wilson of Mass Creative.

Ted Peluso of ATED contacted ACAC to discuss joint initiative, a promotional website for the town of Arlington. Discussion of overlap with existing websites, events calendars,

etc. Agreement that ACAC needs more information in the form of a marketing and management plan to fully support the initiative. Follow up with Ted and ATED to find out more information.

ACAC commissioners asked to participate as judges in Arlington Chamber of Commerce Holiday window decoration competition. A. Taberner to follow up with Beth Locke of the Chamber of Commerce. A. Mongeau agreed to participate and make the award certificates. A. Taberner to ask A. Arch if she would like to judge again. Award ceremony/tree lighting is on December 5th.

Regent Theater 100th Anniversary Gala Celebration, April 24th and 25th. Cyrus Dallin Art Museum exterior renovations slated for spring. Arlington Alive Block Party likely June 18th (L. Stein or C. Dorato to confirm).

5. Officers slate for 2016.

Discussed need for additional commissioners on ACAC. A. Taberner may step down as co-secretary due to involvement in Arlington Cultural District. Further discussion needed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.