



Minutes of the Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture June 6, 2024 Meeting

Location: Hybrid/In-person - Town Hall Annex

Attendees: Jessica Chao, Stewart Ikeda, Brian MacMurray, Greta Mastro, Nicole Cuff, Tom Formicola, Sarah Morgan-Wu

Absent: Christine Noah, Lidia Kenig-Scher, Cristin Canterbury-Bagnall

Guests: Laurie Bogdan

1. **Meeting begins** at 7:00pm
2. **May Minutes:** Beth moves to accept the minutes with no changes. Brian seconds. Unanimous approval.
3. **Chair Updates & Commissioner Votes**
 - Several commissioners are coming to the end of their terms, Beth, Brian, Cristin, and Lidia. We thank them for their service to our community. Recruitment of new commissioners is an important next step.
4. **Laurie Bogdan** is unanimously selected to serve as new commissioner.
 - Cristin, Christine, and Lidia give their proxy votes.
 - Statement from Christine:
 - Laurie has been a tremendous asset to ACAC and the Town of Arlington for many years. Her work as an artist has beautified our streets and pathways (via utility boxes, storm drains, Go Out Doors, just to name a few.) Her leadership as co-chair of the Community Engagement Committee has helped the commission engage with new members of our community, fortify and grow important public art programs like utility boxes / storm drains, and support the work of many amazing artists in town. Her participation on the 250 Marketing Committee has also helped bring the arts more into the fold of this significant multi-year regional celebration. I'm excited to collaborate with Laurie more closely as a voting member of the commission.
- **DPCD Updates:**
 - Katie not available tonight, meeting with Stewart tomorrow.

- **Town Day** updates: Reserving 2 spaces. Lidia is still interested in leading Plein Air Painting activity again this year, and could use help

5. **Community Engagement Updates**

● **Updates from Cecily, provided in writing:**

- We have applied for a grant from Mass Foundation for the Humanities to develop an audio piece (accessible by phone, incorporating historical research and oral history interviews about wild and cultivated plants in Arlington) to accompany the cyanotype banner project planned for the 250th
- Cecily has been recruiting youth assistants from Arlington High School to work with artist David Fichter on a mosaic project for Drake Village; we have some great candidates! This project has been in the works for 3 years, funded by a placemaking grant awarded to Arlington Housing Authority by the state. David will be giving an artists talk at Drake Village on June 20 to recruit residents for 8 intergenerational workshops in June and July. David will also be painting a few mural panels to complement the mosaics.
- Greta is also participating in the mosaic project and will document the project.

● **June 15 Garage Band** - Post-Porchfest After-Party, plus Mystic Open Studio kids activities table; rain date June 16

- Ed Blundell is managing the event.
- Volunteers needed to help set up / table.
- We'll also be able to display ACAC materials at second "porch" in front of Town hall with DPCD during the day.
- ACA will have a large table at Whittemore Park
- Porchfest will be the largest ever with more than 300 performances!
- Capitol Square businesses are doing complimentary promotion for Porchfest performances nearby.

● **Storm drain murals**

- By next week 4 of the 5 storm drain murals will be completed. The last will be in front of the high school and completed after the school year ends.

● **Utility Box murals**

- Two utility box murals in progress.
- One across from the Jason Russell House
- Both are 250th themed and are expected to be done near the end of June / early July.

6. **June/July Events**

- **June 11 Nonprofit Convening:** Old Schwamb Mill, 5:30pm ~ 7:00pm - Focus will be on educating community members about the upcoming semiquincentennial and engaging them in related activities.
- Help will be needed by the commissioners.
 - Collaborators: OSM, 250, ACAC, Chamber, DPCD
 - Invitations: Tom F and 250 Committee
 - Length and Structure: Background Presentation by DPCD & 250

- Summary of What's Happened
- Form for Proposing Projects or Partnerships of Interest
- **June 23 Black Patriots Day / Prince Hall Celebration:** Robbins-Whittemore House Garden
 - ACAC will collaborate with AHRC, DEI, Arlington Historical Society, and Arlington 250, providing funding and staffing to support reading by poet Charles Coe and music by DJ Jo Saint-Surin.
 - Ceremony encourage people to learn about the monument for POCs in Old Burying Ground and the lives of Black patriots who hailed from and fought in Menotomy
- **July (date TBD) ACAC Social Celebration**
 - Laurie Bogdan has offered to host social gathering in lieu of our July business meeting
 - Opportunity to thank recently departed commissioners (Cristin, Steve, Tom D., Adria, Stephanie, Lidia, Brian) and meet partners
 - Plan to invite Grants Committee and Poet Laureate Committee

7. **New Business** 8:20-8:30p

- A discussion about meeting format and whether to continue in-person, hybrid, or remote-only.
- Jessica has been working closely with Cristin, Christine, and Stewart to get up to speed on the Commission finances and budget.
 - Jessica gives an update on the current state of the FY24 budget, projected expenses and projected donations/income.
 - The FY25 budget is just beginning to be drafted.
- Greta suggests some recruitment efforts to attract more youth commissioners before the school year concludes in two weeks or throughout the summer.
 - Greta will make a first draft flier for review.

Beth moves to adjourn at 7:49pm. Greta seconds. Unanimous approval to adjourn.

Next meeting will be Thursday, August 1, 2024 from 7:00-8:30p