



## Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture Minutes

Date: Thursday, December 5, 2024

Time: 7:00-8:30p

Location: Zoom

Attendees: Stewart Ikeda, Jessica Chao, Greta Mastro, Laurie Bogdan, Sarah Morgan-Wu

Absent: Christine Noah, Tom Formicola, Nancy Gray (resigned), Anne Thompson, Nicole Cuff (proxy)

Guests: Katie Luczai, Cecily Miller

1. Meeting started at 7PM
2. [November Minutes](#) approved without changes; Sarah abstains
3. **DPCD & Chair Updates**
  - **Fundraising Updates:** FunComm sent first year-end appeal email to 1,413 recipients; also sent via the Town Email List on Giving Tuesday; plans to do direct individual asks to past donors as well. Jessica reports that \$2,700.00 has been raised so far.
  - Greta: Could we publish a calendar showing off all the projects that we did last year? Stewart: Great idea; our Annual Report is due soon, and it includes an illustrated brag sheet that could play that role.
  - Cecily: Generous donor Bonnie Payne has also offered to host a house party! We should bring this to FunComm to discuss how we could help plan such an event.
  - Sarah: Would the list of donors also be a possible source for identifying future commissioners?
  - Christine written report: \$15,000 FY25 **Cultural District Grant** application was approved
  - Stewart spoke at Business Summit convened by the Chamber of Commerce on a panel about MA250 opportunities and projects, including some of ACAC's 250-themed art projects
  - Stewart: ACMI has expressed interest in an Arlington Stories podcast as possible 250 project; possible collaboration with Community Engagement?

- Stewart: Following up on last meeting: Cecily & Katie have been hugely helpful in guiding AHS efforts at a new 250-themed banner art project in East Arlington and possibly the Heights
- **DPCD** updates from Katie: Annual Report due by January 15, 2025. We need committees' help updating stats and highlights. Also, Town Meeting warrant articles open through January if there's anything we want to introduce.

#### 4. **Vote: Artist Live/Work Guidelines**

- Recap of previous discussion of Live/Work Guidelines draft. Katie took commissioners' suggestion to revise the guidelines. Commissioners reviewed the final language and voted unanimously to approve it.
- Turn to discussion of new sample Artist Certification Standards which focused on whether ACAC wants to play a more bureaucratic gatekeeping authority role regularly reviewing all applications or more of an advisory role helping DPCD establish guidelines but then playing an ad-hoc role as needed once applicants have been reviewed by landlord and by DPCD. Stewart suggests that these Standards be shared with a plenum of the commission for everyone's input.

#### 5. **Discussion: Poet Laureate & Projects Funding**

- Stewart: The Poet Laureate Selection Committee had indicated it had budgetary and procedural requests to make of ACAC, but a representative wasn't prepared to present so we'll defer discussion until a later meeting.
- However, ACAC will help promote applications for a new PL, due by January 5.

#### 6. **Community Engagement Updates**

- Thanks to Nicole, who couldn't be here because she's supporting Live Arts at Holiday Lights
- Laurie: Last CE meeting centered on discussion of how ACAC can have more of a presence in other events around town and create more of an awareness of our existence in general.
- Cecily presented Cyanotype banners early concept images. Example: Flax in Revolution – as a sign of protest and women's contributions, and the ban on imported British goods. Plant expert will prepare audio descriptions to accompany the banners. Some research into other plants will be site specific to Arlington. Hope to install by April 1 with the audio components. Also hope to display a companion exhibition of smaller artwork at Old Schwamb Mill through April and May. We might be able to hang in Town Hall after. We should have an event for the two lead artists. Sarah: Can we have this digitized for newsletter, etc.?
- Nilou Moochala: Has started research on her timeline.
- Christopher Frost: Artist who made the beloved birdhouse sculptures on the Bikeway has proposed a 250-themed project making 3 or 4 cement pedestals like one would expect to see a sculpture on, but they would have words describing simple people who participated.

- Jessica: Let's plan to have a payment process discussion with DPCD as all these new projects are coming online.

7. **New Business**

- Greta: reminder for Stewart to send her Instagram access as she'll have time this month to work on projects. She'll be in Arlington this month, too. She'd love to work on a video or some collections – perhaps collect images for a Year in Review-type feature.
- Stewart: Reminder: Roasted Granola Cafe Holiday Market with ArtLinks Nov. 25-Jan. 27
- January Meeting will be fully remote
- Send news to Terry for newsletter this weekend
- Sarah moves, and Greta seconds, to adjourn at 8:32.

**Next meeting will be Thursday, January 2, 2024 from 7:00-8:30p via Zoom**