



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture January 9, 2025 Minutes

Attendees: Stewart Ikeda, Nicole Cuff, Anne Thomson, Sarah Morgan-Wu, Tom Formicola, Christine Noah, Jessica Chao

Absent: Greta Mastro, Parmit Crassa, Laurie Bogdan

Guests: Lidia Kenig-Scher, Jean Flanagan, Katie Luczai, Ed Blundell, Laura Cook

Meeting called to order at 7:00p

[December Minutes](#) passed with Christine abstaining and Laurie's vote by proxy.

DPCD & Chair Updates

- **Fundraising Committee** Updates: Sent second appeal email to 1,413 recipients; also sent via the Town List on Giving Tuesday
- \$15,000 FY25 **Cultural District Grant** application was approved
- **DPCD** - Annual Report due the 15th
- We got additional funding for 250 Banner Project
- Artist Live-Work application now has its own webpage on Town [site](#)

Vote: Artist Certification Process

- Discussion: Create a new subcommittee (bound by Open Meetings Law with minimal agenda and minutes) to review Artist Certification applications that are part of the Live/Work Application process. It cannot be a quorum of ACAC – must be smaller. See examples: [Boston](#)
- General interest in having ACAC have only light involvement and rubber stamp responsibility, with DPCD having primary responsibility to review the applications that come in.
- DPCD could report into ACAC whenever there is a batch to review and ACAC will rubber stamp that they check all of the boxes.
- This way, it gets included in the agenda and the minutes but we are not taking on the administrative task of having another subcommittee.
- We could make this an agenda item on a quarterly basis (instead of monthly) unless there's a pressing deadline that needs immediate attention.
- Sarah suggested some minor edits to Katie for the certification language. Sarah will send her review to Katie.
- VOTE: We as ACAC adopt option C and approve the draft of the certification process document pending final edits/recommendations made during the meeting.
 - Vote was approved unanimously.

Discussion: Poet Laureate Projects Funding

- Lidia Kenig-Scher made presentation of Poet Laureate Selection Committee discussions
- The PL committee requests that ACAC funds a budget for a speaker series; we can allocate some money to support speakers if it is spent down through the end of this fiscal year June 30. On an ongoing basis, PL should look to the Library.
- They only have one applicant for next Poet Laureate, but it's a good candidate. He is being vetted now. The committee will meet soon to approve him. Jean Flanagan will then step into Steve Ratiner's position on the committee.
- Jean says the anthology is just about finished. She shared the cover art. They will be giving each of the Arlington poets (55) a copy, and they will be selling the book at various events as well.
- Tom noted we're going to miss Jean when she's not the Poet Laureate anymore. She's been amazing throughout her tenure. Thank you, Jean!
- Together, they are producing an exhibit called *Symbiosis* at ACA. They have a call out to visual artists and poets to send in original work. The curators are going to choose poems and artworks that are in dialogue with one another. They will also present some music events, poetry readings, and artist talks to continually bring that work to life for different audiences.
- For the anthology, Jean put her stipend into paying some of the special guests who will be doing music and poetry events. Jean encourages the Town to support this kind of programming to elevate poetry in Arlington.
- For the next PL, the Committee will help the PL try to find grants. They will also find an advisor to help support the PL with fundraising.
- The Committee asks ACAC to consider an additional \$1,500 in the budget for next year to support programming for the PL so they will not have to pay it with their stipend.
- Jean was interested in getting some funding to support a speaker series for poets, but she said she thinks she will be able to get that funded by another source. She suggests starting in September.
- We will have a conversation with the PL Committee as part of our budget planning process for 2026.

Grants Committee Updates

- Planned to introduce Parmit Crassa, but he was not able to attend. Grants will be announced later in January.

New Business

- Ed introduced the topic of Garage Band. We will want to start planning that for Live Arts. Jessica will follow up with Ed and Nicole about Live Arts budget needs. Tom confirmed the date for Porchfest will be June 21st; Garage Band, as the "After-Party," is traditionally held immediately following Porchfest.
- Laura Cook raised the idea of a scavenger hunt or guided tour, potentially in combination with Town Day.

- The Marketing Committee could discuss this idea. The Community Engagement Committee has also discussed it before. The Fundraising Committee would also want to be involved for friendraising. To be explored further.

Adjourned by 8:28pm.

Next meeting will be Thursday, February 6, 2025 from 7:00-8:30p