



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture Minutes

Date: Thursday, February 6, 2025

Time: 7:00-8:30p

Location: Remote

Attendees: Stewart Ikeda, Christine Noah, Laurie Bodgan, Parmit Singh, Anne Thomson

Absent: Tom Formicola, Jessica Chao (proxy), Nicole Cuff (proxy), Sarah Morgan-Wu (proxy)

Guests: Ed Blundell, Laura Cook, Al Hagy, Terry Holt, Nora Chan, Greta Mastro

Meeting brought to order 7:02pm

[January Minutes](#) approved, no corrections or amendments

DPCD & Chair Updates

- Youth Banner Project: AHS running, looking for judges to review largest batch ever, there are over 100 banners. Tues, Feb. 11th, 4-6pm. Laurie: Doodle poll is long closed, so may need to email Leo directly.
- Thank you to Bonnie Payne- Christine: goal budget is \$5000. End of year appeal brought in \$4000, including significant earmarked gift from Bonnie Payne. And Bonnie made an additional gift. Will write a thank you card and personal note as project develops. Business line goal is \$5000. Doing research with local banks, events-programs, Garage Band maybe. Sponsorship opportunities. Maybe can get more funding this year. Will do another Spring appeal to individuals.
- Jessica will give an update next meeting about budget
- Christine: ACAC applied for and received a grant for Nilou Mochala's 250-related project. Thank you to the Grants Committee!
- Stewart: Usually we get updates from Katie Luczai but she's not here this week. ACAC has been asked to present our budget to Finance Committee in March. We usually present every year because of the size of our budget. Has been \$35K for the past few years now, they always call us in. This meeting will be in March. A date will be sent out. This is for the upcoming fiscal year (starting 7/1/25)
- **DPCD** - Annual report submitted.
- We are past deadline for submitting new warrant articles for town meeting. Greta is not able to continue since she does not live in Arlington. Maybe we can submit something allowing us to keep commissioners who have ties to Arlington but may not reside here. Will investigate.

Vote: New Commissioner Applicants- both present

- Commissioner Candidate: Laura Cook- long time Arlington resident, worked in marketing and product management. Nonprofits most recently. Has been on some boards, working with local refugees. And a mixed media artist.
- Commissioner Candidate: Nora Chan- excited about joining, she's a runner and an artist, writes in literary magazine, and in orchestra. Also involved in youth banner project. Wants to engage the community. Would be student rep succeeding Greta Mastro, who has been contributing but has also moved for college.

Any discussion or questions before vote? Christine said they both seem great, and bring new perspectives. Commission voted unanimously in favor of their appointment! Stewart explained the whole approval process to both of them.

Grants Committee Updates

- Introduce Parmit Crassa, Grants Committee appointment.
- He had a slide with grant opportunities and expressed interest in promotion through ACAC's social media.
- This year they funded 24 grant recipients.
- Parmit personally interested in a monthly poetry reading series and received \$300 in support from LLC
- Discuss Grant recipients and ceremony
- ACAC had some surplus from unexpected funds raised. We reached out to Grants Committee and asked about 250-related projects they might have wanted to fund but had run out of \$ for projects. Cecily also has an idea for another 250-themed project. ACAC could work with the Grants Committee going forward to potentially support more artists and orgs.
- Laura: Ensemble concert example: Can we accept specifically earmarked donations for targeted projects like that? Stewart says only if it's a program generated by ACAC. But, if we are raising money for the Grants Committee to disburse in addition to its money from the State, there would be a firewall between ACAC and Grants Committee in decision-making. It would make the process fairer and let GC do what it does best.

6. Community Engagement Updates

- Laurie: AHS said someone reached out about student community service hours. Can we have students volunteer with us? Stewart: When Greta became commissioner, one of her goals was to work on a plan to engage more students. Made a proposal to have 3 different student roles. Sophomores start getting hours. Juniors applying to college would get commissioner role as resume builder. Seniors need internships. Ideally, could create a cohort of 3 students, and build a succession. Takes time to build these relationships.

- Bikeway: Al and Laurie attended the bikeway advisory committee meeting. Explored activities that happen year round. How Arts Arlington can be more of a presence year round. Realized that every May, there's a community bike ride. In line with a statewide initiative. About 5 miles. They approved a joint effort. Will stop at various art sites around town, between East Arlington and the Heights. Great way to engage the community and promote the arts.
- Laurie would like to re-propose ACAC's participation in the Bikeway Block Party. If Arts Arlington could participate, this would be great. This will be September 14th. (Town Day, 9/20?) Bike advisory committee will participate. Maybe another site at Uncle Sam Plaza? Maybe use extra funds for this?
- Christine thinks maybe they wanted ACAC to be the organizer? This may be doable, if we aren't the only organizer. Laurie asked Tom Formicola about it. Not just a table event. Can we commit to an hour of programming?
- Stewart: Explanation of Community Engagement Subcommittee. Boots on the ground, putting on events. Like Live Arts, Garage Band, hanging public art installations, etc.
- ACAC does a LOT at Town Day. Last year Block Party event was so close to Town Day. Laurie was thinking we could just do a performance- but we need to talk more about it. This will be for next fiscal year.
- Also: Town of Arlington ended up with some extra money, so there will be two 250 public art horses, like in Lexington. We are allowed to raise money. Lexington will auction their horses, but can we do that too? And allocate those funds toward murals? Laurie will have more updates when we meet next.
- Used to do Chairful, which was an auction. Horses sale could be similar fundraiser.
- Cecily was considering a quilting exhibition, part of a region-wide project called "Gather". She was interested in working with African American quilt guilds.
- Next community engagement meeting is Monday, 2/24, on Zoom.
- What about "Where's William?" This is a community engagement project for the town's Arlington 250 committee. William Dawes, cardboard cutout, will show up all over town. Selfie station. Helping to spread the Untold Stories of Menotomy. Kickoff event- birthday party at the Capitol Theatre. Dancing, films, etc.

New Business

- Ed: Getting ready for Garage Band. Would like to book a band. Seems like everyone is on board. \$2,250. June 21st, after party at Porchfest. 6-8pm. Squeezebox Stompers- sound system included. Would like to get this band locked in. They are high energy and fun. Band itself is \$1,500. Mystic Open Studios had a booth last year with family-friendly activities. A nice addition, and they helped promote the whole event. There is a rain date too.
- Terry Holt gave a quick update on the website and asking if anyone wants to help.

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

Adjourned early around 8:17p