



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture

Date: Thursday, April 3, 2025

Time: 7:00-8:30p

Location: Hybrid Town Hall Annex and Zoom

Attendees: Stewart Ikeda, Anne Thomson, Laurie Bogdan, Jessica Chao, Christine Noah, Laura Cook, Tom Formicola, Nicole Cuff

Absent: Sarah Morgan-Wu, Parmit Singh

Guests: Katie Luczai, Nora Chan, Al Hagy, Cecily Miller, Lidia Kenig-Scher, Thomas DeFreitas, Terry Hold

1. **Welcome** 7:00p-7:05p

Lidia: Introduced Thomas Freitas

New poet laureate (5th one!)

Published two small collections- walking between two raindrops

Wants to use all available technologies, social media, maybe a podcast?

Wants everyone to feel like they have a voice

Focused workshops on various topics (ie grief)

Collaboration important

Lidia- 4 other members. Support poet laureate.

2. **Minutes** – For approval: [February Minutes](#) and [March Minutes](#) 7:05p-7:10p

Any changes to Feb or March minutes?

Laura- Daniel Parsley name was spelled incorrectly. Will send correction to Jennifer.

Feb – all approved

March – all approved

3. **DPCD & Chair Updates** 7:10p-7:25p

- DPCD Updates- Katie. Annual town report is online. Tonight is kick-off. Katie had a 1:1 to talk about cultural planning.

- [More commissioners and chair succession](#) - If anyone has interest in shadowing to potentially become co-chair and/or co-chair a committee, reach out to Christine and Stewart.
- Update from conversation with Town Counsel and plan for COI training next month before (or after) ACAC meeting – please attend if you can!
- Update on warrant article to change age and residency requirements for ACAC – no Special Town Meeting currently planned for spring so will need to look to fall or next spring to get this done.
- Introduce new Poet Laureate
- Update on National Anthem singers / musicians for Town Meeting – town moderator wants this. Nora is working on involving high school. Talked to Ms. Walker. 2 students interested. Stewart sent inquiry to town moderator. What about orchestra? Various small groups available, possibly.

4. **Vote: Budget FY25** 7:25p-7:35p

- We did not have quorum for last month's meeting so we need to vote on the budget this month.
- Jessica can answer any questions that people may have, especially if they weren't at the last meeting. No questions.
- All approved

5. **Community Engagement & Upcoming 250 Activities** 7:35p-8:15p

- 250-related activities
 - 13 Forest Opening Reception – April 5
 - 250 Kickoff at Capitol Theatre – April 6, 11am- 2pm. ACAC table, with promotions, dancing, selfie station, kids crafts, ice cream, trivia,
 - Arlington Restaurant Week – April 12-21- new website
 - Quilting Guild Project (Harriet Powers) at Mystic Open Studio – April 17-19
 - Town Hall Beer Hall - 3 Bands- ACAC table here, need people
 - Thursday, April 17th- Ken Burns (Lexington 12pm & Concord 7pm)
 - Jason Russell House Tours – April 19 + 21 - ACD- what about AHS volunteers? Nora will investigate.
 - Battle of Menotomy – April 20- 2pm start. Grove St. to Mystic (180 reenactors signed up so far)
 - Ride of Revere & Dawes – April 21
 - Artist talk 4/26
 - Painted Horses- through August 2026!
 - Plant Banners – Old Schwamb Mill and 13Forest
 - Nilou Mochala Timeline Project- 9 aluminum squares- will have a rack at the beer garden, and Nilou will be handing out cards
 - Christopher Frost Project
 - Talk on May 10 at Old Schwamb Mill (exhibit there, too- horses, banners)
 - Audio tour- ongoing- historical essays for each banner, including stories. QR codes on the sidewalk

Interviews with Crystal Hanes, and author talking about apples and the many varieties. Untold stories.

All of this needs to be promoted- a lot of programming

Will print stickers- Lena McCarthy artist (Helena's mural)

- Other ACAC projects
 - Garage Band (June)
- What about Juneteenth? Will reach out to new DEI director. Do we want to hire a new coordinator? Katie has flexibility with the MOTT grant.

6. **New Business** 8:15p-8:30p

- Marketing Committee Recruitment - Next meeting- might be able to work with a marketing person who's not part of the commission. If anyone's interested, let Stewart and Laura know.
- Laurie and AI have moved forward with bike tour- Sunday, June 8. Will start in Drake Village. Will lend at Fox mural. Any number of participants is fine.
- Prince Hall Cemetery- Poorly kept parcel of land. Maybe ArtsArlington can take this on as a project? Garden club, high landscape designers, Thomson school, and maybe local groups who work on native plants. Cecily: What about having an artist of color lead this?
- Stewart: We should reach out to the Prince Hall Masonic Lodge first to explore partnership, as well as Arlington250 committee. Great idea- will look into it.
- Cecily: Eco-fest on 4/26 at Town Hall. ACAC table there?
- Marketing Committee meeting soon – express interest to Laura and Stewart

Motion to adjourn: 8:34p

Next meeting will be Thursday, May 1, 2025 from 7:00-8:30p