



TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD
Commission on Culture and Fine Arts
East Hartford Raymond Library
840 Main Street
East Hartford, CT 06108
Meeting
April 14th, 2022

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Joan Coates, Lisa Gold, Glynis McKenzie, Prescille Yamamoto, Susan Tukey, Michael MacDonald, Tamara Bryan-Chuchro, Lavisher Hurst and Rosamond White.

EXCUSED: Thomas Lumpkin, Michael MacDonald

UNEXCUSED: Joanne Covey, and Annabelle Diaz, Emilio Estrella

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Rosamond White called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm with a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 10th minutes were tabled

CHAIR'S REPORT: The Chair welcomed our new commissioner Ms. Lakisher Hurst to the commission. She spoke on the rules of having minutes and agenda promptly posted in accordance with the Town's Clerk and the state. Our commission has been late too many times over the years. Judy Beeman who has been an outstanding clerk has a new position which has demanded more of her time and makes it difficult at times to meet the deadline. The commission appreciates her service.

As of the May meeting the commission will have a new clerk, Ms. Juliet Ralph. She is presently clerking for ZBA and the Veteran commission. The chair reiterated the importance of attending meetings and communication when one is not able to attend. Hence, if one's situation has changed, one should write a letter/email to the chair or town clerk of their resignation.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Children's Library Programs:** an email of a report was forwarded to the Chair and Vice Chair. Sarah Morgan is not in attendance.

Due to delays at the Connecticut State Department of Education, we are not yet certain of the funding landscape for the library/Parks & Recreation summer enrichment collaboration for summer 2022.

We plan to repeat the scheme of summer 2021 (dependent on funding) in which each Parks & Recreation camper (nearly 400 children) attended at least one 90-min. enrichment program per week at the library or cultural center for the duration of camp (7 weeks).

Funding in place includes busing paid for by the Board of Education, library staff hours paid from the library operating budget, and several one-shot grants to fund performers/presenters.

At the February meeting of the CCFA, the group allocated \$1500 to pay for Boogie Chillun (a band) and Masem Enyong: Afrobeat, both originally proposed as potential Summer Reading kickoff performers. I am negotiating a full-summer contract with Arts for Learning, the agency that represents both of those groups (who may or may not be available to perform for us).

Motion to approve the \$1500 originally allocated to Boogie Chillun' and Masem Enyong (see February meeting notes) to be used instead as partial payment for our larger contract with Arts for Learning, rather than for separate contracts for individual performers (as mentioned at the March meeting). This will enable us to get a better deal, and will give us maximum flexibility for scheduling. Performances will take place at the parks sites, the library, and/or the Riverfront atrium for children ranging in age from 4 – 15.

Motioned by: Com. Glynis McKenzie moved to approve the \$1,500 originally allocated to Boogie Chillun' and Masem Enyong to be used instead as partial payment to the Arts for Learning.

Seconded by: Susan Tukey

All in Favor: Motion Carried

- **Black History: 2022-23 February – start thinking of something.**
- **Caribbean Heritage Month:** conjunction with Juneteenth Celebration
- **Dance:** No Program at this time
- **EHSYF (East Hartford Summer Youth Festival):** Com. Glynis is still working on is looking for an actual date and the timeline available for the Cabaret. She is working with the president, who is very excited with the choreographer, music director, and stage manager.
Com. Joan announced the scheduled dates for The Addams Family – July 29th, 30th, and 31st, 2022.
Com. Joan reported the auditions for 12+ year old will be next month, May 15th, 2022 from 2:00 – 5:00 pm and on May 16th, 2022 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm at the Community Cultural Center. The Juneteenth celebration will also have a table for audition sign ups.
- **Film Series:** Com. Glynis announced that the 2020 film series is complete. She commented on her list of movies which have been shown during the festival. Next year will be the 15th year of the series, and she offered the list of films screened since 2007.
- **Music:** A Discussion on a night of Arts and Music with Orice Jenkins. To be discussed at the May 12th meeting.
The Steel Band will be scheduled for the Fall of 2022.
- **Mini Grants:** Com. Prescille spoke about the canceled Mini Grants programs during Covid and will look into the monies returned to the Fine and Performing Arts. Tom Scavone is leaving East Hartford Board of Education however, he is anticipated to attend the May's Meeting.

- **Poetry / Poet Laureate:** No event at this moment
- **Sounds of Summer:** Two performers from East Hartford will be performing. The chair will request the schedule from the Parks and Recreation team.

- **Art League Festival 2022:** Historical Society collaboration
The art show will be held on Saturday, July 16 from 1 – 4 PM at the Brewer House. The event will begin with a dedication of the rose garden and will end with an awards ceremony for the artists.

Library staff will take full administrative responsibility for the event, including the outdoor amusement permit. We will recruit and register artists, who will pay no admission fee. We will hire, supervise, and pay the adjudicator (TBD). We will work with Parks staff on site setup (snow fencing) and arrange for event parking. We will solicit donated prizes (for the smaller awards).

Historical Society volunteers will provide tours of the Brewer House concurrent with the art show, and will be responsible for the rose garden dedication. In the event of inclement weather, the art show will be moved indoors to the library (we will make the call mid-week) and the rose garden dedication/Brewer House tours will be rescheduled for an alternate date.

Request for Commission on Culture and Fine Arts to co-sponsorship:

- \$150 to pay an adjudicator (TBD)
- \$500 for a purchase award, to be added to the library collection in keeping with past practice (the library will pay for framing if needed)
- Volunteers welcome for the day of the event (assisting artists with check in/setup, etc.)

Motion: Susan Tukey moved to approve to pay the Adjudicator \$150 and \$500 for the purchase award.

Seconded: Joan Coates

All in Favor: Motion Carried

- **Juneteenth** – Local Performers will be selected.
- **Immigrant Program:** Program discussed on prior meetings. Library Director will be handle the invoice for the programs once received.
- **Indigenous People:** Sarah Morgan has set up a program in October, 2022
- **Native American Program:** Program in October, 2022.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

\$100.00 Judith Beeman, Clerk Fee

\$ 21.12 Judith Beeman, Miscellaneous Supplies from Staples

\$150.00 Historic Society Art Show sponsorship on 7/16/2022 for Adjudicator

\$500.00 Purchase Award sponsorship from Commission on Culture & Fine Art

Motion by: Susan Tukey moved to approve bills.

Seconded by: Joan Coates

All in Favor: Motion Carried

MEMBER'S CONCERNS: Commission members should present those ideas at the next meeting. The Chair reminded members that according to the guidelines and requirements set forth by the Commission of Culture and Fine Arts, each member could assume annual

responsibility for overseeing annual events and/or activities hosted by this Commission.
Town Hall is projected to be closed and moved to the Cultural Center for renovation

NEW BUSINESS: A bus trip, to live plays, museums, or other events within CT or around areas. The importance of this commission doing more to acknowledge the unique needs of artistic children with planned events. Commission members should brainstorm to develop more ideas for activities to be included with current and future events that accommodate their needs. The aim is more inclusion and keeping the children engaged with these activities and events.

OLD BUSINESS: Due to outstanding bills the 2021-2022 budget is not available.

ADJOURNMENT: **Motioned by:** Com. Prescille Yamamoto moved to adjourn the
meeting 8:30 pm
Seconded: Com. Susan Tukey
All in Favor: Motion carried

The next meeting of the Commission on Culture and Fine Arts will be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday, May 12th, 2022 at the East Hartford Raymond Library Reference Room, 840 Main St, East Hartford, CT.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosamond S White
Judith Beeman, Clerk