



**TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD  
Commission on Culture and Fine Arts  
EHCCC  
50 Chapman Place  
East Hartford, CT 06108  
MINUTES  
Meeting of May 10, 2018**

Prescille Yamamoto called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**I. ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Regina Barall, Terrye Blackstone, Joan Coates, Joanne Covey, Lisa Gold, Gloria Visgilio-Lupi, Judy Okeson, Maureen Rodgers, Dan Russell, Betty Russell, Florence Schroeter, Susan Tukey, and Prescille Yamamoto.

**ABSENT:** Robert Dorn, Todney Harris, and Karen Howe. Called in – Glynis McKenzie.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion by:** Maureen Rodgers moved to approve the April 12, 2018 minutes for the Commission on Culture and Fine Arts.

**Second:** Judy Okeson

**Corrections:** Under Mini Grants and Art Show – Teachers to read: Tracy Kane, Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts of East Hartford Public Schools.

**All in Favor:** Motion Carried

- III. CHAIR'S REPORT:** The Chair announced the East Hartford Public Schools Fine & Performing Arts Department cordially invites the Commission to attend the Annual All-Town Music Festivals. The All-Town String Festival will perform at East Hartford High School Gymnasium on May 22, 2018 at 7:00 pm, and the All-Town Band Festival will perform at East Hartford Middle School on May 23, 2018 at 7:00 pm. Please RSVP by May 18, 2018 at (860) 622-5971 or [johansen.rd@easthartford.org](mailto:johansen.rd@easthartford.org).

She reported that Glynis McKenzie's mother passed away. Services for Mrs. McKenzie will be June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm at: St. John's Church, 233 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT.

The Chair received an email from Glynis McKenzie reminding the Commission that Cue & Curtain Player's Inc. performance "After Life, A Ghost Story" will be held on Friday, May 11, 2018 at 8:00 pm and Saturday, May 12, 2018 at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm at the EHCCC auditorium, 50 Chapman Place, East Hartford – Tickets \$15, \$10 for students & seniors.

The Chair discussed having Richard Kehoe, Chair of the East Hartford Town Council, attend one of the Commission on Culture and Fine Arts meeting and introduce him to the Commission's community involvement.

**IV. CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Sarah Morgan, Library Director:** Sarah will be speaking with Rich Gentile, East Hartford's Assistant Corporate Counsel concerning the By-Laws.

**Mini Grants:** Prescille Yamamoto received an email from Tracy Kane, Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts East Hartford Public School requesting to meet with Betty Russell, Prescille Yamamoto and another Commissioner to discuss expanding the Mini Grants.

**Music:** Florence Schroeter wrote Paul Bisaccia a thank you note for his outstanding performance at First Congregational Church on May 6, 2018. Betty Russell commented it was one of his best programs.

**Poetry:** Maureen Rodgers mentioned that Sarah Morgan, Director of the Raymond Library was amazed with the great turnout and the advertising on Poet John Stanizzi.

Prescille Yamamoto will follow-up with Sarah Morgan, Director of the Raymond Library on John Stanizzi's poetry books.

Prescille Yamamoto discussed with the Commission selecting a Poet Laureate.

**Sounds of Summer:** No report.

**Art League Festival:** Terrye Blackstone gave a follow-up on the Spring Art Festival to be held on Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm inside the Raymond Library. There will be art, music, and refreshments. To enter an exhibit, there will be a \$20 fee. Free admission. The adjudicator is Nancy Whitcher.

**Bus Trip:** No report.

**Art Programs / Demos / Exhibits:** No report.

**Art Show – Teachers:** Maureen Rodgers met one on one with Tracy Kane, Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts East Hartford Public Schools. Tracy is on track and understands what the Commission is looking for. Maureen talked with some teachers who attended the Student Art Show and discussed the upcoming Art Show in late October / early November.

**Cue & Curtain Players:** "After Life, A Ghost Story," is opening on Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for 3 performances.

**Dance – April in Paris:** Reggie Barall commented on the great turnout she had. Susan Tukey discussed the program and felt it should have been announced it was a tribute to Herbert Barall. The Chair would like to see an evaluation of this program and what types of dance programs we want to sponsor.

**Dance - Around the World:** Reggie Barall reported that in honor of Armed Forces Day, Circle of Life, Arts for All presents a tribute to our military – current, veterans and those lost in war – with a celebration on Sunday, May 20, 2018 in their studio at the EHCC, 50 Chapman Place, East Hartford. The celebration, from one o'clock to four o'clock in the afternoon, will highlight the stories, music and dance of the Great Wars, World Wars I and II. The event is free, open to the public and co-sponsored by the Commission on Culture and Fine Arts." Prescille Yamamoto commented on the great advertisement placed in The Gazette for this program.

**Early Childhood:** No report.

**EHSYF:** Auditions for Disney's High School Musical will be held at EHCCC, 50 Chapman Place, East Hartford on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and June 1, 2018 starting at 6:00 pm. The show will be held at East Hartford Middle School on July 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**Film Series:** Prescille Yamamoto suggested to consider changes to the time the Film Series is shown.

**Library Programs:** Prescille Yamamoto mentioned that the Commission will be co-sponsoring "The Hartford Steel Symphony," a steel drum band with the Raymond Library on Saturday, July 14, 2018. Prescille is collaborating with Sarah to sponsor a Japanese Tea at a future date.

- VI. OLD BUSINESS:** Prescille Yamamoto will check into the By-Laws with the Town Council and Ordinance Committee.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Prescille Yamamoto discussed the banner and logo changes. Dan Russell will draft an updated version.

**VII. APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

\$ 80.00 Judith Beeman (Clerk's Fee)  
\$150.00 NancyWhitcher, Adjudicator (5/12/2018 Spring Art Festival)  
\$500.00 The Hartford Steel Symphony (July 14, 2018 co-sponsor with the Library  
voted and approved at the April 12, 2018 meeting)

**Motion by:** Betty Russell moved to approve the bills.

**Second:** Maureen Rodgers

**All in Favor:** Motion carried

- VIII. MEMBER'S CONCERNS:** The Chair suggested we need new ideas: community participation, and diversity to expand our programs in the 2018 – 2019 Budget year. Other suggestions: City Singers, Sweat Adenines, clay sculpture, adults performing in a town wide talent show, Ghanaian dance program. Lisa Gold commented to include more social media on the programs presented.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion by:** Joanne Covey moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm

**Second:** Dan Russell

**All in Favor:** Motion carried

The next meeting of the Commission on Culture and Fine Arts will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 14, 2018 at the East Hartford Community Cultural Center, 50 Chapman Place, East Hartford, Connecticut, in Room 12.

Respectfully submitted,

*Judith Beeman*  
Judith Beeman, Clerk