



Business Meeting Minutes
Friday- July 1, 2021, 5:00 pm
Sandler Center for the Performing Arts / Classroom 1

Commissioners Present:

- C. Cheyney Cole, Jr., Chairman
- Susan C. Grube, Vice Chairman
- Brenda J. Roberts, Treasurer
- Emma "Em" Davis, Secretary
- Michael Cloud-Butler
- Raeesah Islam
- Cynthia Romero, MD
- Olga Torres-Baker
- Hon. Winship C. Tower (Ret.)

Cultural Affairs Department Staff Present:

- Hillary L. Plate, Cultural Programs & Grants Coordinator
- Nina Goodale, Public Art & Placemaking Coordinator

Absent:

- Megin R. Kennett
- Emily S. Labows, Cultural Affairs Director

I. Welcome

Chairman C. Cheyney Cole, Jr. called the meeting to order at **5:02 pm**

II. Approval of Minutes

MOTION I.

Ms. Olga Torres-Baker made a motion to approve the June 3 Minutes. It was seconded by *Treasurer Brenda J. Roberts*. *Chairman C. Cheyney Cole, Jr.* asked all in favor to say "Aye". The motion passed to approve the June 3 minutes.

III. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Ms. Hillary Plate reported that payment for the \$300 pavers for the Champion for the Arts Event did not make the FY21 Finance deadline so they are being applied to the FY22 budget. The other \$300 is the marketing buffer for social media platforms ads.

Ms. Winship C. Tower inquired about the Project Grants noted on the report. *Ms. Plate* explained that the Project Grants are one given (1) year ahead distributed in one lump sum usually in September. The Community Cultural Arts Grants (CCAG) are given in the same fiscal year and distributed immediately

after awarded. The Leadership and Organizational Development (LOD) Grants are also given in the same fiscal year.

MOTION II.

Treasurer Brenda J. Roberts made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. It was seconded by *Ms. Olga Torres-Baker*. *Chairman C. Cheyney Cole, Jr.* asked all in favor to say "Aye". The motion passed to approve the Treasurer's Report.

IV. Old Business

- a. FY22 Nominees Voting: *Chairman C. Cheyney Cole, Jr.* instructed the Commission to cast their votes for the new officers on the blue ballot forms. The new officers' ballots would be announced under New Business later in the meeting.
- b. Elliott Jones Social Dinner: The dinner will be at Aldo's on Wednesday, August 25 at 5 pm. It will be a no-host, Dutch treat dinner. Elliott Jones will be contacted to confirm how many are in his party. Donations were collected by *Secretary Em Davis* and transferred to *Treasurer Brenda Roberts* to purchase the gift.

V. New Business

- a. Ballot announcement and Install new Officers: New officers will begin term after announcement.
 - Chair: Susan C. Grube
 - Vice Chair: Emma "Em" Davis
 - Secretary: Brenda J. Roberts
 - Treasurer: Megin R. Kennett

Chair Susan C. Grube acknowledged gratitude to *Mr. C. Cheyney Cole, Jr.* for his leadership through two (2) covid deliberations, which was followed by a round of applause from the Commission.

- b. CCAG Timetable Changes: *Ms. Plate* is proposing that the Cultural Community Arts Grant be opened sooner. This grant is limited up to \$5,000 per entity for groups that are presenting a particular type of cultural art or art is erupting from a particular ethnicity. The goal is that the grant is dedicated to programming that is multicultural. Historically, this grant is given in the same fiscal year being awarded. Being that some organizations have events in the fall and are unable to apply for this grant for the same fiscal year because they must apply BEFORE the event takes place. To remedy this, the following timetable is being proposed:

- Commission authorizes for the CCAG to open early and accept applications on August 15

- 1st round deadline due Sept 15 to vote on Oct meeting
- 2nd round deadline due Nov 15 to vote on Dec meeting
- 3rd round deadline due Feb 15, 2022 to vote during March deliberations, if any funding leftover.
- Press release would be updated to reflect these changes and announcing this early grant opening giving more organizations to apply.

MOTION III.

Vice Chair Em Davis made a motion to add the September 15 deadline and make the appropriate changes. It was seconded by *Ms. Winship C. Tower*. *Chair Susan C. Grube* asked all in favor to say "Aye". The motion passed to approve the new CCAG September 15 deadline.

Chair Susan C. Grube thanked *Ms. Plate* for all her work and recognizing the flaw in the system.

VI. Committee Assignments for FY22

Chair Susan C. Grube asked that the commission please sign up to be on at least one committee, except the Public Art Committee.

The committee chairs were announced along with a brief description of the committee:

- Advertising/Marketing Committee: Brenda J. Roberts, Committee Chair
This committee handles marketing and social media for the Commission and has quarterly meetings with Mr. Alex, Media and Communications Coordinator for Cultural Affairs Department on the yearly plan.
- Advocacy Committee: Megin R. Kennett, Committee Chair
This Committee ensures that messages from the Commission are being delivered to City Council. One of the annual responsibilities is to construct an advocacy letter around budget time. The committee finds ways to engage with City Council members to discuss, promote what the AHC is doing. There is an annual check in with Marketing.
- Champion for the Arts Committee: Cynthia Romero/Em Davis (Committee Co-Chairs)
This committee gives an annual award to a community leader who supports the arts. Due to Covid, there was no 2021 recipient. However, the 2020 recipient was Nancy Creech and the reception is to be held on Thursday, August 5 at the Sandler Center. The awards reception is planned by the Committee and goes through a nomination process, a selection process and then followed by a press release to announce the winner and date of the event.

- Cultural Equity Committee: Olga Torres-Baker, Committee Chair
Ms. *Olga Torres-Baker* is heading this new initiative to have the Commission put a Cultural Equity statement in writing.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Champion for the Arts Committee/ Committee Chair: Cynthia Romero, MD
More information and updates will be provided to the Commission as we get closer to the date of the event.
- b. Advertising & Marketing Committee/ Committee Chair: Brenda Roberts
Secretary Brenda Roberts reported that social media continues to grow with more followers on the social platforms. She asked the Commission use #VBArts to spread the love for the arts.
- c. Advocacy Committee/Committee Chair: Megin Kennett
Secretary Brenda Roberts shared on behalf of Treasurer Megin Kennett that there will be a new campaign idea to help promote the ongoing events in the area called Megin's Top 3. This will be top 3 art events to attend. The goal is to encourage participation from Council members and their families. In order for the arts groups to qualify for Megin's Top 3, they will need to submit all their event information by the 1st of the month to Mr. Alex Dye, Media and Communications Coordinator for the Cultural Affairs Department.
- d. Public Art Committee/ Committee Chair: C. Cheyney Cole, Jr.
Chairman C. Cheyney Cole, Jr. shared that he recently attended his first meeting and asked for Ms. Nina Goodale to provide the update.

Ms. Goodale reported on the following action items that the Commission needs to vote approval on. She added that these projects have all been through the vetting process for the FY20 Budget and were put on hold due to COVID. Copies of the projects were provided as handouts for the Commission to review. The Commission is to vote on the following projects and the selected artists:

- Shore Drive Underpass: Artist selected Chelsea Henery
- Utility Box Project: Artist selected was Jennifer Hand
- Brushworks: Artist selected was Asa Jackson / CAN

MOTION IV.

Vice Chair Em Davis made a motion to accept all three projects: Shore Drive Underpass, Utility Box Project and Brushworks. It was seconded by Cynthia Romero, MD. Chair Susan C. Grube asked all in favor to say "Aye". The motion passed to approve the three Public Art Committee Projects.

Ms. Goodale shared dates for upcoming the Public Sketch Crawls and VB Arts on Tour events. Mr. Alex Dye would be notified to add the commissioners to the Public Art email blast keep them aware of upcoming events.

It was also announced that Public Art Committee meetings have been moved from 10 am to 9:30 am on the last Fridays of each month.

e. Cultural Equity Committee/ Committee Chair: Olga Torres-Baker

Ms. Olga Torres-Baker reported that they have had 3 meetings to date. The committee is working on a proposal for the commitment statement that will act as a roadmap on how to adapt to cultural changes.

Chair Susan C. Grube shared that she would like to have discussion with Mr. Michael Cloud Butler, Ms. Raeesah Islam and Vice Chair Em Davis regarding Committee Liaison assignments to make distribution move even.

VIII. Commissioner Comments

- Chair Susan C. Grube: It is wonderful to have events open up.
- Vice Chair Em Davis: Thank you to Cheyney for being Chair the past two years.
- Mr. C. Cheyney Cole, Jr.: Enjoyed events at the ViBe
- Cynthia Romero, MD: Applauds the Cultural Affairs Staff for keeping everyone connected during the pandemic.
- Ms. Hillary Plate: Thank you to Cheyney for serving as Chair the past two years. Thanked Kate Pittman for all the programs.

IX. Public Comments

- Ms. Kate Pittman from the ViBe Creative District thanked the Commission for funding support and gave updates on the Parking meters and invited the Commissioner to attend the ViBe Mural Festival in 10 days on August 20-29.

X. Next Meeting – Sandler Center, Second floor

- a. Sept. 2/4:00 pm: Executive Committee Meeting (Conference Room)
- b. Sept. 2/5:00 pm: Business Meeting (Classroom 1)

XI. Adjournment

The meeting ended at **5:52 pm**

Submitted by Arts and Humanities Commission Recorder: Mari R. Coronado, Executive Assistant II