



**Business Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday- June 2, 2022, 5:00 pm**  
**Sandler Center for the Performing Arts / Classroom 1**

**Commissioners Present:**

- Susan C. Grube, Chairman
- Emma “Em” Davis, Vice Chair
- Brenda J. Roberts, Secretary
- Hon. Winship C. Tower (Ret.), Treasurer
- Michael Cloud-Butler
- C. Cheyney Cole, Jr.
- Mia K. Guile
- Raeesah Islam
- Cynthia Romero, MD
- Alicia Phillips Peoples
- Olga Torres-Baker

**Cultural Affairs Department Staff Present:**

- Emily S. Labows, Cultural Affairs Director
- Beth Hundley, Assistant Director
- Nina Goodale, Public Art & Placemaking Coordinator

**Absent:**

- Hillary L. Plate, Cultural Programs & Grants Coordinator

**I. Welcome**

*Chair Susan C. Grube* called the meeting to order at **5:00 pm.**

**II. Approval of Minutes from May 5, 2022**

**Motion I.**

*Ms. Olga Torres-Baker* made a motion to approve the May 5 Meeting Minutes. It was seconded by Treasurer Winship Tower. There was no discussion. All those in favor said “Aye”. None opposed and the motion carried to approve the May 5 meeting minutes

**III. Approval of Treasurer’s Report**

*Treasurer Winship Tower* reported that FY22 is being closed out. There are two pending LOD Grants (Tidewater Arts Outreach and Zeiders) for \$750 each. The balance of \$5066.78 has been allocated to Marketing and Advertising.

**Motion II.**

*Treasurer Winship Tower* made a motion to approve the May Treasurer’s Report. It was seconded by Vice Chair Em Davis. There was no discussion. All

those in favor said "Aye". None opposed and the motion carried to approve the May Treasurer's Report.

#### **IV. New Business**

*NOTE: C. Cheyney Cole's reporting items are placed at the top of the agenda because he was scheduled to leave the meeting early.*

##### **a. Nominating Committee Report**

*Committee Chair Cheyney Cole* reported that the committee consisted of him and *Ms. Raeesah Islam*. The following are nominated to serve for the FY22-23 term:

- Chair – Sue Grube
- Vice Chair- Brenda Roberts
- Secretary- Em Davis
- Treasurer – Winship Tower

##### **Motion III**

*Mr. C. Cheyney Cole, Jr.* made a motion to accept these nominations. It was seconded by *Cynthia Romero, MD*. All those in favor said "Aye". None opposed and the motion carried to accept the nominations for the AHC FY22-23 officers.

Voting by secret ballot will occur at the July Meeting.

##### **b. Public Art Committee Update**

*Committee Chair Cheyney Cole* reported that *Dr. Ross Hammond* provided a presentation of Unity in the Community. The one action item was in regard to Artist *Corina Wayward* being selected for the Rudy Loop mural to recommend to the Commission. Additionally, national award-winning *Mr. Michael Gettings* came aboard highly qualified as the newest member in the committee.

##### **Motion IV.**

On behalf of the Public Art Committee, *Committee Chair Cheyney Cole* made the motion to recommend Artist *Corina Wayward* for the Rudee Loop Mural. It was seconded by *Treasurer Winship Tower*. All those in favor said "Aye". None opposed and the motion carried to approve Artist *Corina Wayward* for the Rudee Loop Mural.

##### **c. Allocation of additional funding from City Council**

##### **Motion V.**

*Chair Susan C. Grube* reported that the Executive Committee recommended the proposed adjusted equal allocation provided in the agenda packet. She also reminded the Commission that when the Executive Committee makes a recommendation, a second is not needed

– only the call to vote. All those in favor said “Aye”. None opposed and the motion carried to approve the adjusted equal allocation.

d. Commission Summer Social

Vice Chair Em Davis has graciously offered her home to host a summer social for the Commission. The tentative date is the evening of Friday, August 19. It will be a potluck to include family, children and spouses. A spreadsheet will be circulated to sign up.

**V. Committee Reports**

a. Champion for the Arts Committee/ Committee Co-Chairs: Cynthia Romero, MD and Em Davis

Cynthia Romero, MD reported that the committee met at 3 pm today and reviewed the criteria and the nomination submissions. 25 submissions were received for eight nominees. The committee deliberated and unanimously selected Ms. Marynell Gordon as the 2022 Champion for the Arts winner.

**Motion VI.**

On behalf of the Champion For the Arts Committee, Co-Chair Cynthia Romero made a motion to recommend Ms. Marynell Gordon as the 2022 recipient. All said aye- none opposed, and the motion carried to accept Ms. Gordon as the 2022 recipient.

Thursday, August 4 is the tentative date for the ceremony at the Sandler Center at 5 pm/5:30 pm.

b. Advertising & Marketing Committee/ Committee Chair: Raeesah Islam

Committee Chair Raeesah Islam provided a summary of the Marketing Report and Juneteenth Events from Mr. Alex Dye. Funds allocated were used for the 5 events and notice for the Champion for the Arts Nominees.

Ms. Beth Hundley reported on the following Juneteenth Events:

- Virtual discussion with Norfolk State University
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Public Art Walk / Portraits from a Place of Grace by Richard Hollant with the Virginia African American Cultural Center
- VAACC's presentation of Unity in the Community 2-sided murals on the boardwalk displayed for 3 months in the summer
- VBGigs event at the ViBe Creative District
- Team LAMB, sponsored by Council Member Sabrina Wooten will perform on Juneteenth at the oceanfront.
- African Music Month with Teens With A Purpose will be at the Renaissance Academy

c. Advocacy Committee/Committee Chair: Brenda Roberts

There was no report.

- d. Cultural Equity Committee/ Committee Chair: Olga Torres-Baker  
Committee Chair Olga Torres- Baker reported that the committee met after the May AHC meeting and welcomed newest member Ms. Alicia P. Phillips on board. Ms. Raeesah Islam had to step down due to her schedule. June 8 will be a virtual meeting for members only. June 22 will include an invitation to stakeholders.

## VI. Commissioner Comments

- Chair Sue Grube commented on how great it was to see the results of the work we put out.
- Vice Chair Em Davis shared that Mia Guile's exhibit was phenomenal. Symphonicity performed as shrimp and champagne was served. Also, Little Theater of Virginia Beach is performing it's last sold-out show.
- Treasurer Winship Tower shared that Ballet Virginia is also putting on their last spring showcase on June 12 at 5 pm at the Sandler Center.
- Ms. Raeesah Islam shared that Utopia Feni and the ViBe have been collaborating for 1<sup>st</sup> Friday events for a concert experience. She will be live painting on-site. On Saturday, with GSA she will be hosting Brandon Market which is the class she created for GSA to help students develop their own businesses out of their art at MacArthur Mall from 11 am - 4 pm. At the same time, she will also be with Teens With A Purpose at Youth Fest painting and giving away planters to the community.
- Cynthia Romero, MD thanked the Commission for the well wishes for the Filipino monument. Mr. Michael Cloud Butler was there to take photos.
- Olga Torres-Baker attended the Cuban Afro Latin Event.

## VII. Public Comments

The following organization presented event updates and announcements:

- Sibel Galindez/ Zeiders American Dream Theater

## VIII. Next Meeting – MOCA

- a. July 7, 2022: 4 pm- Executive Committee Meeting  
Location: Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)
- b. July 7, 2022: 5 pm - Business Meeting  
Location: Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)

## IX. Adjournment

The meeting ended at **5:37 pm.**

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