

CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

November 2, 2020

Members Present: E.Chapman, Dave Coon, Lindy Gold, J. Hameen, R. Immer, A. Norcott, B. Schaffer, B. Segaloff, A. Staton, F. Vignola

Members Absent: Abby Feldman

Staff Present: Adriane Jefferson, Kim Futrell

CALL TO ORDER

6:23pm

II. MINUTES

A Staton called for a motion to approve the September – October minutes. Motioned by L. Gold. Seconded by R. Immer. Minutes unanimously passed.

DEPARTMENT REPORT

A Jefferson discussed the recent roll back from Phase 3 to Phase 2.1.

Cultural Equity plan process has begun with Hester Street and Civic Impact Lab. First meetings will begin in November. A subcommittee of community artists and activists will be established. Stipends are being considered for community members who take on lead advisory roles in the process. To date \$65,000 has been raised for the equity plan and activities.

Department is currently developing a creative entrepreneur program in partnership with Collab. The program will support young creatives of color.

Programming is being developed for civic discussions in the format of podcasts. The podcasts will feature content around arts, culture and social justice.

To date 30 organizations have taken the anti-racism pledge. Check-ins will occur during the winter months and include 2 anti-racism opportunities. In February the department in collaboration with the International Festival of Arts and Ideas will host *Unapologetically Radical*, a conference with 3 different focus tracks.

Fall Pop Up Festivals in partnership with Economic Development to support local businesses have been placed on hold due to COVID restrictions.

Department has opportunity to work with the State on an underpass mural project and highlight works of local artists.

The BLM mural in Newhallville will be revisited in the Spring.

K. Futrell discussed the Tree Lighting which will be virtual this year. Date scheduled for early December in partnership with NBC CT. K. Futrell made recommendations for the current Neighborhood Cultural Vitality Grant program recipients which would include option for project extensions, release of remaining funding. A new granting cycle would be announced in 2021.

OLD BUSINESS

Members discussed modifications to the by-laws. D. Coon will incorporate edits per discussion for the December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

None discussed.

Meeting adjourned 7:25pm.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020.