

## **CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

### **May 4, 2020**

**Members Present:** Elsie Chapman, Abby Feldman, Jessie Hameen, Reed Immer, B. Schaffer, B. Segaloff, A. Staton, Francesca Vignola.

**Members Absent:** Dave Coon, Lindy Gold

**Staff Present:** Adriane Jefferson, Kim Futrell

### **CALL TO ORDER**

6:20pm

### **II. MINUTES**

Minutes to be revisited upon a quorum.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORT**

The Creative Sector fund as issued over a \$132k funding to 326 applicants. Applicants received funding an average in amounts between \$450-\$500. Qualifications low income, working artists. Operating budget of \$500,000 or less. Majority have gone to individuals with loss of gig economy. \$50k donation received from a private foundation towards the Creative Sector Fund.

The Department has been assisting with Economic and now focusing on reopening efforts. A. Jefferson working on the community wellness. Many have struggled with emotional. In communities of color there is concern about health and safety. Seeking more equitable and civic engagement. Use arts and culture to bring various community groups together. Components of the Cultural Equity Plan can be ...different ways to engage community and how we can move forward with community influencers. What can help arts and cultural organizations/institutions to reopen in a healthy safe way. We can look at a hybrid of outdoor or online efforts. Smaller scale arts events. K. Futrell developing reopening guidance to assist New Haven organizations and artists.

The department is also Spear heading the Mask Up campaign using community influencers to promote the importance of social distancing and wearing masks.

A. Jefferson reported the department is helping to mediate the damage to New Haven economy, particularly as it relates to arts and culture. The department's normal operations have been halted to focus on COVID-19 assistance under the umbrella of Economic Development Administration (Economic Development Administration is leading the charge in the economic resiliency of the city). In partnership with the Greater New Haven Arts Council created the New Haven Creative Sector Relief fund have opened relief support for small art-based organization (\$500k or less), low income artists and creative businesses (\$500k or less). Requirements include organizations who work or live in New Haven. Have received well over 400 applications funded over 100 (with average amounts of \$500) with 89 on the

waiting list. Started with \$66,000 and are seeking additional funding to support the remaining applicants on the waiting list.

Arts and Culture is leading the charge the Together New Haven campaign. The online campaign seeks to encourage residents/businesses to buy local during this time (gift cards, online classes). Participants can forward an image, online presence and contact information.

Cultivating arts education online to support professional development and families. Tasked ourselves with a develop a database of offerings.

Plan to resume cultural equity planning once regular business resumes.

K. Futrell discussed the Neighborhood Cultural Vitality Grant Program recipients and potential need for program cancelations, extensions and other adjustments. Members discussed the arts community's need for longer term relief funding.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None discussed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None discussed.

Meeting adjourned 7:00pm

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 1, 2020.**