

## **CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**March 1, 2021**

**Members Present:** E Chapman, L Gold, J. Hameen, A Norcott, B Schaffer, B Segaloff, F Vignola

**Members Absent:** D. Coon, Abby Feldman, R. Immer, A. Staton

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

**Guest:** Salwa Abdussabur, Black Haven

### **CALL TO ORDER**

4:35pm

### **II. MINUTES**

B. Schaffer call for motion to approve. L.G. Seconded by B. Segaloff. Minutes unanimously passed

### **DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Over 1k people reached at UR conference

A. Jefferson presented the departmental work plan:

- Public Art -many projects down the pipeline- Mill River, Project More, Hill Neighborhood
  - Update images in archive. Potentially expand to a website (VA Beach archive example)
- COVID 19 Memorial- Looking at temporary installation currently. Consider COVID community 19 diaries in various neighborhoods (interchangeable murals). AJ will forward mock-ups to CAC. Led by Design Brigade and Ming Thompson
- Unapologetically Radical Conference - successful, expand the brand and move forward with Anti-racism work
- Marketing - will begin to see more newsletters coming from the office that includes a social justice magazine (updates, digital content) to assist with racial justice efforts by April
- Creative Sector Relief fund is expanding, support
- GARE (Government Alliance on Racial Equity) - The City has become a member and will onboard various departments. DAC staff is currently assisting in on boarding effort
- THRIVE New Haven - hosting mental health conversations, listening tours.
- NH Venue Facility Study - study currently underway to AC, Shubert, NHSO to discuss what is lacking in city. Looking for cultural hub that can meet demands of diverse groups,
- Cultural Districts (Audubon St) working with businesses to make sure more exterior activities occur
- Theatre on the Block in collaboration with Long Wharf Theatre in process. Staff will assist with permitting and navigation on city side
- Underpass mural project - receiving funding from the State of CT to administer
- Assistance with permitting - events & film; potential for community engagement.
- Neighborhood Cultural Vitality grants program - recently released with application deadline on April 1

Members expressed interest in how best to be a support of the department as well as commission activation. Department seeking support in marketing its programs, activities. A. Jefferson noted d willing departmental support for commission initiated ideas/projects.

#### Guest Speaker

AJ introduced Salwa Abdussabur of Black Haven.

Black Haven is a space where black voices films, art; a collective of creatives and administrators who activate art justice through movement building events, initiatives and programming. Black Haven Film Fest a annual festival (2020 was virtual, stipend); Oasis showcase is a concert series collaborate with artist in resident opportunities. Organization is seeking long term investment, funding for general operating, grants, sponsorship, awareness.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### Unapologetically Radical Conference Wrap Up

Presented by Tiffany Williams and Corinna Santos. 385 rsvp, 315 confirmed attendance; over 700 reached. The event received positive feedback. Each session had 50-80 people in attendance. Between email blasts, website. Streamed on YouTube and Facebook. Live stream had keynote, game show and closing plus advertisements for bipod businesses. Individual breakout sessions will be posted online in upcoming weeks for viewing. Live stream video currently on the International Festival of Arts and Ideas YouTube channel. A survey to the conference mailing list in next day.

The department will begin to host a series Radical Conversations to continue discussions about anti-racism.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None discussed.

Adjourned at 5:50pm.

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021.**