

Cultural Affairs Commission Meeting

January 3, 2023

Attendees: L. Gold, A Guzhnay, J. Hameen, A Norcott,

Absent: M Cajigas, P. Dunn, R. Immer, F. Vignola B. Schaffer

Staff: A. Jefferson, K. Futrell

4:36pm meeting called to order by A Jefferson

1.I. Minutes

Minutes to be revisited in February meeting.

II. Directors Report

A Jefferson recapped 2022 accomplishments shared departmental priorities for 2023. The priorities are

2022 Accomplishments:

- Launched the Cultural Equity Plan (CEP) and received local, state, and national recognition
- Launched 3-Part Cultural Equity Tour
- Coordinated the Grand Ave Bridge Re-Opening event
- Hosted the 2nd Annual Unapologetically Radical conference
- Launched the Creative Workforce Initiative program and placed 14 creatives in jobs in 2022
- Sent 14 creatives to CultureCon
- Presented a successful Holiday Tree Lighting
- Received the Freddy Fixer Community Award
- Produced the first Black Wall Street Festival
- Co-Presented a series of Entertainment Summer Events
- Offered a 3rd round of creative sector relief fund recipients – 4 artists at \$10,000 unrestricted
- Coordinated the painting of three (3) mural underpasses
- Secured a Mellon Foundation grant for \$150,000 for our partners at On Memory Covid memorial and hired their Executive Director
- Revamped the Neighborhood Cultural Vitality grant program and awarded 42 grants, 14 new candidates received awards
- Received approval for the Black Haven Pop up cultural agreement
- Conducted a countless number of cultural equity lectures and workshops including at the CT Conference of Municipalities, Yale, Americans for the arts, Community foundation
- Brought in private funding
- Pre-pandemic Consulting with arts and arts organizations
- Co-presented the Project Heal arts and health fair with the Health Department

Goals for 2023

Working in partnership with Southern University on a cultural equity, Podcast and public access television show to continue the conversation, not just about cultural equity, but also highlighting local artists, community events.

Plans to host creative workforce summit in 2024. This will be in partnership with the Connecticut office of the Arts

LG inquired about cultural equity self-assessment tools. A quarterly report was developed last year would need to be revisited and updated to cover end of year 2022.

The Department is in the final selection process of a special funded position to assist with the next round of ARPA funding.

Summit Music Conference will be held here in New Haven in partnership with the Connecticut Office of the Arts.

3rd Unapologetically Radical Conference will be held later in the year.

Working with Yale Divinity School (YDS) to present a lecture series about Women in Gospel.

LG mentioned a potential collaboration opportunity with YDS to help bring a recent play about the re-entry population to a broader community.

Series of free Undoing Racism Workshops partnering with Elm City You Rock, and the Long Wharf Theatre. Will help address the accountability piece of the Cultural Equity Plan.

Arts and mental health symposium being coordinated by Cherie Coore a consultant working with our department and the Health Department on Project Heal. The is a tentative date at the end of February at the Afro-American Cultural Center at Yale.

Continuing the Black Wall Street Festival this Summer/Fall.

Cultural infrastructure that will include

- Working with the Q-House/Daniel Stewart Plaza for an exterior art piece.
- Amistad evaluating the potential of having a more permanent presence via a center in New Haven.
- A Cultural Hub in development with the Breed Entertainment.
- Working with the Armory Committee to focus groups for an envisioning of future uses for the building

Arts and Cultural Tourism such as the HCBU Battle of the Bands at the Yale Bowl in September, performance by the Clark Sisters at Yale Divinity School.

Cultural district conversations occurring. City staff are currently considering the Dixwell Neighborhood and supporting economic development.

Working with a grant writer to assist with financial support for many of our initiatives.

The next round of ARPA funding will focus on Creative Workforce Initiative (creative workers and entrepreneurs)

- Creative Workforce Summit
- Creative Sector Relief Fund
- Citywide Arts and Culture Events and Pop-Up Markets
- Expanded Youth programming
- Expanding communal celebration and Keynote Events

III. Old Business

Neighborhood Cultural Vitality Grant Program – The revised grants program received positive feedback

IV. New Business

None discussed.

V. Public Comment

None

ADJOURNMENT

Duke Ellington Jazz Series on February 3 at 7:30pm featuring Jesse Hameen

Sister Cities International is seeking entries for its annual Youth Art Show. A. Norcott will share flyer with members to share with their networks.

Members adjourned at 5:08pm and convened an Executive Session.

NEXT MEETING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2023