

Cultural Affairs Commission Meeting

August 7, 2023

Attendees: M Cajigas, L. Gold, B. Schaffer, F. Vignola

Absent: A Guzhnay, J. Hameen, R. Immer, A Norcott

Staff: A. Jefferson, K. Futrell, T. Rich

Guest: Leigh Youngblood, Christopher Vick Gather New Haven

4:37pm meeting called to order by B. Schaffer

Joined by Gather New Haven's (GNH) Leigh Youngblood, Interim Exec Director and Christian Vick, Growing Entrepreneurs and Creative ECO-Lab Manager. GNH's programming focuses on health equity and justice through community gardens, health and youth programs. On September 30th will host a garden tour/open house day at Blake St. building (near Elm City Montessori).

I. Minutes

Minutes to be revisited in October meeting.

II. Directors Report

ARPA:

ARPA funding requires a SAMs number, which many artists and potential applicants may not qualify, The Arts Council of Greater New Haven applied and awarded funding to serve as fiscal agent for the Creative Arts Advancement Program and Citywide Arts & Culture Events and Pop-Up Markets.

Challenges with ARPA funding application and payment process were discussed which is not designed with artists or creatives in mind. A list of awards was shared. A total of 6 funding categories were released: Art Gatherings & Networking (\$20,000); Summer Event Partnership (\$100,000); Communal Holiday Celebration (\$28,000); Expanded Arts Education Programs (\$59,999); Creative Arts Advancement Program (\$169,122); Citywide Arts & Culture Events and Pop-Up Markets (\$300,000). Staff highlighted some of the projects awarded.

Grant applications were reviewed by a grants panel who were selected from applying to be a panel reviewer. Reviewers received an honorarium. It was noted for upcoming grant offerings to share calls for panelists with the commission.

Black Wall Street: The Black Wall Street Festival is scheduled for Saturday August 19 on the lower Green. There will be about 140 Black business vendors on the Green with live performances, food, community resource tables.

III. Old Business

None discussed.

IV. New Business

None discussed.

V. Public Comment

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:48pm

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 (DUE TO LABOR DAY)