

CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 8, 2021 (rescheduled)

Attendees: M. Cajigas, H. Chávez, D. Coon, P. Dunn, L. Gold, R. Immer, B. Schaffer, J. Hameen, F. Vignola

Absent: L. Gold, A. Norcott

Staff: A. Jefferson, K. Futrell

Guests: Reed Immer, F Vignola

I. Called to order 4:35pm

Introductions: Members welcomed Hope Chávez and Magaly Cajigas to the commission. And welcomed back Dave Coon, Reed Immer and Francesca Vignola.

II. Interim Officers

Proposed slate of officers: Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission for consideration: Patrick Dunn as Chair and Barbara Schaffer at Vice-Chair. B. Schaffer called for a motion to approve slate (will be revisited at the 2022 annual meeting) Motion by L. Gold to approve P. Dunn as Chair, seconded by D. Coon, motion passed with P. Dunn abstaining; Motion by L. Gold to approve Barbara Schaffer as Vice-Chair seconded by J. Hameen. Motion unanimously passed.

II. Minutes

B. Schaffer called for a motion to approve the September minutes. Motion by P. Dunn, seconded by M. Cajigas, L. Gold abstained.

III. Directors Report

Cultural Equity Plan: A. Jefferson noted the plan is the first like this in the State. Once approved by the Board of Alders, the plan will be distributed. Distribution efforts will include a digital QR code and hard copies in community centers, libraries, arts partners facilities. B. Schaffer noted partner organizations could insert QR code into playbills and websites. P. Dunn recommended also engaging state legislators. L. Gold recommends the commission also develop a formal statement.

Unapologetically Radical Conference: The UR Conference is scheduled for February 2022. Last year's event had over 1,000 attendees. Currently exploring hybrid model; anticipate virtual event again next year. Elements will be prerecorded and would like to include Cultural Affairs Commission statements or profiles. There will be one live working workshop centered on the cultural equity plan and how to utilize the plan. The commission should include a cultural equity plan statement as part of the conference.

ARP Funding– Seven grant opportunities have been released to date. Exploring reopening with potential remaining funds.

The department is working with NBC CT to amplify local artists and arts. Segments will air in November and December. Exact air dates will be shared when received.

Tree Lighting – the Tree Lighting is scheduled for Thursday, December 2 from 5:30pm -7:30pm on the Green. It will be a smaller event this year without amusements and food trucks. The Small Business Office will be hosting is Holiday Village on the Green December 2-4.

PA archives – One of our departmental interns is working with staff to bring New Haven’s offerings on the national public art archive up to date. The goal is to focus on and develop intentional marketing of the city’s collection once complete.

Underpass Murals – Staff is working with Nu-Spiral Collective to develop three (3) murals in different locations in the city. Nu-Spiral is working with community members and artists to develop and paint the artworks. The project is supported by the State of Connecticut. Paining will occur in Spring/Summer 2022;

Arts for Anti-Racism – Staff is working with Leading Changemakers to present arts for anti-racism workshops and office hours.

IV. Old Business

Bylaws: D. Coon discussed the recommended revisions to the bylaws. B. Schaffer called for a motion. D. Coon motioned to approve, seconded by J. Hameen. Motion passed unanimously

Cultural Equity Plan Vote: B. Schaffer called for a motion to approve the final draft of the Cultural Equity Plan. Motion by L. Gold, seconded by D. Coon. The plan will be forwarded to the Board of Alders for review.

V. New Business

Members discussed meeting dates for 2022 and hosting annual meeting at the February meeting. B. Schafer called for motion to approve meeting dates. Motioned by P. Dunn, seconded by D. Coon. Motion unanimously approved. B. Schaffer called for a motion to approve annual meeting date. Motioned by P. Dunn, seconded by H. Chávez. 2022 meeting dates are as follows:

Jan 4
Feb 7 - Annual meeting
Mar 7
Apr 4
May 2
June 6
July 4
August 1
Sept 5 or 6
Oct 3
Nov 1
Dec 6

Adjourned 5:26pm

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, DECEMBER 6 AT 4:30 P.M.