

## **CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

**Monday April 5, 2021**

**Attendees:** L. Gold, R. Immer, B. Schaffer, B. Segaloff, A. Staton, F. Vignola

**Guests:** Elizabeth Nearing, Eric Rey of Civic Impact Lab

**Staff:** A. Jefferson, K. Futrell

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 4:35pm

### **II. MINUTES**

To be revisited upon a quorum.

### **III. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Entrepreneurs Decoded program in partnership with Collab and the city's small business office was recently announced. The program will be presented in a master class style can accept up to 50 participants who will then be eligible to apply for seed funding. The Commission will have an opportunity to be involved in selection process. Seed funding is limited to \$1k for a maximum of 10 entrepreneurs.

The City has joined the Government Alliance on Race Equity. Cultural Affairs is assisting with the rollout to other departments and involved with the internal core equity team.

### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Cultural Equity Plan – Civic Impact Lab**

Elizabeth Nearing and Eric Rey of Civic Impact Lab (CIL) provided an update on the Cultural Equity plan process (in collaboration with Hester Street). Their goal is to create cultural equity plan for New Haven and in the process gain knowledge how our existing cultural systems work and the ways in which these systems drive equity or inequality in our city; share ideas that help artists, neighbors, and all New Haven communities to imagine a just, joyful, and equitable local culture; strengthen relations that cultivate belonging and will help local experts and change-makers do more collaborated less siloed work. CIL key values: centering knowledge equity, dismantling systematic racism, creating space to imagine, and process as product.

The timeline includes input from the public, a co-creation team (of 12 individuals), relationship building and information gathering. The final plan is scheduled to be delivered this summer should be reconsidered as times and situations change or evolve.

Two public listening sessions will be hosted in early May.

#### **Neighborhood Cultural Vitality Grant**

A total of 23 applicants have been submitted to date. Note, the number of applicants is lower due to the majority of grant awardees from 2020 requesting project extensions through December 2021.

**Other Updates**

Town Green will host Movies in the Plaza again this year beginning on April 14. Public Artwork will be arriving in May.

Adriana's Restaurant on Grand Avenue has expressed interest in a mural on the side of the building. The planning process will begin soon for future underpass mural projects in collaboration with City Plan. There are 12 potential locations as areas for enhancement.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

None discussed.

5:49pm adjourned. Motion by L. Gold, B. Segaloff seconded.

**NEXT MEETING MONDAY, MAY 3, 2021 AT 4:30PM.**