

West Hartford Commission on the Arts
Regular Meeting - Virtual
November 15 , 2021 at 6:30 PM

This Regular Meeting of the West Hartford Commission on the Arts was conducted as a virtual meeting. Members of the public may view the meeting on YouTube and www.whctv.org.

Members of the public may also provide comments on agenda items by calling 1-650-479-3208 and entering access code 2559 864 6287.

Any written materials that may be presented at the meeting will be available on the Town Clerk's website at www.westhartfordct.gov.

I. Meeting Opening

- Call to Order-the meeting was called to order at 6:35pm
- Roll Call-present: Karen Bachman, Javier Colon, Chuck Coursey, Latanya Farrell, Carol McCabe, Mirela Panaitisor, Susan Rothenberg. Nancy Hoffmann- joined the meeting at 6:50pm
-absent: Matthew Bragg
- Approval of the minutes from October 18, 2021 meeting- Karen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Sue. By unanimous vote, the minutes were approved.

II. Old Business

- Future Development of St. Brigid School- Chuck shared that the town received some funds from the state of CT to begin the work for a community center. Commissioners were invited to reach back to the arts and culture organizations and find out what people need and hope from such a center.
- Terms of Commissioners/New Commissioners- Nancy Hoffman's term with the WHAC will end in December 2021 and she chose not to renew her mandate.
- Possible Annual Music Event – Javier- no updates
- Possible Winter Festival – Mirela -no updates

III. Committee Updates

- Partnerships – WHSO – Mirela & Sue-no updates
- Communications – Carol & Chuck-no updates
- Artist Outreach – Javier & Latanya-no updates
- Town Outreach – Chuck will present in the “New Business” section
- Finance – Matt -no updates
- Events – Nancy, Karen-no updates
- West Hartford Arts & Culture Collaborative Update – Karen updated everyone about the joint effort of promoting the holiday events for all the arts and culture organizations in town. The press release Karen coordinated was also picked up by “Hartford Courant” as well as another Broadway publication.

IV. Events Update

- Holiday Stroll December 2021 – WHSO & BTC - Mirela updated everyone that WHSO's quartet already met and rehearsed a couple of times for the event and will soon meet with the BTC's dancers to work on adding the final touches. The joint event will take place during the Holiday Stroll (December 2) in the Atrium of the

Town Center (across the Town Hall). Two performances will be offered at 5:30pm and 6:30pm. Bruce Simons -the owner of “Figure 8 properties” agreed to host this joint event which we hope will become an ongoing performance for years to come.

V. New Business – Commission members may introduce items for exploration and discussion at the next Commission Meeting.

- West Hartford Town Hall Displays- Essie Labrot- West Hartford’s Town Clerk- reached out to WHAC asking for some recommendations on a policy that the town can adopt in regards to the Town Hall displays (what goes up, selection criteria, for how long the displays will stay, what should be the focus, etc.) The town is also looking for a donation policy with a clear expectation of what the town can or cannot accept.
- In behalf of the Arts & Culture Collaborative Karen shared an idea regarding flags/banners that would attach to the lamp posts and bring more visibility to the arts and culture community. Chuck will reach out to Chris Conway as well as the Town Manager to ask and find out details on how this project could be implemented.
- Proposed Pride Art Walk- Berry Walters is interested in organizing a Pride Walk, possibly on Park Road during the month of June 2022.

VI. Public Comment- no public comments

VII. Adjournment- Javier made a motion to adjourn seconded by Carol.

By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23pm

"ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING SHOULD CONTACT SUZANNE OSLANDER, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, 860-561-7580 AT LEAST TWO DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING."