

Minutes

West Hartford Commission on the Arts Regular Meeting - Virtual March 21, 2022 at 6:30 PM

I Meeting Opening

- **Call to Order-** 6:35PM
- **Roll Call-** present: Karen Bachman, Matthew Bragg, Javier Colon, Chuck Coursey, Ginny Kemp, Carol McCabe, Mirela Panaitisor, Susan Rothenberg.
-absent: Latanya Farrell
- **Approval of the minutes from January 31, 2022 and February 22, 2022 meeting-**Carol makes a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Sue. The motion passes unanimously.

II. Old Business

- **Future Development of St. Brigid School-**Chuck gave a quick update letting all members know that he has been asked to serve on the town committee that is looking into the best way of using the St. Brigid property to benefit the community
- **Possible Annual Music Event** – Javier said that planning for a summer 2023 event would be ideal. Chuck suggested that it would be worth exploring outdoor venues for this event, including a possible St. Brigid outdoor amphitheater.
- **Follow-up Issues with the Town of West Hartford**
 - ✓ *Murals on Private Property* - WH residents don't have to get a permit to put up a mural on a private property however, reaching out to immediate neighbors is encouraged
 - ✓ *Decorative Cylindrical Advertising*- The town has this proposal on its list of new marketing tools
 - ✓ *Set-Asides from New Development Applications for Arts & Culture*- Chuck explained how the set-asides will help boost town's arts & culture projects as well as affordable housing
- **Town Hall Art & Signage Display Recommendations**-the town is considering implementing new marketing strategies to support current demand of art and signage display
 - ✓ *Questions*-Sue asked if the town has already a set-aside process in place or if this is a new policy to be introduced. Chuck confirmed that this is a new process to be implemented
 - ✓ *Observations*-no observations

III. Committee Updates-no updates

- Partnerships – Mirela & Sue
- Communications – Carol & Chuck
- Artist Outreach – Javier & Latanya
- Town Outreach – Chuck
- Finance – Matt
- Events – Karen
- West Hartford Arts & Culture Collaborative – Karen
 - ✓ Celebrate Booths -
<https://www.westhartfordct.gov/town-departments/leisure-services/celebrate-west-hartford/on-profit-exhibitors>
 - ✓ Invite Juneteenth and Pride to join WHACC

IV. New Business – Ensuing the WHAC’s members tour of the town hall on February 22, Chuck sent out in advance a slideshow presentation (which was also shared during the meeting tonight) and invited the Commission members to share thoughts and ideas regarding ways to improve signage throughout the building as well as the use of available space for public art display.

- front door (main entrance) looks uninviting
- signage needs to be clear- not contradictory, each entrance marked (Main/South/West, etc)
- the directory inside the building is outdated, not easy to follow
- de-cluttering
- creating a policy regarding public art displayed at the Town Hall including criteria for accepting art donations, permanent installation items, semi-permanent items with a set period of time, and rotating displays
- electronic check-in displays in front of the busiest offices
- a cohesive art hanging/display system
- murals could break up the monotony and help diversify the art spectrum
- no art displays in the Auditorium
- history of WH related displays concentrated in one spot

V. Public Comment- No public comments

VI. Adjournment- Karen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Javier. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 P.M.