

West Hartford Commission on the Arts
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2023 at 6:30 PM

I. Meeting Opening

- Call to Order 6:35pm
- Roll Call-Karen Bachman, Chuck Coursey, Latanya Farrell, Ginny Kemp, Carol McCabe, Mirela Panaitisor, Sue Rothenberg
-absent excused: Matthew Bragg, Javier Colon

II. Public Comment

- **State Representative Kate Farrar** - Elmwood Amtrak Bridge Mural- Re. Kate Farrar updated the WHAC on the progress made on securing a \$30,000 grant for the mural. West Hartford Art League will spearhead the project and help with the artist selection and art proposal. The selection/proposal process is anticipated to begin in June in hope to have it completed by the end of this year.

III. Old Business

- Why West Hartford Arts & Culture Calendar-progress has been made, we expect the calendar to be up and running before the summer begins
- Select a new Secretary- Sue Rothenberg volunteered to take over the secretary role from Mirela
- Places & Spaces for Local Artists – “What’s Good WeHa”- Latanya updated everyone on the opportunity made with the Blue Back Square that plans many performing opportunities from May through August. Latanya was wondering if visual artists could participate during music concerts to display and sell their art. Mirela also suggested reaching out to the small business associations and inquire the restaurants/café shops/breweries if they are willing to bring in and pay local artists to perform, adding an extra vibrant note to their venue
WHAC will start 2 different list to compile the places that are already hosting live music events, and a second one with places that aren’t yet doing it
- Space Needs
 - ✓ West Hartford Symphony Orchestra and West Hartford Woman’s Choral-
There were conversations between the WHSO, WHWC and USJ yet no decisions have been made
- West Hartford Town Hall Public Display of Arts & Culture-
Chuck and Ginny met with the new Town Clerk who shared that at this point, the focus inside the Town Hall is to declutter and reorganize existing art pieces. The approach on art displays suggested by WHAC will have to be done in small steps.
- West Hartford Center Infrastructure Master Plan & West Hartford Wayfinding Signage Plan - Decorative Cylindrical Advertising (Webster Columns) & Town Promotional Signage/Unity Green Banners-no updates
- Karen brought to everyone’s attention the need to brainstorm about WHAC’s Mission Statement. Latanya will send out a Google form to centralize suggestions/ideas from all members

IV. Adjournment- Mirela made a motion to adjourn seconded by Carol- motion approved unanimously, meeting adjourned at 7:29pm