

**MINUTES  
CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION  
February 16, 2022**

The Cultural Arts Commission virtual meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. via GoToMeeting (235048673).

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kristien Foss, Chair  
Sandy Schlehr, Vice Chair  
Carole Milan  
Pat Fielder  
Peg Lucas  
Nicki Jergensen  
Brigitte Grubb

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Angela Robertson, Economic Development Coordinator  
Donna Kahoe, Town Commissioner  
Catherine Butrim, Recording Secretary

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:**

Approval of Minutes – January 19, 2022

Ms. Fielder moved and Ms. Milan seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2022 meeting as amended with the following correction:

**Page 2, under Utility Box Public Art, paragraph 4:** The word “street” should be corrected to “streets.”

The motion carried.

FY22 Budget Review

Ms. Robertson reported that the sole expenditure for this month was registration for Ms. Lucas and Ms. Robertson to attend Maryland Arts Day at the cost of \$10.00/each.

The remaining balance in **Marketing** is \$1,979.46.

The remaining balance in **Public Art** is \$2,000.00.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Utility Box Public Art

Ms. Robertson reported that she spoke with Jamie Heater, the Arts and Entertainment District Manager in Salisbury, regarding their utility box public art program. She reported that the utility boxes in Salisbury are very large and different from the utility boxes we have been considering in Bel Air.

Ms. Robertson reported that Ms. Heater stated that Ocean City painted their utility boxes and paved the way with Delmarva Power for Salisbury. Ms. Robertson reported that a connection with someone within BGE is needed to obtain permission to place artwork on the utility boxes. In the case of Salisbury, the mayor had a connection with someone at Delmarva Power. Ms. Robertson advised that Delmarva Power set up parameters for Salisbury to paint the utility boxes. For example, they were not allowed to open the utility boxes or remove any of the stickers on the boxes. Delmarva Power did not need to approve the artwork on the boxes, but if the boxes are on private property, the property owner's permission should be obtained.

Ms. Robertson advised that Salisbury sent out an RFP to choose artists to paint the utility boxes. Salisbury has approximately 30 painted utility boxes that were painted in rounds of 5-7 boxes at a time.

Ms. Robertson reported that Salisbury paid \$500.00-\$1,500.00 for the artists to paint each box, but Ms. Heater thought it would cost \$500.00 or less per box based on the size of the boxes proposed in Bel Air.

Ms. Robertson reported that the painting would be a multi-step process with sanding, rust removal, priming, painting and clear coating. Ms. Heater recommended that a maintenance plan be in place before beginning the project.

Ms. Fielder advised that the utility boxes in Bel Air would not make an attractive framework for art. Members agreed that they would not pursue art installations on the utility boxes.

Ms. Fielder advised that her sister lives near Asbury Park in New Jersey, and Asbury Park got a bit carried away with beautifying edifices and with other projects, which began to detract from the impact of the artworks. She recommended that CAC be selective about choosing public art projects.

#### Bel Air High School Public Art

Ms. Robertson reported that she did reach out to Blaise Sedney regarding the artwork on the wall at Bel Air High School (BAHS), but he has not responded. The members present agreed that CAC should not contact Bel Air High School regarding this project until Mr. Sedney responds. Ms. Kahoe advised that she can reach out to Mr. Sedney.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### Sponsorship for FY22 Harford Artists Association Events

Ms. Robertson reported that Harford Artists submitted a sponsorship application requesting \$750 for the Armory rental fee for Take a Chance on Art on March 26, 2022. The event will cost \$25.00 to attend only, \$75.00 to attend and take home art and \$100.00 per couple to attend and take home art. Lite fare will be served, and there will be live entertainment. Ms. Robertson advised that 10% of the proceeds from ticket sales will go back to Black-Eyed Suzie's to assist with community food missions. The intended audience for the event consists of Harford County residents interested in locally created art. Harford Artists is targeting collectors as well as first-time buyers who would be introduced to locally created art at a reasonable price. Ms. Robertson advised that Harford Artists will advertise the event on social media, on their website, on community bulletin boards, in *Harford's Heart*, in *Harford Magazine*, through their membership, and in person at the gallery. She advised that sponsorship credit will be given in the event program, in the gallery on the sponsor wall, on social media, on their website and live at the event.

Ms. Milan advised that CAC should be careful not to sponsor every event at a cost of \$750.00, which is a higher amount than CAC usually spends on Armory rental sponsorships.

Ms. Grubb advised that \$750.00 is a bit high, and CAC should consider a partial sponsorship up to \$500.00.

Ms. Robertson advised that CAC approved the Armory rental sponsorship in the amount of \$600.00 for Take a Chance on Art in 2020. She advised that \$600.00 has been a standard for Armory rental sponsorships.

Ms. Fielder suggested that CAC limit all future Armory rental sponsorships to \$500.00, particularly for fundraising events, to maintain control of the budget.

Ms. Kahoe advised that Harford Artists made approximately \$4,000.00 at the most recent Take a Chance on Art.

Ms. Robertson advised that the Armory rental fee for non-profits on Saturdays is \$75.00/hour.

Ms. Fielder moved to sponsor the Armory rental fee for the 2022 Take a Chance on Art event in the amount of \$600.00 and to limit future Armory rental sponsorships to \$500.00.

Ms. Robertson advised that CAC has previously sponsored the Armory rental fee for Authors and Artists, which is not a fundraiser, in the amount of \$600.00.

Ms. Fielder suggested that CAC could discuss the limit on sponsorship at the next meeting, but CAC should not be considered a source of sponsorship funding at all requested rates.

Ms. Milan advised that she is not ready to commit to a limited sponsorship amount at this time.

Ms. Fielder advised that the majority of these events are making money and that in order to be fair to all organizations, she feels sponsorships should be limited to \$500.00.

Ms. Fielder submitted an amended motion and Ms. Schlehr seconded the amended motion to sponsor the 2022 Take a Chance on Art event in the amount of \$600.00.

The motion carried.

Ms. Robertson advised that she will table discussion regarding the amount of future Armory rental sponsorships for the next CAC meeting.

**OTHER:**

Letter of Appreciation to Governor Hogan and First Lady Yumi Hogan

Ms. Fielder read the draft of the letter of appreciation to Governor Hogan and First Lady Yumi Hogan to the members.

Ms. Robertson advised that she will send the letter to Governor and Mrs. Hogan in September.

A&E District Update

Ms. Robertson reported that she offered a presentation to the Bel Air Lions Club about the A&E District and CAC's role in promoting public art.

Ms. Robertson advised that she and Ms. Lucas are attending Maryland Arts Day, which is a virtual event, on behalf of the Town of Bel Air.

Ms. Robertson advised that she did speak with the Nest on Main about resubmitting another application for a mural sponsorship, but she has not received anything yet.

Ms. Milan and Ms. Lucas advised that they will attend the Ain't Misbehavin' Big Band and Comedy Show on March 30.

Ms. Fielder suggested that CAC work with the Historical Society of Harford County on events for Harford County's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Ms. Robertson advised that she has had conversations with them, but those events will not kick off until March 2023. Ms. Robertson advised that Bel Air will be celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024.

Ms. Robertson reported that a proposal to hold a Harford County Arts Week in September 2022 is being developed. Arts Week would coincide with the Bel Air Festival for the Arts and the Plein Air Festival. She advised that CAC should discuss hosting an event, such as a concert, on Friday night during Harford County Arts Week.

Other

Ms. Robertson reported that the Economic Development Department is interviewing possible new tenants for Armory Marketplace. She reported that Ferrari Frame & Design graduated to a location on Main Street in November, and Love Evolution Studio will graduate to a new location on Bond Street at the end of this month.

Ms. Robertson reported that Natural Gatherings is closing its location at 106 N. Main Street. They hope to continue to sell products through Belle Patri in Jarrettsville and online.

Ms. Robertson reported that You Make Scents Candles has opened on Courtland Street.

Ms. Robertson reported that a four-part Family Fun Series will be held at the Bel Air Armory, which will be sponsored by the Bel Air A&E District, starting on February 26 for four (4) consecutive Saturdays from 11:00 a.m.-noon. The series is free to attend, but tickets must be reserved in advance. Each week will feature performances in circus arts, jazz, puppetry and theater.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Ms. Fielder moved and Ms. Milan seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

The motion carried.