

## Fredericksburg Arts Commission Minutes

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Dorothy Hart Community Center

408 Canal Street

Fredericksburg VA 22401

In attendance: Sophia Constantine, Kerry Devine, Jason Graham, Kim Herbert, Melanie Johnson, Kenneth Lecky, Jon McMillan, M.C. Morris

Absent: Alma Withers

- Call to Order at 6:35 pm
- Welcome/Intro Guests & Community Members in attendance
  - One guest representing Dance Matrix: Beverly Mendez
- Public Comment
  - none
- Approval of December Meeting Minutes
  - Motion to approve from Kerry Devine, seconded by Melanie Johnson, unanimous vote to approve
- Officer and Committee Reports
  - Treasurer's Report (Kenneth Lecky)
    - Two quarters of arts funding left with \$11,250 to spend in that line item
    - Public sculpture funds (\$3,050) available (possible to move to arts support, use for solar lights, upkeep of Love sculpture). Kim suggested contacting Aaron Simmons about the condition of the Love sculpture
    - Motion to approve report from Jason Graham, seconded by Kerry Devine, unanimous vote to approve
  - Funding (Kenneth Lecky)
    - Vote on 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Art Support Funding Applications
    - Kenneth Lecky explained funding committee's recommendations
    - Beverly Mendez explained more about Dance Matrix's event: theme will revolve around women's empowerment/history and hope for the future
    - Melanie Johnson asked about whether the grant funding would allow 100% of funds from ticket sales to go to Empowerhouse. Mendez: usually most ends up going to the charity, depending on overhead expenses. Average donation per event is \$800-1000 total.
    - Kerry Devine asked about student prices and if there is a disclaimer about age appropriateness of the performance. She also inquired about a weather delay date or COVID date. No delay date planned so far.
    - Kerry Devine made a motion: To grant \$2,275 to Dance Matrix, \$2,100 to Main Street, and request that Defensores reapply for funding at a future time. Specific recommendations for a future application: a better explanation regarding how the cultural component of their event works

and that Semilla Cultural apply directly for the support. Jason Graham seconded. Unanimous vote to approve motion.

- Creative community grant overview from Kenneth Lecky: must have non-profit status, arts org or arts focus, Fred address (can be PO Box). Melanie Johnson suggested incorporating a percentage-based standard for types of event/medium. Jason Graham suggested having applicants demonstrate a history of activities in Fredericksburg instead of Fred address. Kenneth Lecky questioned the need for the PO Box requirement as well. Does the org have significant enough benefit for the city? Jason Graham suggested prioritizing orgs based in city but also considering other orgs and communicating that to applicants. Tabled for further discussion.
- Administrative (Kenneth Lecky)
  - 4 potential new Commission members in the process of applying
- Venues (Kenneth Lecky)
  - No report
  - Melanie raised the idea of funds to support venues similar to event support. Will consider at future meeting.
- Public Art (Kenneth Lecky)
  - Application will go out early, perhaps increase advertising
  - Kerry Devine had the idea of publicizing via Freeling Finds article
- Publicity (Melanie Johnson)
  - Melanie Johnson contacted the city to send out a media release for art support programs. Will do a similar thing for public sculpture
  - LOVE FXBG is underway and growing. Several applications submitted so far. Kerry Devine suggested stickers for First Friday Feb 4, Melanie Johnson suggested window signage for galleries
  - Kim Herbert suggested tagging City Parks and Rec on social media to share more broadly
- Outreach (Sophia Constantine)
  - No report
- Trolley (Kenneth Lecky)
  - January First Friday was cancelled due to weather. Sip and stroll is on for February 4.
- Old Business
- New Business
  - Jon announced the upcoming exhibition at UMW Galleries, *Healing Through the Preservation of Our Histories and Our Selves*, Jan. 27- Mar. 24
  - M.C. brought up an idea for a potential display of Johnny Johnson's artwork at visitor center (work on loan from collector)
  - Earth day celebration coming up 4/23. M.C. asked if arts commission would like to get involved. Participatory art or Public art. Mural or large public artwork?
- Adjourned at 7:54 pm