

CITY OF SURPRISE
ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – APPROVED

May 2, 2022 / 6:00 PM

Community Room
16000 NORTH CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
SURPRISE, ARIZONA 85374

CALL TO ORDER:

A. Roll Call

Chair Rhiannon Miett, Vice-Chair Kathie Morgan, commission members, Susan deJong, Margaret Lieu, Jay Lickus, Jo Grant, and Christopher Whitwell.

Staff: Danielle Osborne, HSCV Administrator, Seth Dyson, HSCV Director, Hobie Wingard, Assistant City Attorney, Karina Caraveo, HSCV Administrative Specialist.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Current Events Reports

Chair Miett asked that current events reports be skipped to allow the commission more time to discuss the grant presentations on the agenda, and she welcomed Christopher Whitwell to the commission.

Vice-Chair Morgan shared with the commission that after receiving a high volume of unsolicited feedback from the participants who joined the March 9, 2022, "Why Arizona Dark Skies Matter" presentation by Matthew Goodwin, a nomination for the "Outstanding Speaker Award" was submitted to AZ Humanities, with letters of recommendation from herself and one of the program attendees.

Staff Reports

Ms. Osborne reported on the following items:

- April 2022 event participation:
 - 36 participants at the April 15th Poetry Slam at WHAM
 - 37 participants in the April 16th Public Art Bus Tour
 - 40 participants in the April 26th AZ Humanities Speaker Series

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1 – Consideration and action pertaining to the April 4, 2022 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Vice-Chair Morgan asked staff to revise paragraph five on item number five to reflect that the permanent collection will not be in contingency with the West Valley Art Council agreement renewal.

Commissioner Lieu moved to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2022 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting as amended. Commissioner Grant 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 abstain (Whitwell) Motion carried.

Item 2 – Consideration and action pertaining to the Arts & Culture Grant application funding recommendation.

Ms. Osborne provided an overview of the grant application review procedures and announced that presentations would be conducted in the order in which the applications were received. She also stated that the commission would take action to recommend prospective awardees to the Surprise City Council, and that all decisions by Council were final.

Ottawa University Theater Program Manager Lauren Frazier and Vice President of Advancement Todd Simpson made the presentation to the commission. Commissioner Whitwell recused himself from this item.

Vice-Chair Morgan asked for clarification on the “miscellaneous” line item on their proposed budget report. Ms. Frazier stated this would be used for concessions, sponsorships, and space. Commissioner Lieu asked about other leverage funding they are already receiving. Ms. Frazier responded that they are currently seeking sponsorships. Chair Miett asked how many tickets would be free for each performance. Ms. Frazier said the three proposed performances would be free to attendees, mentioning that certain venues could accommodate up to 1,300 attendees.

WHAM Executive Director Connie Whitlock made the presentation to the commission. Commissioner Lieu recused herself from this item.

Commissioner Grant asked for clarification about the location of Dreamcatcher Park. Ms. Whitlock responded that it is where Surprise Lake is located. Commissioner deJong asked for more detail about the video that was included in the proposal. Ms. Whitlock responded that the video would be about an hour long and would include the installation process and capture the participants in action. Ms. deJong asked whether the video could be excluded from the award if granted, to which Ms. Whitlock responded that it could.

West Valley Arts Council Nonprofit Consultant Jacquelyn Ahrenberg made the presentation to the commission.

Commissioner Lickus recused himself from this item.

Chair Miett pointed out an existing agreement already in place with West Valley Arts Council that includes the City Hall Exhibition and asked how this affected the proposed costs for a

coinciding exhibition for the proposed Imprint Festival. Commissioner Lieu asked if there was approval from the city to use the new Xeriscape area. Ms. Ahrenberg responded that the logistics were still being discussed. Commissioner Lieu also asked if any artists or musicians were outlined for this event. Ms. Ahrenberg responded that artists who participated in last year's event would be invited back.

Drum Arizona founder Dr. Lydia A Woods made the presentation to the commission.

Vice-Chair Morgan asked for clarification on the instructor costs listed on the proposed budget report. Dr. Woods responded that the instructor's costs would be for her to facilitate the program. Commissioner Morgan showed concern that this would not line up with the awardable budget items. Commissioner deJong suggested that the video making mentioned on the budget proposal be separated, to which Dr. Wood obliged. Vice-Chair Morgan asked about the location. Dr. Woods stated this would take place at WHAM's building where she has hosted the event before. Commissioner Lieu asked for clarification on the drum donations to children. Dr. Woods shared that the funding would be used to purchase materials for the drums to be created by volunteers and then donated to children in hospitals.

The Vista Center for the Arts Interim Executive Director Kathy Knecht and Board President Jon Cavaletto presented two programs to the commission; one for promotional tickets and the other for subsidized tickets to various performances at The Vista Center for the Arts.

Commissioner Grant recused herself from this item.

Chair Miett asked about any tracking measures that would be used for the complimentary tickets. Ms. Knecht responded that data will be used to capture the distribution. Commissioner Lieu asked about the process and selection of who will receive the complimentary tickets, to which Ms. Knecht responded that they will be issued to a diverse group, including seniors and families, to create more awareness around the venue.

After fielding a few questions from some commissioners one when to recuse themselves, Mr. Wingard explained the conflict of interest regulation, exemption, and prohibitions.

Commissioner Morgan showed concern about entities being funded for salaries under artistic fees. Ms. Osborne pointed out that the application specifically states that artistic expenses may be grant-funded, while general administrative costs could not. She advised the commission that the determination was within their purview and that they could revisit and potentially revise this aspect of the application at a future review. Mr. Dyson shared that another grant program also approved by City Council funds direct service costs, including travel and other expenses.

At 8:10 p.m. Commissioner Grant made a motion for the commission to take a brief recess. Vice-Chair Morgan 2nd. 7 yes votes. The commission recessed.

The commission reconvened at 8:50 p.m. Ms. Caraveo took a roll call vote. All members were present.

Ms. Osborne explained the rubric and presented the average scores as provided by the commissioners. Chair Miett read the scores and Commissioner deJong suggested they start by addressing those projects that the commission would not like to fund first.

Vice-Chair Morgan recommended not to fund WHAM's proposal because she felt that the proposed project is not a new concept. Commissioner Whitwell agreed based on the history of the previous identical project. Commissioner deJong recommended funding the project partially. Chair Miett stated that the same project was something the commission spent a lot of time discussing before ultimately choosing to recommend deaccession. She reminded everyone that during the discussions, there were concerns about the number of Surprise vs. non-Surprise residents that participated. The commission came to a consensus to not fund WHAM's proposal.

Commissioner Lieu expressed concern with the West Valley Arts Council's proposal because she felt it presented many uncertainties such as artists' participation during the event, the venue not yet being determined, and the budget not aligning with their proposal. The commission came to a consensus to not fund West Valley Arts Council's proposal.

The commission discussed The Vista Center for the Art's proposed projects. Ultimately they agreed that the promotional tickets would allow the community to attend various shows and reach Surprise residents of all ages. Vice-Chair Morgan suggested discussing the other two proposals before making a recommendation on The Vista's proposals.

The commission found the Drum Arizona project to be unique and agreed that it would bring something new to the community, and benefit the whole community, especially children. Commissioner Lickus said that although the exposure would be limited due to the venue, the monetary ask to run this project is low, and that he agreed with Commissioner deJong that the video element of the proposal was unnecessary. The commission came to a consensus to partially fund Drum Arizona.

After the commission revisited Ottawa's proposed project, they came to a consensus to fully fund their project, reiterating that it is a free event for the community which involved a partnership of students, Ottawa University, the Dysart Unified School District, and the City. Commissioner Whitwell reminded them that participation from the public would be encouraged.

After allocating funds based on their discussions, the commission was left with \$5,800.00. Vice-Chair Morgan recommended funding The Vista's proposal for their subsidized program because they demonstrated a need. Commissioner deJong recommended allocating the remaining funds for the West Valley Arts Council proposal. The commission maintained consensus to not fund West Valley Arts Council's proposal because of the uncertainties previously discussed. They came to a consensus to fund The Vista Center for the Art's proposal for subsidized tickets.

Commissioner Lieu moved to recommend grant funding of \$10,000.00 to Ottawa University. Commissioner deJong 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 abstain (Whitwell). Motion carried.

Commissioner Grant moved to recommend grant funding of \$4,200.00 to Drum Arizona. Commissioner Lickus 2nd. 7 Yes votes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Whitwell moved to recommend grant funding of \$10,000.00 to The Vista Center for the Art's promotional tickets program. Vice-Chair Morgan 2nd. 5 Yes votes. 2 abstain (Grant, Lickus). Motion carried.

Commissioner Lieu moved to recommend grant funding of \$5,800.00 to The Vista Center for the Art's subsidized tickets program. Commissioner deJong 2nd. 5 Yes votes. 2 abstain (Grant, Lickus). Motion carried.

Other Business and Future Agenda Items:

West Valley Arts Council Joe Tyler Exhibit sponsorship
FY23 meeting calendar

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn: 8:56 p.m. – Commissioner Grant. Commissioner Lickus 2nd. 7 Yes votes. Motion carried.



Rhiannon Miett, Chair

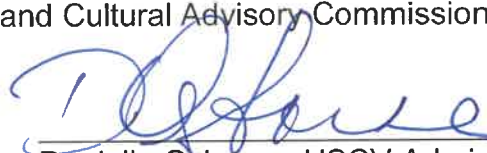
ATTEST:



Karina Caraveo, Administrative Specialist

CERTIFICATION:

I, Danielle Osborne, Human Service & Community Vitality Administrator for the City of Surprise Human Service & Community Vitality Department, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission meeting held on May 2, 2022.



Danielle Osborne, HSCV Administrator

