

CITY OF SURPRISE
ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – Approved

February 6, 2023 / 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, Jo Grant, Christopher Whitwell, and Jay Lickus.

Staff: Danielle Osborne – HSCV Administrator and Kelsey Lamphier – Arts Culture & Library Director

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Current Events Reports

Commissioner Miett moved this section to the end of the agenda for efficiency.

D. Staff Reports

Ms. Osborne reported on the following items:

- “Bloom Where You’re Planted” was installed last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Everything went smoothly and it passed inspection. Staff are doing a final walkthrough in the coming weeks to closeout the project. The dedication ceremony is scheduled for Friday, February 17th at 2:00 p.m. at the art site, and a press release went out inviting the public to the event. Speakers will include Mayor Hall, Councilmember Hastings, and artist Brad Oldham. Direct invitations will be going out to our local arts organizations and their member rosters to encourage a good turnout. A small memento will be provided to a limited number of attendees. Please feel free to spread the word about this event!
- Black History Month exhibit tours over at Arts HQ have begun, and we have four schools total lined up to participate throughout February and March.
- The February 9th Public Art Bus Tour was cancelled due to a lack of availability of charter buses. All bus companies are booked out due to the Super Bowl.
- The State of the City event is coming up on March 30th from 6-8 p.m. in the City Hall courtyard, and the commission will get a table. Please save the date. We will discuss on next month’s agenda.
- Attendance numbers:
 - Local Gallery Tour on January 19th: 8
 - Tour of Joe Tyler’s Home & Studio on January 21st: 25
 - AZ Speaks presentation on January 24th: 50

- Lunchtime Theater on January 26th: 78

Ms. Lamphier provided an update on the Arts & Culture Manager recruitment.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Ms. Osborne read an email from Connie Whitlock, Executive Director of WHAM Arts Association, regarding acknowledgement of the Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission at the Poetry Slam events into the record.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1 – Consideration and action pertaining to the minutes of the December 5, 2022 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting.

Commissioner Grant moved to approve the December 5, 2022 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes with amendments. Commissioner Lickus 2nd. 7 Yes votes. Motion carried.

Item 2 – Update and discussion pertaining to the Arts & Culture Grant Program FY23 cycle.

Ms. Osborne provided the following update:

- OUAZ: three days, four performances, over 15,000 tickets requested. Majority of participants were from Surprise.
- The Vista Complimentary tickets: funding has been used to purchase tickets for drawing winner recipients, in-kind exchanges, and promotional marketing. \$4,850.00 of the \$10,000.00 award has been disbursed. 122 tickets have been issued. A breakdown report of residents vs. non-residents will be supplied in a future report.
- The Vista Promotional Tickets: No funds disbursed at the time of report, however funds will be used towards the Doo Wop Project on April 29th.
- Drum AZ: A Native American Drum Circle was held at WVAC. 50 participants were accepted, and a waitlist was started. 42 attendees total, 37 from Surprise.

Commissioner Lickus raised a question about the number of tickets requested for the OUAZ show and whether it was a typo since The Vista only holds about 1,300 audience members. Ms. Osborne said she would clarify with OUAZ.

Item 3 – Discussion pertaining to the FY2024 Arts & Culture Grant Program.

Ms. Osborne reviewed the application and asked a few questions to make the application process more clear to applicants. She asked for clarification on whether the grants should be limited to Surprise-based organizations, or if it could be open to all organizations as long as they host their event or program in Surprise. She said that currently, it is open to any non-profit organization. The commission agreed to leave it open to all organizations. She then asked if there was a preference between the awarded events being paid vs. ticketed, to which the commission preferred to leave it open and they would evaluate on a case-by-case basis.

Ms. Osborne also asked to create more clarity about the “areas of focus” within the evaluation criteria since they are only referred to as part of the Master Plan, but not clearly defined within it. Some discussion ensued regarding how to properly convey what was being evaluated to the applicants, with the commission ultimately deciding to list what the areas are – Partnerships, Events & Activities, Outreach & Advocacy, Public Art, and Leverage Funding Mechanisms.

The commission then discussed including a disclaimer about evaluation scores and how they are not necessarily reflective of the amount of funding that awardees may receive.

Conversation surrounding the methodology and process arose with the commission ultimately settling on language within the application that states: “The scores can be modified based on your presentation;” “The highest score does not necessarily reflect the final ranking;” and “The final decision is at total discretion of the commission.”

Vice-Chair Morgan brought up a concern about the grantees’ final presentations and the information that is reported out to the commission, asking that they be directed to include measurable results in addition to any other allegorical details they want to share. The commission agreed that quantitative results should be shared, and asked Ms. Osborne to modify criteria 8 within the guidelines accordingly.

Item 4 – Discussion pertaining to the Dysart Festival of the Arts.

Ms. Osborne reported out that Ground Floor Artists has graciously offered to do a complimentary interactive arts demonstration in the Mobile Museum tent at the event. Half of the space (10x10) will be dedicated to their demonstration. In addition, Ground Floor Artists will be presenting an in-depth overview of their organization and offerings at next month’s meeting. Ms. Osborne invited Director Jessica Pierce to discuss her plans for the event in greater detail and answer any questions.

Ms. Pierce asked the commission if they were comfortable with an interactive display to include quick hits, mini sessions, make and takes, and hands-on experiences, to which the commission agreed. She said that she would work with Ms. Osborne to coordinate the display.

The commission discussed coverage at the event to ensure no gaps in service.

Other Business and Future Agenda Items:

- Top Knot protection
- Grant application - final approval
- Art Week

Current Events and Reports

Commissioner Lieu shared that another Poetry Slam was coming up on 2/17, and the last time about 40 people were in attendance, and they are starting to get regulars again. She attended the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Celebration & Service event which she thought was fabulous, and attended several exhibit openings including Black History Month at Arts HQ

Commissioner deJong attended the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Celebration & Service event and also helped plan it, and she handed out arts awards at the event. She led various

tours, attended Lunchtime Theater which did well, went to both WHAM & Ground Floor Artist shows, and participated in a meeting regarding art week.

Vice-Chair Morgan attended the City Council meeting for the Stadium art approval, was at the AZ Speaks event on 1/24, and shared that the March 1st AZ Speaks engagement is coming up and encouraged everyone to attend. She shared that the speaker, Natalie J. Stewart-Smith, has presented before, but this event would be extra special because the flyover at the Super Bowl will be comprised of multiple pilots, half of them women.

Chair Mielt helped present the Stadium art concept to the City Council, and thanked Commissioners Lieu, Whitwell, and Vice-Chair Morgan for showing up to support the presentation. She shared that Commissioner Lieu has agreed to speak at the “Bloom Where You’re Planted” dedication ceremony, and she reported that she met with City Manager and Mayor to discuss the commission.

Commissioner Grant attended the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Celebration & Service.

Commissioner Whitwell attended the City Council meeting for the Stadium art proposal, visited the “Bloom Where You’re Planted” piece, and shared that the city is giving a bell to Ottawa University. He also reported that he would be attending the Friends of the Surprise Library’s bookmark contest judging on Wednesday night and reminded the commission to join him.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn 7:00 p.m. – Commissioner deJong. Commissioner Grant 2nd. 7 Yes votes. Motion carried.

	 _____ Rhiannon Mielt, Chair
ATTEST:	 _____ Danielle Osborne, HSCV Administrator

CERTIFICATION:

I, Danielle Osborne, HSCV 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 February 6, 2023.

	 _____ Danielle Osborne, HSCV Administrator
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