

MINUTES

City of Aurora

CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC)

Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Aurora Central Library, 2nd Floor Board Room

14949 E. Alameda Parkway

Aurora, CO 80012

Commissioners Present	Dionne Williams (Chair); Auset Maryam Ali, Kimberly Bauer, Amy Cheslin, Maureen Maycheco; Mary Mollicone; Diane Rothers, Sethe Tucker
Commissioners Absent	donnie l. betts
Staff	Gary Margolis
Guests	

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:30 p.m.

Action Item: Approve Agenda for February 13, 2019

A motion was made by Mary Mollicone and seconded by Sethe Tucker to approve the agenda for the February 13, 2019 meeting as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Volunteer Hours

Forms were collected.

Action Item: Approve Minutes for January 30, 2019

A motion was made by Diane Rothers and seconded by Kimberly Bauer to approve the minutes for the January 30, 2019 meeting as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: Consideration of the creation of a “grants committee” to recommend improvements to the grants processes.

- The commissioners discussed the pros and cons of a grants committee. Some thought that asking a committee of 3-5 commissioners to develop and bring recommendations to the full commission for final revisions and approval made sense. At least one commissioner felt that given the groundbreaking nature of this year’s changes to the processes, this particular topic was too important to delegate to a smaller group and that all of the commissioners needed to have a voice in the process.
- The commissioners also discussed the possibility of dividing the responsibilities among two or more committees. For example, one committee could focus on the revisions to the application and guidelines while a second committee might focus on developing and offering technical assistance workshops.

- A third suggestion for a committee was one that would focus on advocacy, especially how to advocate for additional funds that would allow the commission to serve the entire city with grants. This prompted a discussion of the city’s budget process and how boards and commissions report to the city council.

A motion was made by Sethe Tucker and seconded by Maureen Maycheco to plan and implement a full-day retreat (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.) on May 11, 2019 to finalize the 2020 application and guidelines and discuss the above issues. This retreat will be in addition to the regular monthly meeting scheduled for May 8. Commissioner Ali said she would check on the availability of the Dayton Street Opportunity Center.

Action Item: Re-consideration of 2019 grant amounts for General Operating Support, Northwest Aurora Arts Grant Program

Staff member Margolis reported on an anomaly in the funding methodology for the General Operating Support grants that adversely affected one of the applicants. Specifically, in the determination of tiers, the methodology used the largest reported annual income in each application whether it was a completed year or a projected year. For one applicant, however, this was not done negatively impacting the applicant’s award. Margolis recommended that the anomaly be corrected which resulted in new award amounts.

A motion was made by Mary Mollicone and seconded by Sethe Tucker to approve the revised awards. The motion passed with six commissioners in favor and two commissioners abstaining due to conflicts of interest.

New Activities for the Commission

Chair Dionne Williams led a discussion of other activities or goals the commission would like to pursue. Ideas were written on a white board and then each commissioner was allowed to vote for two of the suggestions. The results follow:

Suggestion	# of Votes
Broaden our impact	6
Convening / Network Building	5
Implement a Speakers & Artists Series	4
Concerts / Events on Colfax Avenue	3
Wine & Art Walking Tour	1
Advocacy	
Technical Assistance	
Listening Tour	
Grantee Showcase	

Reports

Art in Public Places (Amy Cheslin)

- On January 5, the commission held a productive annual retreat to prioritize activities for the coming year.
- The commission's recent 5 year Master Plan has been published and is being widely promoted, including with the city water bill, the "Aurora Creates" publication, at Ward meetings and through other vehicles.
- On January 23, commission members and a sizeable audience attended the dedication of Fire Station #16 and the public art piece, "Renewal," by Christopher Weed,
- Recent discussions with the On Havana Street BID underscored the commitment of the BID to continue the "Art 2C" installations along Havana Street. The 2019/20 call for artists is active and posted on CaFÉ™ (the foremost call for entries submission and online jurying solution by and for artists specifically for the arts and the public art field).
- A guided public tour of half the art along the RTD R-line light rail is being developed for late spring/early summer.
- The commission will invite proposals for a mural at the Aurora Fox Arts Center that will reflect its history.
- This past week, artist David Garcia installed his extensive mural on the façade of the People's Building.
- Installation of the integrated public art at the new Central Recreation Center (opening this May) has begun.
- "Unglued," "I Have a Dream," and "Spectral Slide" have all been recently removed to undergo repairs and repainting.
- The commission noted that it greatly appreciated the support and excellent working relationship it has enjoyed with Patti Bateman (retiring director of the Library & Cultural Services Department), and it looks forward to establishing an equally successful engagement with the new director when that transition takes place.

Aurora Fox Arts Center

- Staff noted that the Aurora Fox Arts Center Board of Directors approved the appointment of board member, Douglas Meares, as its representative to the Cultural Affairs Commission. That nomination is working its way through the city council's approval process.
- Multiple commissioners noted that the Fox's Annual Gala is set for April 27 and will feature a performance by Broadway leading lady, Betsy Wolfe (*Cordelia in Falsettos*, Jenna Hunterson in *Waitress* and Rosa Bud in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*).

Aurora Chamber of Commerce / Business Committee for the Arts (Diane Rothers)

- The February 3 meeting was held at the Aurora Fox Arts Center. Executive Producer, Helen Murray gave a tour of the historic building and talked about her plans for programming.

Comments from commissioners

- Commissioner Rothers provided an update on the two free family-friendly and bilingual concerts that the Aurora Symphony Orchestra gave on February 10 at Stanley Marketplace. Both concerts were attended by more than 500 people.

Public Comment – There was none.

Adjournment

There being no other business called for by the commissioners, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.



Dionne Williams, Chair



Gary Margolis, Staff

The purpose of the Cultural Affairs Commission is to provide ongoing systematic planning for the development of Cultural Arts activities within the city of Aurora; to implement the Cultural Arts Plan; to assist the many community cultural groups by providing needed overall resources; to stimulate community involvement; and to enhance current cultural activities.