

# MINUTES

## City of Aurora

### CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC)

Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Aurora Central Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

14949 E. Alameda Parkway

Aurora, CO 80012

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

#### Artspace Update – Kerri Drumm, Purpose Aligned Consulting

Kerri Drumm reported that last year, the Aurora Cultural Arts District (ACAD) obtained a grant from the Gates Family Foundation to undertake an Artspace Market Survey. ACAD is excited to be working cooperatively with the City of Aurora to accomplish this work. The survey asks the metro area's creative community what they want in affordable live/work housing, studio and other creative work spaces.

This is the second phase of an effort started in 2017 related to artist live/work space in Aurora. Artspace visited the city that year and conducted a preliminary feasibility study involving tours, focus groups and meetings with the community to gather information about the need for and interest in an artist live/work project.

Drumm reported that there was a Launch Party is happening April 30, at The People's Building. Drumm said that the survey will close on June 11, and they needed at least 500 responses. She handed out information which include the survey's web address and asked the commissioners to let folks know about it.

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:00 p.m.

#### Action Item: Consideration of Agenda for May 8, 2019

A motion was made by Mary Mollicone and seconded by Douglas Meares to approve the Agenda for May 8, 2019 as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Volunteer Hours Forms

Volunteer hours forms were collected.

**Action Item: Consideration of Minutes for April 17, 2019**

A motion was made by Maureen Maycheco and seconded by Ree Varcoe to approve the April 17, 2019 Minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Item: Consideration of the Agenda for the Retreat**

A motion was made by Kimberly Bauer and seconded by Sethe Tucker to approve the agenda as submitted.

The following points were discussed:

- Does the commission want to include Key Performance Indicators (KPI) as part of the application?
- Has staff been notified of any changes to the goals by Development Services? (The answer was, "No.")
- It was suggested that commissioners should come to the retreat prepared with three things they thought went well with the 2018 process and three things that could be improved.
- The possibility of beginning to plan a second retreat in the fall to discuss goals other than the grant program.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Item: Consideration of a new date for the retreat**

Staff liaison, Gary Margolis, reported that only four commissioners had confirmed their ability to attend the retreat on May 11.

A motion was made by Ree Varcoe and seconded by Kimberly Bauer to change the date of the retreat to June 2, 2019.

The following points were discussed:

- Changing the date at this late date was a bad precedent to set. The folks who committed to the May 11 date months ago gave up other opportunities in order to keep their commitment.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Item: Consideration of a Resolution in support of Commissioner Ali and her family**

Chair Williams read a resolution she had prepared and asked for unanimous consent for its adoption. There be no objections, the Resolution was adopted by unanimous consent and is hereby attached to these Minutes.

**Reports from the Officers**

Secretary – Kimberly Bauer informed the commissioners that she would like to set a date to provide an "orientation" for the new commissioners.

**Action Item: Consideration of an amendment to the June 2 Retreat Agenda to provide for an orientation for all members.**

A motion was made by Douglas Meares and seconded by Sethe Tucker to amend the June 2 Retreat Agenda to provide for an orientation for all members.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Reports**

**A. Aurora Fox Arts Center (Douglas Meares)**

Meares reported that the Aurora Fox Gala was a roaring success. He didn't have a amount raised from the silent auction but thought he would have that by the next meeting. Meares also announced the plays that would be presented during Season 35:

**MISS YOU LIKE HELL**

Mainstage – September 20 – October 13, 2019

A musical with book and lyrics by Quiara Alegría Hudes, and music and lyrics by Erin McKeown. The show follows a troubled teenage girl who embarks on a cross-country road trip with her estranged mother, who is an undocumented immigrant from Mexico.

**SECOND CITY'S, TWIST YOUR DICKENS**

Mainstage – November 29 – December 22, 2019

A madcap send-up of the holiday classic by Peter Gwinn and Bobby Mort.

**THE SQUIRRELS**

Studio – January 17 – February 9, 2020

When a wily outsider squirrel gets in the mix of the rich Gray Squirrels and the outcast Fox Squirrels, he ignites an epic animal kingdom soap opera teeming with rebel armies, conspiracy and divided family loyalties in this play by Robert Askins.

**SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE and other songs**

Mainstage – February 21 – March 15, 2020

Based on the true relationship of Albert Einstein and internationally-renowned classical singer Marian Anderson, this play by Marc Acito explores what happens when Anderson, scheduled to give a concert at Princeton University is denied a hotel room because she is black and accepts an invitation to stay with the famed professor.

**FOR PETER PAN ON HER 70TH BIRTHDAY**

Studio- March 13- April 5, 2020

Playing Peter Pan at her hometown children's theater is one of Ann's fondest, most formative memories. Now, 50 years later, Neverland calls again, casting her and her siblings back to this faraway dreamscape where the refusal to grow up confronts the inevitability of growing old in this play by Sara Ruhl.

**FREAKY FRIDAY THE MUSICAL**

Mainstage – April 17 – May 10, 2020

When an overworked mother and her teenage daughter magically swap bodies, they have just one day to put things right again before mom's big wedding in this musical by Bridget Carpenter, Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey.

**B. Business Committee for the Arts**

Diane Rothers reported that the BCA earlier that day had toured the central Recreation Center and were extremely impressed by the art. Their next meeting will be at Vintage Theatre.

**C. Art in Public Places (Amy Cheslin)**

Amy Cheslin talked about the integrated art at the Central recreation Center and a new mural being planned for Vintage Theater.

**D. Comments from commissioners**

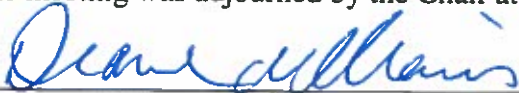
Rothers reported that she had a conversation with Michelle Wolfe, the new Deputy City Manager over the Library and Cultural Services Department at the State of the City during which Wolfe expressed her opinion that new libraries and a cultural arts center are important.

Rothers also reported that the final concert for the Aurora Symphony Orchestra's current season was held on May 18 and 19 at the Aurora Fox Arts Center and was a big success.

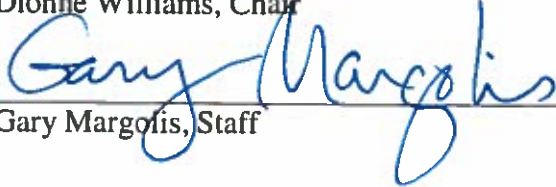
Auset Maryam Ali talked about the summer programming for visons Performing Arts.

Kimberly Bauer talked about the work she is doing organizing a fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 7:55 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.*



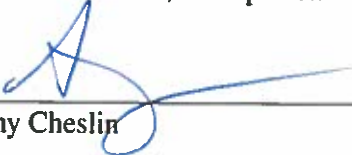
Cultural Services Division  
14949 E Alameda Parkway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Aurora, CO 80012

We, the undersigned members of the Aurora Cultural Affairs Commission (CAC), consent and agree that the following resolution was made on May 8, 2019:

In accordance with the bylaws of the Commission, by unanimous consent, the Commission members resolve to make public our statement of support for Commissioner Auset Maryam Ali and her family. On February 19, 2019, Commissioner Ali's son was the victim of a violent crime which put his life and the life of his family at risk. Thankfully, her son is recovering from his injuries. As stated in the bylaws, one purpose of the CAC is to assist the many community cultural groups by providing needed overall resources, stimulate community involvement, and enhance current activities. Commissioner Ali is the Vice Chairperson of the Cultural Affairs Commission, a recognized leader in the Aurora community, an artist and a mother, and we deeply value her contributions to our community. CAC is using this resolution to express our unwavering support to her and also voice our dismay that this event happened to her family. We are all impacted whenever one member of the community experiences trauma and violence. Aurora is an inclusive city that embraces all its citizens, and the CAC is proud to be a part of it. We wish for a speedy recovery for Commissioner Ali's son and her entire family and hope that our community can one day eliminate this kind of violence.

  
Dionne Williams, Chairperson

  
Kimberly Bauer, Secretary

  
Amy Cheslin

  
Mary Mollicone


  
Diane Rothers

  
Sethe Tucker

  
Maureen Maycheco

  
donnie l. betts

  
Ree Varcoe

  
Douglas Meares