

Washington Arts Council

Minutes

March 9, 2023- 7:00pm

Subject to approval of the Arts Council

Members Present:

Abdo Ballester, Karen Silk, Kent Burnham, Simon Holt, Tracy Liz Miller, Victoria Rowan

Staff: Michelle Gorra- Economic and Community Development Coordinator

1. **Call to order** 7:08 (technical difficulties with the zoom link)
2. **Motion** to approve the minutes of Feb. 9, 2023. Made by Simon, seconded by Abdo. All in favor.
3. Old Business
 - a. Cultural District discussion- Establishing a Cultural District would help us define ourselves and identify cultural assets. Must be a walkable area. There is information online to guide through the process as well the Northwest Arts Council. Victoria and Karen volunteered to start some of the background work.
Motion for the Arts Council move forward with establishing a Cultural District, made by Victoria, seconded by Abdo- all in favor.
 - b. Resolving best practices for Arts Council to help coordinate arts event planning and collect info in a Google Doc (to be circulated) for the mid-May Arts Calendar Postcard
 - Discussed having a google calendar that is shared with only the organizations for planning purposes. This can include future planning notes. The hope is to help facilitate communication between organizations.
 - c. Resolve best practices for Arts Council outreach / communication with the greater arts community (how we invite them to participate in our meetings).
 - Discussed inviting organizations to come in person to communicate with the Arts Council. Also thought it could be a time for people to connect. The council will start an email list of the greater Washington arts and culture community.
 - Discussed having a quarterly meeting for planning purposes of upcoming events.
4. New Business
 - a. Resolve immediate goals for Arts Council for this summer-
 - Discussed trying to have more happening in the "off" winter or fall seasons. Would we be able to create enough critical mass to have another mailer like the summer postcard? Feel that the town looks so beautiful with the winter lights it would be nice to bring people to town in Jan or Feb. "Cabin Fever Reliever" Arts walk, restaurants open, hikes at Steep Rock. Also, discussed whether the Arts Council needs to fundraise to have money for more publications or to support

artists? Can we participate in Give Local? Abdo asked about having a T-shirt to sell. Discussed having a contest for an Arts Council Logo. Also, discussed having an artist in residence program.

- b. Report on meeting with ASAP Director to share her perspective on arts offerings for children. - Michelle and Victoria met with JoAnne Torti. She changed some of their programming model based on a loss of grant funding. She also said there are a lot of programs out there in the greater area and some programs were not well enough attended. We thought that we could help publicize what is available and help to identify gaps in programming.
- c. Preview some long-term Arts Council goals that have emerged in discussions with fellow members (which will also be circulated via Google Doc). Discussed the possibility of applying for capacity building grants. Maybe we could touch base with Steph at The NW Arts Council for recommendations. Simon will also touch base Julie at the NW Community Foundation for ideas.

5. Public Comment- none

6. Tracy moved to adjourn at 8:12, all in favor.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VhEB0g8f5W8-> Pt 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmsJwJQYJ2E&t=162s> Pt. 2