

Alexandria Commission for the Arts - Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Lee Center Conference Room #4, 2nd Floor

1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, VA 22314

MEETING NOTES

- I. Call to Order. With a quorum present, Chair Brian Kelley began the meeting at 7:01 pm. See [Attachment 1](#) for the revised meeting agenda.
- II. Roll Call. See [Attachment 2](#) for the Attendance Sign-In Sheet. Commissioner Roger Yoerges resigned from the Arts Commission prior to the meeting.
- III. Public Comment. No public comment.
- IV. Approval of Minutes/Record. No regular monthly meetings were held in July and August.
 - a. June 21, 2022, Regular Meeting. The minutes were approved without edits.
- V. Chair Report. Brian Kelley gave the Chair Report. See [Attachment 3](#).
- VI. Guest Speaker – Pat Miller. Past Arts Commission Chair Pat Miller spoke.
 - a. On the topic of Art on the Avenue. Started in 1995, this annual art event is expected to draw 50,000 visitors to the Del Ray neighborhood on October 1.
- VII. Committee, Liaison, and Task Force Updates
 - a. Grants Committee. No report.
 - b. ARTReach Committee. See Item XI below.
 - c. Waterfront Commission Liaison. Marcee Craighill gave an overview of the Waterfront Commission’s meeting.
 - d. Alexandria Arts Alliance Liaison. Gayle Converse gave an overview of the Alexandria Arts Alliance Liaison’s September meeting.
 - e. Annual Work Plan Task Force Update. No update.
 - f. Council Coffee with Kirk McPike. Gayle Converse and Sheryl Sims shared highlights from their July 7 meeting with Councilman Kirk McPike.
 - g. Torpedo Factory Task Force Update. Judy Heiser shared highlights of the Torpedo Factory Task Force’s first meeting.
- VIII. Annual Report
 - a. Approval of Annual Report. See [Attachment 4](#) for a draft of the Commission for the Arts Annual Report. Ryan Belmore motioned, seconded by Sheryl Sims, that the Annual Report be approved with final copy edits. See [Attachment 5](#). The motion passed 14-0-0.
- IX. Site See 2023 Public Art at Waterfront Park
 - a. Review and Vote on Nina Cooke-John Proposal. See [Attachment 6](#) for the Office

of the Arts memo to the Art Commission. The Site See Public Art Task Force recommended approval of Nina Cooke-John's concept proposal for Site See 2023. A motion was made by Ryan Belmore and seconded by Allison Heck to approve the concept design. See [Attachment 7](#). The motion passed 13-0-1.

- X. "Block 32/Eisenhower Avenue" Public Art Task Force
 - a. Appoint two Commissioners to Task Force. A motion was made by Allison Heck and seconded by Judy Heiser to appoint Dawn Rogala and Tiffany Williams to the Block 32/Eisenhower Avenue Public Art Task Force. See [Attachment 8](#). The motion passed 14-0-0.
- XI. ARTReach Committee Reorganization
 - a. Discussion and Possible Approval of a Proposed Scenario. Brian Kelley led the review of three scenarios for change to ARTReach Committee. See [Attachment 9](#). A motion was made by Ryan Belmore seconded by Paul Painter to approve Scenario 2 to reorganize the ARTReach Committee. See [Attachment 10](#). The motion passed 14-0-0.
- XII. Old Town North Task Force
 - a. Approve Artist Concept. See [Attachment 11](#) for the Office of the Arts memo to the Arts Commission. The Old Town North Public Art Task Force recommended the approval of six proposed concept designs for twenty-four stormwater covers for Old Town North. A motion was made by David Pritzker and seconded by Paul Painter to approve the six proposed designs, with a recommendation that the phrase "Old Town North" appear on the covers. See [Attachment 12](#). The motion passed 13-0-1.
- XIII. New Business
- XIV. Good of the Order and Announcements
- XV. Adjournment. Brian Kelley ended the meeting at 9:31 pm.

Alexandria Commission for the Arts - Regular Meeting *Revised

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

7:00 – 9:30 pm

Lee Center

Activity Room, 1st Floor

1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, VA 22314

- I. Call to Order (7:00 pm)
- II. Roll Call (5', 7:00 – 7:05 pm)
- III. Public Comment (5', 7:05 – 7:10 pm)
- IV. Approval of Minutes/Record (5', 7:10 – 7:15 pm)
 - a. June 21, 2022 Regular Meeting
- V. Chair Report (5', 7:15 – 7:20 pm)
- VI. Guest Speaker – Pat Miller (20', 7:20 – 7:40 pm)
 - a. On the topic of Art on the Avenue (Del Ray, October 1)
- VII. Committee, Liaison, and Task Force Updates (30', 7:40 – 8:10 pm)
 - a. Grants Committee (5', 7:40 – 7:45 pm)
 - b. ARTReach Committee – update on Arts Directory (5', 7:45 – 7:50 pm)
 - c. Waterfront Commission Liaison (5', 7:50 – 7:55 pm)
 - d. Alexandria Arts Alliance Liaison – Gayle Converse (5', 7:55 – 8:00 pm)
 - e. Annual Work Plan Task Force Update (5', 8:00 – 8:05 pm)
 - f. Council Coffee with Kirk McPike – Gayle Converse and Sheryl Sims (5', 8:05 – 8:10 pm)
 - g. **Torpedo Factory Task Force Update – Judy Heiser**
- VIII. Annual Report (10', 8:10 – 8:20 pm)
 - a. Approval of Annual Report
- IX. Old Town North Task Force (15', 8:20 – 8:35 pm)
 - a. Approve Artist Concept
- X. “Block 32/Eisenhower Avenue” Public Art Task Force (15', 8:35 – 8:50 pm)
 - a. Appoint two Commissioners to Task Force

Alexandria Commission for the Arts – Meeting Agenda

XI. ARTReach Committee Reorganization (20', 8:50 – 9:10 pm)

a. Discussion and Possible Approval of a Proposed Scenario

XII. Office of the Arts Division Update – Diane Ruggiero (10', 9:10 – 9:20 pm)

XII. Site See 2023 Public Art at Waterfront Park (10', 9:10 – 9:20 pm)

a. Review and Vote on Nina Cooke-John Proposal

XIII. New Business (5', 9:20 – 9:25 pm)

XIV. Good of the Order and Announcements (5', 9:25 – 9:30 pm)

XV. Adjournment (9:30 p.m.)

**Times are approximate. Please allow for the possibility that some items or the meeting in general may run longer than announced.*

ATTENDANCE SIGN-IN SHEET

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Meeting: Regular Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 Meeting Place: Lee Center

COMMISSION MEMBERS:	(Please Sign Name)
Brian Kelley, Chair	
Allison Heck, 1 st Vice Chair	
Ryan Belmore, 2 nd Vice Chair	
Gayle Converse, Secretary	
Sumrien Ali	
Betty Amron	
→ Christina Calloway	
Marcee Craighill	
Judy Heiser	
Chris Kurowski	
Paul Painter	
David Pritzker	
Dawn Rogala	By Pro R
Sheryl Sims	
Tiffany Williams	
Roger Yoerges	RESIGNED PRIOR TO MEETING
CITY STAFF	
James Spengler, Director, RP&CA	
Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, Cultural Arts	
Cheryl Anne Colton, Program Director	
Brett Johnson, TFAC Director	
Matthew Harwood, Public Art Manager	

Chair Report

September 2022

Introduction

We did not have a regular meeting last month due to a lack of quorum. Just as a reminder, in order to have a meeting (and discuss business), we need 50+% of Commissioners physically present in the room to start. For example, when the Commission has all 16 seats filled, there should be 9 members in the room before a meeting can start. What can be confusing is that there are also absences (excused or unexcused), remote attendance (such as by phone), in-person vs fully remote meetings, “regular” meetings that happen on the 3rd Tuesday of the month vs special meetings/cancelled meetings/meetings on nonstandard dates, that Commissioners should be in “good standing” by having attended at least 75% of regular meetings, and new state laws have revised policies for both remote attendance of individuals and of entirely remote meetings. If you expect to not be able to attend a meeting, please contact me.

This month, we will be attempting to compress the August agenda along with new September items. The meeting may be longer as a result. You will remember that Diane Ruggiero offered a virtual information session last month on Office of the Arts Division Updates. This was done so as to help cut down time on this month’s agenda.

Approving the Annual Report (returning from August)

Many thanks to Allison Heck and everyone who helped provide Committee reports and photographs for this report. You will find a final copy of the report in our meeting documents to review. As we did not meet in August (some other City Boards and Commissions habitually do not meet in August), we do not need to worry about missing the August deadline so long as we approve and submit the report after this meeting.

Guest Speaker Pat Miller

Pat Miller is a former chair of the Commission and namesake of Pat Miller Neighborhood Square in Del Ray. Her contributions to the arts in Alexandria are vast. She will be speaking with us about the upcoming [Art on the Avenue](#), the regional multicultural arts and music festival in Del Ray Saturday, October 1, including possible collaborations and volunteer opportunities.

ARTReach Committee Reorganization (returning from August)

After discussion in the June meeting, and further discussion in the Executive Committee, we have prepared three possible scenarios for reforming ARTReach. The scenarios are listed along the lines of “Weak,” “Moderate,” and “Strong.” In the Weak scenario, there is no creation of a Council Committee and there is minimal change from the current status quo. In the Moderate scenario, we include the creation of a Council Committee. In the Strong scenario, in addition to the Council Committee, we would also create a Planning and Development Committee and Public Outreach Committee. Additionally, under the Moderate scenario, participation in signing up for attending City Council

meetings will be voluntary, whereas in the Strong scenario, all Commissioners (including those **not** in the Council Committee) will be required to attend some City Council meetings.

New City Guidelines on Changes to Electronic Participation by Advisory Groups
(returning from August)

I am attaching a new memo from David Lanier, the Assistant City Attorney from this Monday, August 15. Effective on the first of September, there will be new changes to virtual and remote meeting rules. A new policy template for us to adopt should be coming soon from the City Attorney's Office. This new language concerns what circumstances an individual Commissioner may attend from a remote location and what circumstances the Commission may hold an all-virtual public meeting. Importantly, Commissioners may not use personal matters as reason to meet remotely for more than two meetings per calendar year or 25% of the meetings held per calendar year, whichever is greater, nor may the Commission have an all-virtual meeting more than two times per calendar year or 25% of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater, or consecutively with another all-virtual public meeting. Commissioners with temporary or permanent disability or medical condition that prevents physical attendance or a medical condition of family member that requires care that prevents physical attendance are listed as a separate cause from a "personal matter."

Public Art Task Forces

This month, we will be approving the Old Town North Task Force stormwater cover designs. There will also be the appointment of two Commissioners to the newly forming task force (yet to be formally named) on Eisenhower Ave.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Brian Kelley

Chair, Alexandria Commission for the Arts

**City of Alexandria
Alexandria Commission for the Arts
Annual Report
July 2021 – June 2022**

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts is defined by the following Roles and Responsibilities per City ordinance (Article K, Sec. 2-4-91):

Advise Alexandria City Council with regard to policies that will strengthen the arts and further public access to the arts and cultural matters identified by the City Council

Establish and periodically review criteria and standards for arts grant applications for city funds and accountability for the use of such funds;

Allocate from such funds to eligible organizations and activities as may be appropriated by the City Council for such purpose;

Review the public art annual work plan as developed by the office of the arts and a work plan task force and make recommendations to the city council as part of the budget process;

Review and approve public art project plans for specific public art projects, and to review and approve artist selection and concept development;

Create committees and task forces, as necessary, to focus on public art project development and artist selection;

Review proposals for donations of public art and commemorative art and make recommendations to the City Council;

Collaborate with the Alexandria Office of the Arts on public art project evaluations;

Support public communication and outreach as related to the arts; and,

Serve as citizen liaisons to City planning initiatives when public art is involved.

Within these guidelines, the Alexandria Commission for the Arts membership completed the following activities during its 2021-2022 year.

Commission for the Arts Policy and Membership Accomplishments

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts (Commission) maintained a quorum for all meetings from September 2021 to June 2022, with an additional meeting retreat on June 4th and no meeting in July 2022. Meetings from August 2021 to February 2022 were conducted virtually in accordance with city policy for COVID-19. Beginning in March 2022 meetings were conducted in person. The Executive Committee is comprised of four elected officers and met regularly to set meeting agendas and priorities. The officers were initially nominated by the Nominating Committee before being voted on by the Commission. Additionally, the Inclusivity, ArtReach and Grants Committees are under the guidance of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts.

Alexandria Commission for the Arts Policy and Membership Accomplishments

The Commission appointed liaisons to serve the following groups:

Alexandria Arts Alliance
Torpedo Factory Art Center Stakeholder Group
Waterfront Commission

The Commission continued to participate in and engaged with the following Task Forces during this fiscal year:

Public Art Annual Work Plan
Torpedo Factory Art Center Loading Dock Door Task Force
Del Ray Gateway Public Art Task Force
Old Town North Task Force
Fiscal Year 2022 Grant Review Task Force
Fiscal Year 2023 Grant Review Task Force
Public Art at the Waterfront (Site/See)
Torpedo Factory Art Center Stakeholder Group
Public Art at Burke Library
Potomac Yard Metro
Public Art at Wilkes Street Park Task Force

Policy Accomplishments

- **Site/See at Waterfront Park:**
 - Concept approval of “I Love You” by R&R Studios for Site/See 2022 at Waterfront Park.
 - Approved changes and additions to the composition of the Site/See Waterfront Park Project Task Force:
 - Commissioners: Christina Calloway and Tiffany Williams
- **Annual Workplan Task Force**

- Appointed Betsy Hennigan, Gina Baum, and Thom Sullivan as Community Stakeholders to the Task Force.
- **Del Ray Gateway Public Art**
 - Approved Beatrice Coron as Artist Selection for Colasanto Interactive Fountain/Spray Park for Del Ray Gateway Public Art.
 - Concept approval of Del Ray Gateway Public Art project.
- **Torpedo Factory Art Center Loading Dock Door Task Force**
 - Appointed Leslie Mounaime and Lisa Schumaier as Community Stakeholders to the Task Force.
- **Torpedo Factory**
 - Submitted a letter to City Council regarding Commission for the Arts recommendations requesting the city maintain public funding of the Torpedo Factory Art Center and allow Art Center artists and City residents to be a part of the decision-making process.
- **Old Town North Arts District**
 - Approved three artist selections for storm drain covers.
- **Grants/Arts Funding:**
 - In November 2021, approved funding recommendations for arts programming totaling \$130,250 as follows: 75% of the funding requested by the 7 arts organizations scoring in the 90s, and 50% of funding by the 17 arts organizations scoring in the 80s.
 - In May 2022, approved funding recommendation of 100% funding for 17 organizations totaling \$163,000; \$11,000 in remaining funds to be used in Phase 2 of the Arts Program Sustainability Grants.
- **Additional Appointments & Administrative Actions:**
 - Appointed Judy Heiser and Beth Coast to the Torpedo Factory Art Center Loading Dock Door Task Force.
 - Appointed Judy Heiser to the Wilkes Street Park Task Force.
 - Appointed Judy Heiser and Chris Kurowski to the Grants Task Force for FY 2022 grants.
 - Appointed Dawn Rogala and Paul Painter to the Grants Task Force for FY 2023 grants.
 - Appointed Marcee Craighill and Tiffany Williams to the Nomination Committee.
 - Nominated Marcee Craighill to Waterfront Commission.
 - Appointed Judy Heiser to the Torpedo Factory Art Center Stakeholders Group.
 - Appointed Paul Painter to the Annual Workplan Task Force.
 - Appointed Gayle Converse as Alexandria Arts Alliance Liaison.
 - Approved Executive Committee for FY2023 to include Brian Kelley (Chair), Allison Heck (1st Vice Chair), Ryan Belmore (2nd Vice Chair), Gayle Converse (Secretary).

Commission for the Arts Member Activities

- Commissioners hosted the following informative speakers at regular Commission meetings and retreats: Patricia Washington (President and CEO of Visit Alexandria) and Zeina Azzam (Alexandria Poet Laureate).
- Commissioners frequently attended and took part in arts and cultural activities and events throughout our great City, such as opening of “I Love You” at Waterfront Park and multiple arts events put on in 2021-2022 by arts organizations supported by city grants

Leadership

Officers for FY2022 were:

- Brian Kelley, Chair
- Allison Heck, 1st Vice Chair
- Christina Calloway, 2nd Vice Chair
- Gayle Converse, Secretary

During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:

- Brian Kelley, expertise in Visual Arts
- Sophia Suarez, professional in Arts/Cultural Development
- Julie Montross, Public at Large/Arts Consumer
- Catherine Ahern Barrett, Public at Large/Arts Consumer
- Beth Coast, professional in Field/Arts Discipline
- Gayle Converse, Public at Large/Arts Consumer
- Allison Heck, professional in Cityscape/Architecture
- Chris Kurowski, professional in Arts/Cultural Development
- Allison Nance, expertise in Visual Arts
- Caroline Schreiber, Public at Large/Arts Consumer
- Kadhambari Sridhar, professional in Field/Arts Disciplines
- Matthew Stensrud, professional in Field/Arts Disciplines
- Elizabeth Lo, Student Representative
- Christina Calloway, Public at Large/Arts Consumer
- Judy Heiser, Expert in Visual Arts
- Sumrien Ali, professional in Cityscape/Architecture
- Ryan Belmore, professional in Arts/Cultural Development
- Paul Painter, Public at Large/Arts Consumer
- David Pritzker, professional in Field/Arts Disciplines
- Dawn Rogala, professional in Field/Arts Disciplines
- Sheryl Sims, Public at Large/Arts Consumer
- Roger Yoerges, professional in Field/Arts Disciplines

- Marcee Craighill, professional in field/Arts Disciplines
 - Betty Amron, Student Representative
 - Tiffany Williams, Expert in Visual Arts
-
- Matthew Harwood acted as the City staff liaison to the Commission for the Arts.

Attachments

1. Commission Committee and Liaison Reports FY 2022
2. Commission and grantees events/projects photographs FY 2022

**Alexandria Commission for the Arts
Annual Report
July 2021– June 2022
Committee & Liaison Reports**

Grants Committee

The Grants Committee is chaired by Chris Kurowski. During FY2022, the Arts Commissioners approved both the FY 2022 and the FY 2023 Annual Arts Program Grants. The FY 2022 Grant Force consisted of two Arts Commissioners: Chris Kurowski and Judy Heiser, and four arts administrators from the Metro DC area: Hope Cagle, ArtsFairfax; Julia Chon, a painter, muralist, and entrepreneur; Helen Criaes, artist, art consultant and curator with Latela Curatorial; and author Kristen Jeffers. The Grant Task Force meeting was held on November 9, and the Arts Commission voted on the Fiscal 2022 appropriation on November 16, 2021. Twenty-four arts organizations received \$130,250. Additionally, the Arts Commission voted to set-aside \$45,000 for the cash match for the Creative Neighborhood Grant Program funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The FY 2023 Grant Task Force’s make-up consisted of two Arts Commissioners: Dawn Rogala and Paul Painter and three Arts Administrators: Dawn Ama Mills-Robertson, Glen Echo Parks Partnership for Arts and Culture; Leon Scioscia, Lorton Workhouse; and Casey McEnelly, Dance USA. The Grant Task Force meeting was held on May 10, and at the May 17 Arts Commission meeting, of the 23 grant applicants reviewed, 17 met the 75% scoring baseline resulting in 100% funding of those grant requests, totaling \$163,000. The remaining \$11,000 was set-aside for the Business and Arts Collaborative Grant Program. For FY22 and FY23, the Arts Commissioners participated in feedback sessions with Program Grant applicants to address submission strengths and potential areas of improvement for future applicants.

ARTreach Committee

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts (ACA) ArtReach Committee is the umbrella committee for the ACA. Education, Advocacy and Outreach are among the current sub-committees of ArtReach. The Committee is chaired by Gayle Converse.

During the 2022 fiscal year, ArtReach has been responsible for ACA arts outreach. This includes sharing information with arts commissioners regarding performing and visual arts and written word events, as well as civic events in the city. The ACA’s “Council Coffees” and ongoing encouragement for arts commissioners to attend Alexandria City Council meetings and hearing are two examples of the committee’s civic outreach.

One of the primary projects ArtReach has spearheaded in 2022, is the creation of a city Arts Directory. Working closely with Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) and the Alexandria Arts Alliance, ArtReach has researched and developed a school-friendly, unbiased directory that will be ready for the 2022-23 school year.

ArtReach has recently reestablished in-person committee meetings and plans to continue its efforts to ensure arts commissioners, City Council, ACPS, arts organizations, and others share interests, ideas and information.

Inclusivity Committee

The Inclusivity Committee was chaired by Allison Heck and developed and updated the Arts Commission Bylaws to include a statement on Diversity and Inclusion to further efforts to build inclusivity through the ACA's decision-making, recruiting and composition and advice to Council on programming and funding. The update of the bylaws is below. With the formalization of the statement the Inclusivity Committee was dissolved.

Addition to ACA Bylaws:

ARTICLE III. COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts is committed to equity in its operations and decision-making. The Commission supports all City efforts (e.g., ALL Alexandria) that aim to reduce and eliminate disparities and inequities experienced by Alexandria residents. The Commission aims to make recommendations with respect to diversity, equity, and inclusion and recognize Alexandrians should have equal access to art. The Commission is dedicated to encouraging the celebration of the City's diversity including, but not limited to race, religions, countries of origin, sexual orientations, ages, genders, and abilities.

**Alexandria Commission for the Arts
Annual Report
July 2021– June 2022**

Commission and grantees events/projects photographs FY 2022

Office of the Arts – Public Arts Projects



July 2021 Alexandria Office of the Arts hosts conversation with former Site See artists Olalekan Jeyifous, Mark Reigelman, and Soft Lab (Image credit: City of Alexandria, Office of the Arts)



“Confluent Threads” by P1 Studio in September 2021, a public art installation at Burke Library. (Photo Credit: Brian Kelley)



“Groundswell” by Mark Reigelman installed in March 2021. (Photo Credit: Christina Calloway)



Mark Riegelman working on “Groundswell” at Waterfront Part (Site/See). (Photo Credit: Gayle Converse)



Removal of “Groundswell” by Mark Reigelman; a Site/See Waterfront Park Project. (Photo Credit: Christina Calloway)



Installation of "I Love You" by R&R Studios at Waterfront Park. (Photo Credit: Gayle Converse)



Installation of "I Love You" by R&R Studios at Waterfront Park. (Photo Credit: Gayle Converse)



“I Love You” by R&R Studios: A Site/See: New Views in Old Town Waterfront Park Project, Opening Photo March 2022 (Photo Credit: Christina Calloway)

Commissioners at Alexandria Arts Events



ACA Chair Brian Kelley, and Commissioner Sheryl Sims attend Refuge season finale of the Alexandria Choral Society. (Photo Credit: Sheryl Sims)



March 2022 Members of Commission at Alexandria Choral Society "Lux: The Dawn from on High" Gala. (Photo Credit: Christina Calloway)

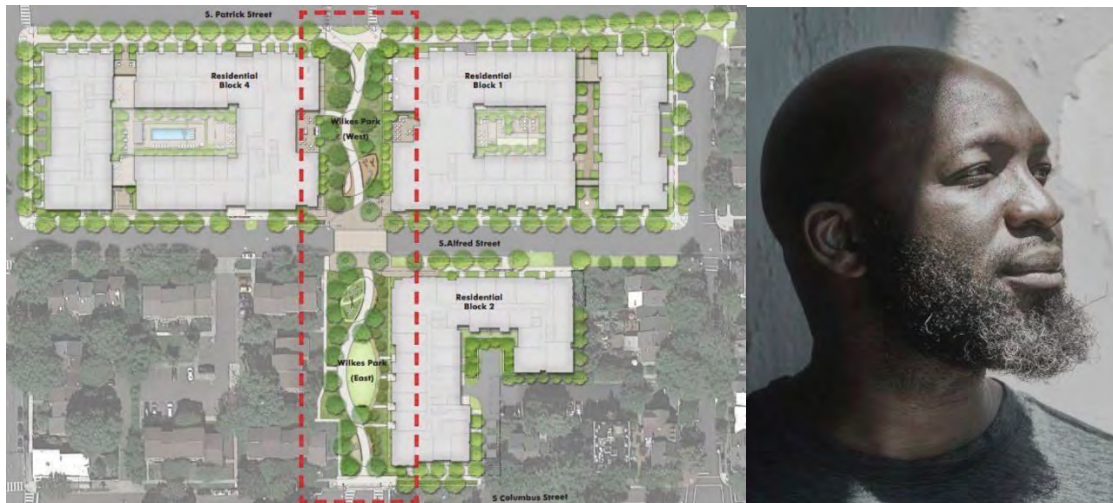


*ACA Chair, Brian Kelley, with founder of UpCycle, Kelley Organek, at UpCycle reopening in April 2022.
(Photo Credit: Brian Kelley)*

Alexandria Commission for the Arts Supporting Upcoming Projects through Social Media



Old Town North Arts District: Stormwater Drain Call for Artists, April 2021 –(Photo Credit: Christina Calloway)



Amplifying Selection of Eto Otitigbe for site specific work in Wilkes Street Park on @alexandriaartscommission Instagram, February 2021. (Image Credit: City of Alexandria, Office of the Arts).

Alexandria Commission of the Arts in Action



June 2022 Commissioners Spring Retreat at Charles Houston Recreation Center (Photo Credit: Christina Calloway)

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Lee Center – 7:00 pm

Motion Made By:	Motion Seconded By:	Vote Count
Ryan Belmore	Cheryl Simms	Yes-- 14 No-- 0 Abstained-- 0
ACA Motion		
Agenda Item #: VIII		
Motion: Motion to approve Annual Report with final copy edits.		

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2022
TO: ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS 
FROM: DIANE RUGGIERO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, OFFICE OF THE ARTS
RE: PUBLIC ART AT WATERFRONT PARK: SITE/SEE: NEW VIEWS IN OLD TOWN 2023 CONCEPT PROPOSAL

Background:

In March 2021 the Alexandria Commission for the Arts approved Nina Cooke-John as the artist for the 2023 *Site See: New Views in Old Town* temporary public art installation at interim Waterfront Park. The Office of the Arts hosted a welcome reception for Nina in May 2022 and during that time, Nina visited the installation site, met with City staff, and toured Alexandria to gather information and inspiration.

On September 13, 2022, Cooke-John presented her concept for the public art to the Task Force at a public meeting where the Task Force recommended the concept to the Arts Commission. Staff has shared the proposal with various community and stakeholder groups including the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Waterfront Commission and relevant City staff prior to presenting it to the Art Commission.

Discussion

Per the approved project plan, the temporary public art at Waterfront Park will be on view from March 2023 through early-November 2023. The approved program goals of the series are:

- Amplify Alexandria's reputation as an of-the-moment arts destination on the water with a new work of art that captures the public's imagination and is unlike anything else you can experience in the region.
- Highlight Waterfront Park as a new civic space that gives prominence to the location where the mercantile city meets the river.
- Bring a new work of art to Alexandria that is informed by the context of the site.
- Foster engagement and interaction with a contemporary work of art on Alexandria's historic waterfront.
- Attract visitors to experience a dramatic, visually compelling and unique work of art.
- Encourage repeat visits with work that changes between day and night or through the seasons.

In addition, the Public Art Program has identified the following internal goals related to the project:

- Take advantage of the interim nature of the site to test out different approaches to public art for this location.
- Create a signature exhibition that raises awareness of the City's public art program.
- Accommodate plaza programming and other plaza uses.

The Task Force reviewed these goals when considering the proposed concept.

Concept Design Proposal

Nina's concept is inspired by the history of Alexandria and especially the recent excavations that uncovered the ships along the shoreline and seeks to uncover some of Alexandria's stories that contribute to what Alexandria is today. The installation will provide a contemplative space for visitors to ask questions and uncover what has been lost over time.

From Nina's presentation:

We are inspired by the remains of ships found on the Hotel Indigo site in 2015 and Robison Terminal Site in 2018. We are fascinated both by the remains of the wreck itself: its form and texture, and the archaeological dig as a site of layered information that is exposed bit by bit through excavation.

Tourists are often attracted to historic Alexandria, and its captivating waterfront, on which the wealth of the city was built. However, it is not portrayed often with the grit of the working dock.

Fishtown is the flipside of the historic images of the waterfront that we often envision.

The installation takes its inspiration from the ships in both the shape of the hull and the individual wooden members. It references back to an archaeological site with portions of the information coming through in layers.

The installation allows you to imagine standing inside of the ship's hull and be transported to another time.

The ships of the Alexandria waterfront carried varying cargo including tobacco, molasses, rum and limes. It also carried the enslaved, who were traded as part of the trans-Atlantic as well as the domestic slave trades.

The text painted on the ground plane references the varied cargo.

So, while we see herring, coconuts, gin, sweetmeats as some of the goods traded, we also see Jane Taylor – female 5' 2" juxtaposed within them, forcing us to fully contemplate the full reality of how the city's wealth was built.

The verticals represent the peeling up of the abstracted ship's hull revealing, on the ground and on the underside of each element, a portion of history that is not often seen.

The installation allows for permeability through it, walking in and through and around as you move inside and outside the hull.

The text on the ground wraps up and is etched into the verticals.

Recommendations

The Task Force recommends approving the proposed concept by Nina Cooke-John.

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Lee Center – 7:00 pm

Motion Made By:	Motion Seconded By:	Vote Count
Ryan Bernese	Allison Wreck	Yes-- 13 No-- 0 Abstained-- 1
ACA Motion		
Agenda Item #:		
Motion: motion to approve the proposed concept by Nina Cooke-John / 2023 site/sce		

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Lee Center – 7:00 pm

Motion Made By:	Motion Seconded By:	Vote Count
Allison Heck	Judy Heiser	Yes-- 14 No-- 0 Abstained-- 0
ACA Motion		
Agenda Item #:		
Motion: To appoint Dawn + Tiffany to the "Block 32 / Eisenhower Avenue" Public Art Task Force.		

Alexandria Commission for the Arts

Proposed Scenarios

July 2022

Scenario 1

The ARTReach Committee will be renamed the Advocacy and Outreach Committee. Commissioners assigned to work on social media (two Commissioners total) will be considered a subcommittee.

- The Advocacy and Outreach Committee
 - Maintains social media platforms through the Social Media Subcommittee.
 - Works with Alexandria Office of the Arts to keep commission social media accounts up to date.
 - Works with Alexandria Office of the Arts to promote grant recipients and other commission partners on commission social media.
 - Provides commission updates to partners (such as Arts Alliance) for use in partners' social media.
 - Communicates with partners (such as ACPS) to receive updates on their activities, for relay to commissioners or for use in commission social media.
 - Otherwise works to promote the state of the arts in Alexandria through projects (ex: Arts Directory).

Scenario 2

The ARTReach Committee will be replaced with the Outreach Committee and Council Committee. The Outreach Committee will assign two Commissioners total to work on social media will be considered a subcommittee.

- The Outreach Committee
 - Maintains social media platforms through the Social Media Subcommittee.
 - Works with Alexandria Office of the Arts to keep commission social media accounts up to date.
 - Works with Alexandria Office of the Arts to promote grant recipients and other commission partners on commission social media.
 - Provides commission updates to partners (such as Arts Alliance) for use in partners' social media.

Alexandria Commission for the Arts

- Communicates with partners (such as ACPS) to receive updates on their activities, for relay to commissioners or for use in commission social media.
 - Otherwise works to promote the state of the arts in Alexandria through projects (ex: Arts Directory).
- The Council Committee
- Maintains calendar of Alexandria City Council meetings and topics; works with commissioners on voluntary sign-ups for Council meeting attendance. Council calendar policy might include:
 - Commissioners sign up for City Council meetings. Committee sends reminders for attendance and reporting. The Committee will assist in drafting talking points for any public comment opportunities during City Council meetings.
 - Commissioners who attend Council meetings report on those meetings at the next commission meeting and discuss possible letter writing in response to topics discussed; Executive Committee should be informed of time-sensitive issues prior to next commission meeting.
 - Coordinate, with the assistance of the Executive Committee, City Council “Coffee” meetings between Commissioners and City Councilmembers.
 - Commissioners who attend City Council meetings of City Council “Coffees” do not necessarily need to be members of this Committee.
 - Maintains letter-writing calendar; works with commissioners on sign-ups for regularly scheduled and emergency letter writing. Letter writing might include:
 - Regular schedule of letters (3 or 4 times a year) on pre-determined topics (such as budget, grants, and small plan development, etc.); schedule and topics to be determined by commission at the start of each fiscal year.
 - Determine with Executive Committee which letters come from Executive Committee and require review by entire commission (delay in execution) and which letters come from individual commissioners (sets of 2 commissioners per letter) and do not require additional approvals (responsive to current events).
 - Commissioners voluntarily sign up for regularly scheduled letters. Committee sends reminders for letter writing and reminds writers of rules regarding interaction on behalf of commission.
 - Commissioners who write letters do not necessarily need to be members of this Committee.

Scenario 3

The ARTReach Committee will be replaced with the Outreach Committee and Council Committee. The Outreach Committee will assign two Commissioners total to work on social media will be considered a subcommittee.

- The Outreach Committee

Alexandria Commission for the Arts

- Maintains social media platforms through the Social Media Subcommittee.
 - Works with Alexandria Office of the Arts to keep commission social media accounts up to date.
 - Works with Alexandria Office of the Arts to promote grant recipients and other commission partners on commission social media.
 - Provides commission updates to partners (such as Arts Alliance) for use in partners' social media.
 - Communicates with partners (such as ACPS) to receive updates on their activities, for relay to commissioners or for use in commission social media.
 - Otherwise works to promote the state of the arts in Alexandria through projects (ex: Arts Directory).
- The Council Committee
- Maintains calendar of Alexandria City Council meetings and topics; works with commissioners on sign-ups for Council meeting attendance. Council calendar policy might include:
 - Commissioners sign up for an agreed-upon minimum number of meetings. Committee sends reminders for attendance and reporting. The Committee will assist in drafting talking points for any public comment opportunities during City Council meetings.
 - Commissioners who attend Council meetings report on those meetings at the next commission meeting and discuss possible letter writing in response to topics discussed; Executive Committee should be informed of time-sensitive issues prior to next commission meeting.
 - Coordinate, with the assistance of the Executive Committee, City Council "Coffee" meetings between Commissioners and City Councilmembers.
 - Commissioners who attend City Council meetings of City Council "Coffees" do not necessarily need to be members of this Committee.
 - Maintains letter-writing calendar; works with commissioners on sign-ups for regularly scheduled and emergency letter writing. Letter writing might include:
 - Regular schedule of letters (3 or 4 times a year) on pre-determined topics (such as budget, grants, and small plan development, etc.); schedule and topics to be determined by commission at the start of each fiscal year.
 - Determine with Executive Committee which letters come from Executive Committee and require review by entire commission (delay in execution) and which letters come from individual commissioners (sets of 2 commissioners per letter) and do not require additional approvals (responsive to current events).
 - Commissioners sign up for an agreed-upon number of regularly scheduled letters. Committee sends reminders for letter writing and reminds writers of rules regarding interaction on behalf of commission.

Alexandria Commission for the Arts

- Commissioners who write letters do not necessarily need to be members of this Committee.

Concluding Notes

Please be reminded that these scenarios will not affect the Grants Committee, which will stay as is, nor will it affect the former Inclusivity Committee, which has been disbanded after a revision to the Commission bylaws. In the first scenario, the ARTReach Committee has a name change and greater clarification of its roles, but is otherwise the status quo. In the second scenario, the ARTReach Committee is replaced with the Outreach Committee and Council Committee. The Outreach Committee will retain functions currently done by ARTReach, and the Council Committee will help delegate work that relates to directly advising and being in communication with City Council. The third scenario differs from the second in that the Council Committee has more power to assign duties to individual Commissioners, including those who are not members of the Council Committee.

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Lee Center – 7:00 pm

Motion Made By:	Motion Seconded By:	Vote Count
Ryan Belmore	Paul	Yes-- 14 No-- 0 Abstained--0

ACA Motion

Agenda Item #:

Motion:

Motion to approve proposed moderate scenario (#2)
for the ArtReach Committee reorganization

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 15, 2022
TO: ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS 
FROM: DIANE RUGGIERO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, OFFICE OF THE ARTS
RE: OLD TOWN NORTH PUBLIC ART – CONCEPT APPROVAL

Background:

April 2018, City Council approved the establishment of an Arts and Cultural District in Old Town North, one of the Small Area Plan's implementation recommendations. The new Arts and Cultural District Overlay zoning text amendment outlines the incentives for the creation of arts and cultural spaces within the District. The text amendment also establishes definitions for ground floor arts and cultural tenant space and an arts and cultural anchor space.

The City of Alexandria has commissioned three (3) artists to create a design to be used to cast approximately 24 unique stormwater covers throughout Old Town North, with a focus on Fairfax Street. Artists were required to visit the area and create a design that is representative and inspired by Old Town North.

The following artists have been commissioned by the City of Alexandria to provide two designs for the stormwater cover project in Old Town North:

- Yoshiko Ratliff
- Dana Anne Scheuer
- Matt Long

The program goals of the Old Town North public art project are to:

- Recognize/celebrate OTN as an Arts and Culture District.
- Respect the identity of Old Town North and tells the story of its unique history.
- Bring a new work of public art to Old Town North that is informed by the context of the site.

The Public Art Task Force includes:

Community Stakeholder

Carolyn Griffin and Ryan Whitaker

Art Commissioners

Gayle Converse

Project Stakeholder

Gavin Pellitteri

Discussion

The Task Force reviewed different iterations of the artist's concepts and provided feedback to the artists for design revisions.

Recommendation

The Task Force recommends approval of the proposed designs.

Attachments

Artist Concept Designs for Stormwater Covers in Old Town North



A



B



C



D



E



F

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Lee Center – 7:00 pm

Motion Made By:	Motion Seconded By:	Vote Count
DAVID PRITZKER	PAUL PAINTER	Yes-- 13 No-- 0 Abstained-- 1

ACA Motion

Agenda Item #: XII

Motion:

The Commission for the Arts approves the 6 proposed designs for stormwater covers in the Old Town North Cultural District, with a recommendation that the phrase "Old Town North" appear on the covers.