MEETING NOTES

See Attachment 1 for the Attendance Sign-In Sheet for commissioners, City staff and guests in attendance.

I. Call to Order (7:02pm) - For the meeting agenda, see Attachment 2.
II. Public Comment – No public members in attendance; Diane Ruggiero (Director, Office of the Arts) and Cheryl Anne Colton (Regional Program Director, Office of the Arts) were the non-ACA members in attendance.
III. Approval of Minutes:
1. Chair Matthew Stensrud and ACA members finalized edits on the June 19th report.
2. June 19th Regular Meeting minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
3. Susan Amber Gordon noted how helpful the highlighted attachment feature in the Secretary’s minutes are to navigating ACA Minutes reports.
IV. Chair Report – Chair Matthew Stensrud gave his report. For the ACA Chair Report, see Attachment 3.
   1. Chair Matthew Stensrud acknowledged the work of Allison Nance and Catherine Barrett on the ACA Executive Committee; arrival of Gayle Converse as new 1st Vice Chair and Chris Kurowski as 2nd Vice Chair, and the new appointment of Marta Ali as a new Commissioner. Chair Matthew Stensrud reminded the ACA that two ACA vacancies currently exist and will clarify if newly appointed Commissioners start new terms or complete the balance remaining on the current terms.
2. Council Meeting Updates
   ▪ Chris Kurowski and Shirley Downs provided the ACA an overview of topics covered in their June 26th “coffee” meeting with Councilman Paul Smedberg. See Attachment 4 for the full report.
   ▪ Chair Matthew Stensrud updated the ACA of his summer meeting with the new Democratic candidates for Alexandria City Council (Canek Aguirre, Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, Amy Jackson and Mohamed “Mo” Seifeldein).
      ● All candidates expressed their support for the arts, its outreach potential to new communities and combining arts with technology. The topic of grant recipients was also discussed and ways to diversify those recipients.
3. Other Board/Commission Updates
   ▪ Gayle Converse provided an overview of her attendance at the latest Public Health Commission meeting (July 19, 2018). The Public Health Commission indicated its interest in attending an upcoming ACA meeting to discuss potential partnership regarding public health and art and interest expressed in trails and path projects
   ▪ Chair Matthew Stensrud attended latest meeting of Parks and Recreation. Barbara Marvin will serve as an unofficial liaison to the ACA. Chair Matthew Stensrud indicated that the Parks and Recreation meeting spurred the idea of proposing an electronic meeting policy for the ACA.
• Chair Matthew Stensrud thanked Gayle Converse for her hard work on the ACA Annual Report
• Chair Matthew Stensrud thanked Diane Ruggiero for her hard work putting together the August 16th ACA Orientation Meeting for those Commissioners appointed within the last 12 month period.
• Chair Matthew Stensrud thanked Gayle Converse for her hard work on the New Commissioner Handbook. Work will continue on this handbook and plan to share with new Commissioners and future Orientation meetings.
• Upcoming schedule reminders: Executive Committee Meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the Month; Wednesday, November 14 will be the date of the Regular ACA Meeting
• Chair Matthew Stensrud met with a variety of Commissioners members over the summer

V. Electronic Meeting Policy
   1. Motion to Adopt Policy – see Attachment 5 for Electronic Meeting Policy Document
      • Chair Matthew Stensrud clarified that the electronic meeting policy is that of the City of Alexandria. The ACA can either approve or not approve the language as is.
      • Chair Matthew Stensrud provided overview of the proposed policy
         ● Allison Nance asked is this policy could extend to Task Forces? Diane confirmed that it would apply to TF meetings
         ● Matthew confirmed that using the electronic policy would count as being “present”, not as an absence
         ● Motion to approve the Electronic Meeting Policy by Allison Nance; 2nd by Susan Amber Gordon; ACA approves the Electronic Meeting Policy (11 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain)

VI. Annual Report
   1. Review of FY2018 Annual Report – see Attachment 6 for Annual Report
      • Chair Matthew Stensrud conducted an in-meeting dialogue and edit of the Annual Report based on written and verbal feedback from ACA members.
      • Gayle Converse inquired about including the Arts Implementation Plan and other foundational documents. Catherine Barrett proposed making reference to the Implementation Plans in the document and hyperlinking the Implementation Plans for easy reference.
      • Susan Amber Gordon recommended the term “Arts Commission” replace “ACA” and the change was agreed to
      • Shirley Downs motioned to approve the Annual Plan (as Edited); Gayle Converse 2nd Motion to approve passed (12 Yes-0 No-0 Abstain)

VII. Committee and Liaison Reports
   1. Advocacy and Outreach Committee – Gayle Converse
      • Gayle Converse updated Commissioners that talking points to support Commissioner outreach is under development; Chris Kurowski has agreed to write a first draft of the talking points
      • Gayle Converse discussed the status/need for a communications plan for the Voting Sticker Project
      • Grants Committee – Allison Nance (See Attachment 7 for full Grants Committee Report)
      • Allison Nance provided a bio background for new Grant Committee Members
• Allison Nance made a Motion for Brandi Yee) and Monique Alcala to join and Susie Cohen to become a member – Susan Amber Gordon 2nd. Motion approved (12 Yes-0 No-0 Abstain)
• Allison Nance, Tamsin Green, Catherine Barrett, and Susie Cohen are now serve as ACA members on the Grants Committee
• Allison Nance provided an update on the Community Engagement Grant ($13,500 remains of CEG funds).
• Shirley Downs reinforced the value of the Community Engagement Grant; recommended the ACA stick with the original idea. Allison Nance concurred and indicated, if we want to do something different with grants, we need to use the Community Engagement Grant, the funds are in a “use or lose” funding situation
• Office of the Arts Feedback
  ● Cheryl Anne Colton (Office of the Arts) indicated this is the first time seeing this proposal; reminded Allison that ACA advises and City approves or not on this matter). Diane Ruggiero reminded everyone to be aware that the language could turn off businesses; focus on further outreach; make this grant about reaching new communities versus funding the same organizations
• Susan Amber Gordon noted that the ACA should look for 3rd Party organizations that can serve as a partnership
• Chair Matthew Stensrud indicated he would like to focus on micro grants and $2,500 grants
• Susie Cohen offered to provide information on public-private partnerships; too often initiatives are launched without a solid plan in place
  ● Could a grant be awarded with a timeline for finding matching grants
• Matthew Harwood – Ensure messages to staff include Diane and Cheryl Anne
2. Social Media Committee – Catherine Barrett
• Catherine Barrett put out a call for new Committee members and a reminder for commissioners to share the ACA Facebook page
• A Committee goal is to create plugs via social media for the beginning of the school year
3. Waterfront Commission Liaison – Susie Cohen
• No updates
4. Arts Alliance Liaison – Shirley Downs (See Attachment 8 for full report)
• Susan Amber Gordon asks about the level of specificity we should include in our minutes as a liaison; recommend removal of financial information pertaining to the organization the liaison is aligned to
• Motion to Appoint Amber Gordon as Liaison to the Alexandria Arts Alliance was approved unanimously
5. Voting Stickers Task Force – Matthew Stensrud and Catherine Barrett
• Overview of sticker applicants. Narrowed submissions to three and those will be voted on by citizens
• Catherine commented that the Registrar and Board were highly supportive of the designs
• Discussion among commissioners about the artistic approach to the stickers; all agreed they met the requirements, but perhaps lacked the originality expected as an ACA approved voting sticker
• Beth Coast recommended working with NOVA for potential artists in the next call for artists

VIII. Office of the Arts Division Update, Matthew Harwood (Office of the Arts Liaison to ACA) and Diane Ruggiero (Director, Office of the Arts; Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation); see Attachment 9 for Office of the Arts Update brief

- Diane Ruggiero confirmed that capital budgets have been submitted, FY20 capital budget will be flat ($250k). The plan is to bring the budget to the ACA in March 2019.
- King Street Gardens Park
  o Diane Ruggiero provided an update to include
    ▪ Forthcoming Bus realignment plan at King St. Metro
    ▪ Office of the Arts not allowing permits in the King Street Gardens Park
      ● Waterfront Park has been offered as an alternative location
  o Chair Matthew Stensrud asked about the conservation plan for that site; Diane Ruggiero indicated the plans considered were too expensive. Chair Matthew Stensrud requested updates be provided to the ACA as they occur
- Waterfront
  o SOFTLab is providing an in-person update on 11SEP
  o Visit Alexandria is creating the ribbon cutting for the Park opening

1. King Street Waterfront Park Task Force – Allison Nance and Susie Cohen
   ▪ Allison Heck requested update on the proposed ice skating rink – Diane Ruggiero indicated the cost of the ice rink was not acceptable to City Staff

2. Trails and Paths Task Force – Shirley Downs and Allison Heck
   ▪ Allison Heck provided overview of recent tour of City trails and paths. For full report, see Attachment 10
   ▪ Diane Ruggiero noted that the consultants were looking for an “approach” to establishing public art on trails and paths. Brian Kelley encouraged the use of the term “networked” for their submissions

3. Burke Library Task Force – Catherine Barrett and Brian Kelley
   ▪ Planning and Zoning has identified candidates; goal was to identify an active library user and this proved challenging;
   ▪ Gayle Converse asked about outreach to the condos in that area;
   ▪ Lake Cook has been installed. Name of the piece is “Sound Stream”. No date as yet set for the unveiling; possible soft opening in the Fall with a formal opening in the Spring

4. Programming Update – Cheryl Anne Colton (Regional Program Director, CPRP, CPP)
   ▪ Cheryl Anne Colton provided overview of current programming; e.g. DASH Awards in Motion, Durant Art Center, First Friday, Bagels and Bach, Puppet Show Series, programs focused on Immigrant populations, e.g. Ethiopian
   ▪ Africa FEST will take place Saturday, 8 September at the William Ramsey Center in the West End
   ▪ Cheryl Anne provided overview of planning for Africa FEST
     • Special thanks to Shirley Downs for her involvement
     • Special thanks to Martha Ali for her graphics design
     • Voices of Southern Africa will participate
     • Want to raise $3000 to cover costs;
     • Chair Matthew Stensrud recommended an email for sign ups

IX. New Business – 10 minutes
1. None

X. Good of the Order and Announcements
1. Gayle Converse provided an overview of her experience at the Alexandria Film Festival
2. Motion by Allison Nance and 2nd by Beth Coast to Appoint Allison Heck to the Art Purchase Award Task Force; motion approved (12 Yes-0 No-0 Abstain)

XI. Adjournment (9:45pm)
# ATTENDANCE SIGN-IN SHEET
ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

**Meeting Date:** 8/21/18  
**Quorum:** 7  
**Meeting Place:** Lee Center, Room 4  

**MEMBERS OF COMMISSION:**
- Matthew Stensrud, Chair
- Gayle Converse, 1st Vice Chair
- Chris Kurowski, 2nd Vice Chair
- Tamsin Green, Secretary
- Marta Ali
- Catherine Barrett
- Beth Coast
- Susan Cohen
- Shirley Downs
- Susan Amber Gordon
- Allison Heck
- Brian Kelley
- Allison Nance
- Shaan Shuster

**Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities Staff:**
- James Spengler, Director
- Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, Cultural Arts
- Cheryl Anne Colton, Program Director
- Matthew Harwood, Public Art Manager

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**TYPICAL AGENDA**
(Time:______)

I. Call to Order
II. Minutes of Previous Meeting
III. Announcements and/or Guest(s)
IV. Reports:
  - IV. Special Orders
  - V. Unfinished Business
  - VI. New Business
  - VII. Other Announcements
VIII. Adjournment  

(Guest(s) Attendance, over)
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AGENDA

I. Call to Order (7:00pm)
II. Public Comment
III. Approval of Minutes – 10 minutes
   1. June 19th Regular Meeting
IV. Chair Report – 20 minutes
   1. Council Meeting Updates
   2. Other Board/Commission Updates
V. Electronic Meeting Policy – 10 minutes
   1. Motion to Adopt Policy
VI. Annual Report – 20 minutes
   1. Review of FY2018 Annual Report
   2. Motion to Approve Report
VII. Committee and Liaison Reports – 40 minutes
   1. Advocacy and Outreach Committee – Gayle Converse
   2. Grants Committee – Allison Nance
   3. Social Media Committee – Catherine Barrett
   4. Waterfront Commission Liaison – Susie Cohen
   5. Arts Alliance Liaison
      ▪ Motion to Appoint Amber Gordon as Liaison
   6. Voting Stickers Task Force – Matthew Stensrud and Catherine Barrett
VIII. Office of the Arts Division Update, Matthew Harwood and Diane Ruggiero – 20 minutes
   1. King Street Waterfront Park Task Force – Allison Nance and Susie Cohen
   2. Trails and Paths Task Force – Shirley Downs and Allison Heck
   3. Burke Library Task Force – Catherine Barrett and Brian Kelley
   4. Programming Update – Cheryl Anne Colton
IX. New Business – 10 minutes
X. Good of the Order and Announcements
XI. Adjournment (9:30pm)
Alexandria Commission for the Arts
August 21st, 2018 Regular Meeting
Chair Report
Submitted by Matthew Stensrud

Thank You! - A big thank you to Allison Nance for her service as First Vice Chair and Catherine Barrett for her service as Second Vice Chair. Allison has served on the Executive Committee for four years and Catherine for two; the Executive Committee and the Commission is in a better position because of their leadership. Thank you to you both.

New Executive Committee - At our June Commission meeting, Gayle Converse was elected First Vice Chair, Chris Kurowski was elected Second Vice Chair, Tamsin Green was re-elected Secretary and I, Matthew Stensrud, was re-elected Chair. I look forward to working with the new Executive Committee and the Commission over the upcoming year.

Hellos and Goodbyes - Another welcome to Marta Ali, our new Commissioner with a background in architecture and landscape design, who was appointed by City Council on Wednesday, June 13th. You may recognize Marta’s name because she served on the Annual Work Plan Task Force last year and has also taken part in previous Ethiopian New Years’ celebrations with the Office of the Arts at the Durant Center! Thank you and welcome to Marta as she joins us for her first Commission meeting!

Sincere thank you and goodbyes to Sara Lavan and Kate Elkins, who both resigned from the Commission over the summer. We are immensely grateful for their significant contributions to the Commission and to the arts in Alexandria and know they will continue to make an impact in the City; we will miss them dearly.

On Our Agenda
Some things to note:

June 2018 Minutes - Thanks to Tamsin Green for continuing to work hard on our Commission minutes!

Council Meetings - Thank you for Shirley Downs and Chris Kurowski who met with Councilman Paul Smedberg over the summer. I also have the opportunity to have individual get togethers with Democratic nominees for City Council Canek Aguirre, Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, Amy Jackson and Mo Seifeldein. We’ll provide updates at the Commission meeting of these get togethers.

Visiting Other Boards and Commissions
I attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting in June, Catherine Barrett attended the Beautification Commission meeting and Gayle Converse attended the Public Health Advisory Commission. We’ll each give a quick update of what we gathered from those meetings. Remember, if you visit another group, let me know so you can share as well!

Committee and Task Force Reports - Please remember to write a brief synopsis of your report and send to Tamsin and me before or following our meeting so it can be included in the minutes. Thank you for taking the time to help us keep better record of our discussions.

Annual Report - Thank you to Gayle Converse for putting together the FY2018 Annual Report for the Commission! This evening, we’ll review it, make any edits as necessary, and approve to send on to City Council.
**Commission Orientation** - Thank you to Diane Ruggiero, who along with myself, hosted a Commission orientation to our newer Commissioners last week! Look out for an upcoming Commission Handbook that Gayle Converse and I are worked on releasing over the next month.

**Social Media Tips**
Join us on Facebook and Instagram!
- Facebook --- [https://www.facebook.com/AlexandriaArtsCommission/](https://www.facebook.com/AlexandriaArtsCommission/) 391 likes +16 since June ‘18
- Instagram --- [https://www.instagram.com/alexandriaartscommission/](https://www.instagram.com/alexandriaartscommission/) 1,053 followers +8 since June ‘18

**Upcoming Dates**
*Executive Committee Meeting, September 11th, 7pm, Mt. Vernon Recreation Center*
*Regular Meeting, September 18th, 7pm, Location TBD*
Summary Report of Conversation with Councilman Paul Smedberg

To the Alexandria Commission for the Arts
From: Shirley Downs and Chris KurWoski
Date June 26, 2018

ACA Participation on Small Area Plan Committees/Groups

We indicated that the ACA was concerned that the ACA were not being included on Small Area Plan Committees although there was a provision in our arts policy documents, approved by City Council, that this should be done. It could not be discerned if Smedberg was surprised that the ACA Members were to be included in these bodies or if there was an awareness of these provisions. There was no immediate response from the Councilman but later in the conversation when asked his recommendation about how to facilitate coordination and outreach with other departments and commissions he recommended that the ACA invite Karl Moritz, the head of the Planning Department, to come and speak to us to discuss matters of concern and mutual interest. He stated that “Karl would be likely to enjoy collaboration.”

Public Art

The Councilman was asked what kind of art, he favored and considered particularly interesting. Smedberg indicated art that surprised, was engaging, interactive, and sometimes humorous. He commented millennials liked art that provided an experience not necessarily a fixed piece of permanent art. Examples:

- The giant Rubber Ducky temporary installation by Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman that appeared in cities like Hong Kong, Pittsburg, Toronto and Baku.
- Having small children playing on the sidewalk with colored chalk and creating their own public art.
- Close off streets such as Union Street or King Street Plaza for night events featuring arts/culture.
- Installations and collaborations such as “The Warrior,” a Chinese art piece related to the VFMA show should be encouraged e.g. other free temporary art.

Consider an installation at Market Square; He is very fond of the “hidden” public art at Market Square but few pedestrians realize it is there. Suggested that it might be nice if the art were in the fountain area where it could be more visible.

Asked which Council Member had similar views about PA stated Justin Wilson.

Torpedo Factory

- Enliven and open up the Torpedo Factory
- Enhance school involvement
- Artists need to be there, be open
• Concern that the City is not getting a return on the value of the subsidy the City is providing

**Durant Center**
• Councilman Smedberg indicated that he would trade the Rec Center for a Performance Center
• City needs a public venue space versus a Metro Stage model that is built solely for their use. Multiple groups should perform in this city space.
• Braddock Road and Eisenhower Avenue area near Metro stop could be considered as a public venue location

**West End Involvement**
• Smedberg acknowledged that West End involvement in arts/culture programs has been challenging.
• Recommended a focus on schools as an anchor for initiatives
• Consider a young (school) / old (Goodwin House) arts initiative.

**Recommendations for ACA Outreach**
• Beautification
• Planning
• Parks & Rec
• Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP)
• Building & Architecture
• Visit Alexandria

**Other Topics Covered**
• Arts fragmentation: Concern expressed that the arts community of Alexandria is very siloed.
• City needs a collaborative event that draws from across the arts organizations.
• Alexandria City Communications Department: Strong concerns expressed about the City’s Communications Department; City is not doing what it can/should to market its arts and cultural offerings.
  o No style guide exists for City Departments resulting in disjointed messaging.
  o Alexandria needs a better logo.
  o The City’s press releases are not engaging, do not grab the public’s attention lack pictures and other elements designed to connect with people.
  o Communication model: Alexandria Police has an interesting twitter feed account; model for publicizing arts and culture initiatives?
• Spoke highly of the Athenaeum installations; consider as a model.
• Is frustrated that there is no clear vehicle to facilitate donations of individual pieces and collections of art to the City. Knew of people (including Alexandrians) /institutions who had good art collections which went to institutions in other cities.
• Discussed enhancing funds related to Arts via matching funding such as Spring to Action/Alexandria School Foundation/Waterfront programing.
Non-arts Related Issues

- The budget remains tight
- Alexandria is a City Manager form of government Day to day management rests with City Manager.
- City Council determines policy and can inquire into the conduct of any office.
- Council Members do not have direct authority over staff. They can only fire 3 people the City Manager, the City Attorney, the City Clerk.
- The Council Member designee who sits on the Metro Board is a non-voting member. Their vote was given away for a Metro stop before the Potomac Yard Metro Stop was ever taken up.
- Because of the high turnover of City Council seats many of the City Council Members will be new and there will be a learning curve related to understanding various policies, service on Council Committees and outside intergovernmental organizations and how the City Staff functions across all agencies and organizations.
The following policy is under consideration for Commissioners’ remote electronic participation in Alexandria Commission for the Arts meetings due to:

1. An emergency or personal matter
   a. On or before the day of a meeting, the member shall notify the Chair that the member is unable to attend the meeting due to an emergency or a personal matter. The member must identify with specificity the nature of the emergency or personal matter.
   b. A quorum of the Commission must be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location. The Chair may approve or disapprove the request for electronic participation. If the absent member’s remote participation is disapproved because such participation would violate this policy, such disapproval shall be recorded in the Commission’s minutes. The decision shall be based solely on the criteria in this resolution, without regard to the identity of the member or matters that will be considered or voted on during the meeting. The Commission shall record the specific nature of the emergency or personal matter and the remote location from which the absent member participated in the Commission’s minutes.
   c. Participation by the absent member due to an emergency or a personal matter shall be limited in each calendar year to two (2) meetings of the meetings of the Commission.

2. A temporary or permanent disability
   a. On or before the day of a meeting, the member shall notify the Chair that the member is unable to attend the meeting due to a temporary or permanent disability or medical condition that prevents his or her physical presence.
   b. A quorum of the Board must be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location. The Commission shall record the fact of the disability or other condition and the remote location from which the absent member participated in the Commission’s minutes.

3. For any remote participation, the Commission shall make arrangements for the voice of the absent member or members to be heard by all persons in attendance at the meeting location.
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Agenda Item #: (V.1)

Motion:

Motion to approve Electronic Participation Policy

Discussion notes:

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City of Alexandria
Alexandria Commission for the Arts
Annual Report
July 2017– June 2018

Summary of Accomplishments

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts 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 as outlined by City Council the Alexandria Commission for the Arts accomplished a great deal for the arts during the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Meetings

- The Commission maintained a quorum at all meetings and met every month of the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Additionally, the Commission held retreats in August 2017 and February 2018. The Commission’s standing Executive Committee meets monthly as well and four additional standing committees meet on a regular basis: Advocacy and Outreach, Arts Education, Social Media, and Grants. Further, each standing committee has at least one member of the community serving in addition to current Commissioners.
- The Commission has liaisons appointed to serve the following groups: Alexandria Arts Alliance and Waterfront Commission.
- The Commission supported, worked with, and engaged the following Task Forces during this year:
  - Public Art at Simpson Park
  - Public Art at Lake Cook
  - Torpedo Factory Art Center Community Engagement
• Public Art at Duke Street Tunnel
• Public Art Annual Work Plan
• Grant Review Task Force
• DASHing Words in Motion
• Public Art at Trails and Paths
• Public Art at Burke Library
• Public Art Artist Residency (Alexandria Renew)
• Public Art at King Street Park at the Waterfront
• Art Purchase Awards
• Voting Sticker Project

Policy Accomplishments

• Bylaws for the Alexandria Commission for the Arts were created and submitted to the City for approval in May 2018, with City approval granted in June 2018.
• The Commission took action on the following:
  • Approved Duke Tunnel Project artwork and timeline
  • Reviewed Office of the Arts-initiated Durant Center space rental restructure
  • Created, approved and submitted Commission Bylaws to the City
  • Approved Commission participation in annual City-wide event to increase public awareness for the Commission for the Arts: Scottish Christmas Walk
  • Approved City arts grants for operating and program funding for FY2018 through the award of 23 grants to local artists and arts organizations dedicated to providing meaningful artistic programming to the Alexandria community in conjunction with the City’s goals and the goals of the Arts and Culture Plan
  • Reviewed the Arts and Cultural District portion of the Old Town North Small Area Plan and endorsed it in concept in letters to the Planning Commission and City Council
  • Approved the appointment of Brian Kelley and Marta Ali to Annual Work Plan Task Force
  • Approved artwork for Art Purchase Awards
  • Approved Alexandria Voter Sticker Art Project for 2018 November elections
  • Approved letter and advocated in support of Special Events Policy change at King Street Waterfront Park
  • Approved letter and advocated in support of full funding of the Capital Improvement Program for Public Art and a sustainable and meaningful Arts Grant program

Member Activities

• Commissioners frequently attend and take part in arts and cultural activities and events throughout our great City
• Commissioners initiate fact-finding “Council Coffees” with City Council members and candidates
• Commissioners individually visit additional City boards and commissions for the purposes of increasing and nurturing working relationships with various City boards and commissions
• Commissioners often host informative speakers at regular Commission meetings
● Commissioners conducted Torpedo Factory Community Engagement surveys at 2018 *Art on the Avenue*
● Commission retreat August 24, 2017
● Commission retreat February 17, 2018

**Goals for FY2018**

● The Commission for the Arts strives to increase the visibility and awareness of the arts in Alexandria, reach and serve underserved populations and connect with the community through new and exciting ways, including implementation of the *Art and Culture Master Plan* and *Public Art Implementation Plan*. This includes the following goals for FY2018:
  o Create awareness and enthusiasm for how art affects and influences all parts of life, beginning with the 2018 Voting Stickers public art project;
  o Revamp the Arts Grant Program by streamlining the application and creating new grants that highlight innovation and Alexandria’s culturally diverse populations;
  o Seek out opportunities for Commissioners to frequently and meaningfully connect with the public on arts opportunities in Alexandria;
  o Connect substantially with arts educators and schools, including Alexandria City Public Schools, and further relationships between arts organizations and students;
  o Streamline Commission roles through further defined expectations and processes;
  o Explore and encourage increased City resources devoted to the arts;
  o Advise City Council and the City on improving arts input in City planning processes;
  o Discover the arts-related interests, suggestions and questions of City Council; and,
  o Extend City public art outreach, support and education to additional populations.

**Leadership**

● Officers for FY2018 were:
  o Matthew Stensrud, Chair
  o Allison Nance, First Vice Chair
  o Catherine Barrett, Second Vice Chair
  o Karen Thomas, Secretary

● Officers for the upcoming year were elected at the June 2018 meeting:
  o Matthew Stensrud, Chair
  o Gayle Converse, First Vice Chair
  o Chris Kurowski, Second Vice Chair
  o Tamsin Green, Secretary

● During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:
  ● Marta Ali, appointed June 2018
  ● Lisa Baranello, resigned November 2017
  ● Catherine Barrett
  ● Beth Coast
  ● Susie Cohen
  ● Gayle Converse
  ● Michael Detomo, resigned March 2018
• Shirley Downs
• Kate Elkins
• Susan Amber Gordon
• Tamsin Green
• Allison Heck
• Brian Kelley, appointed May 2018
• Chris Kurowski, appointed December 2017
• Sara Lavan
• Allison Nance
• Shaan Shuster, appointed November 2017
• Matthew Stensrud
• Karen Thomas, resigned, April 2018
• Paige Vondenkamp resigned, October 2017

• Matthew Harwood acted as the City staff liaison to the Commission for the Arts.

Attachments

1. Commission committee reports FY2017-2018
2. Commission and grantees events/projects photographs FY2017-2018
3. Letter to City Council regarding Special Event Policy at Interim King Street Waterfront Park
4. Letter to City Council regarding Budget Priorities for FY2019
5. Email to City Council regarding Old Town North Arts District Text Amendment Considerations

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Committee & Liaison Reports

- **Arts Commission Advocacy and Outreach Committee Report**
  The Advocacy and Outreach Committee organized the Commission’s participation in the 2017 Scottish Christmas Walk. Commissioners marched the parade route pulling, pushing and carrying hand-crafted penguins created by a Torpedo Factory artist and made by the City’s youngest citizens. The Committee assists with Commission communications, supports City arts events and meetings and works to enhance the visibility of the Commission and the arts throughout Alexandria.

- **Arts Commission Grants Committee Report**
  The Alexandria Commission for the Arts has a standing Grants Committee, comprised of Commissioners as well as community volunteers with relevant expertise. The Grants Committee oversees the grants application procedures and makes grants policy recommendations to the Commission. Each year, a Grants Task Force is appointed, which is comprised of Commissioners as well as community volunteers with expertise in arts non-profit management and grant making. The Grants Task Force reviews all of the eligible grant applications from nonprofit arts organizations. On April 10, 2017, the FY18 Grants Task Force met to discuss and score the grant applications. These scores were used by the Grants Committee and Staff to present funding recommendations to Commission.

- **Arts Commission Arts Education Committee Report**
  The Education Committee strives to support and promote the value of arts and culture by nurturing, celebrating and investing in high quality arts experiences in our community and our schools. The Committee has worked with Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) regarding two projects, the first of which supports visual and performing ACPS arts educators. Torpedo Factory artists and performance art facilitators plan to conduct professional development workshops to expand and enhance the skills of the teachers. Additionally, the committee has worked with ACPS on the development of a directory of arts organizations which the school system may utilize to provide arts education and enrichment for in-school, after-school and summer student programs. The Committee also continued its endorsement of the planning of the popular annual juried All-City High School Art Show.

- **Arts Commission Social Media Committee Report**
  In February 2018, the Alexandria Commission for the Arts established a Social Media Committee to manage the Commission’s new Facebook and Instagram accounts. The goal of this Committee is to foster Alexandria’s arts and cultural reputation by showcasing our City’s offerings; educating our followers on the importance of the arts to our community, the role of the Commission, and ways to get involved; in an effort to further connect with organizations, artists, art lovers, patrons, and City influencers. We are pleased with initial response to our social media
presence. We now have approximately 400 followers on Facebook and 1,050 followers on Instagram and have high levels of engagement with both artists and arts patrons in our City. Want to keep up with us? Our handle is @AlexandriaArtsCommission on both platforms.

- **Waterfront Commission Liaison Report**
  During the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, the Waterfront Commission focused on methods to activate the Waterfront. It requested City Council to reaffirm its commitment to maintain funding for both capital outlays and maintenance on the Waterfront, and to consider alternative means of financing. The Waterfront Commission desired to maintain an active Waterfront during construction and flood mitigation; supported Scott Shaw’s Tall Ship Providence Foundation; supported development of a temporary King Street Park on the Waterfront and supported a public art sculpture in King Street Park. The first “temporary sculpture by the New York artist, Mike Szivos of SOFTlab, will be installed in the spring of 2019.

- **Arts Alliance Liaison Report**
  The Arts Alliance is a nonprofit coalition of arts organizations, artists and arts advocates who work together to advance and advocate for the arts in Alexandria. It provides monthly meetings designed to promote professional growth, collaboration and networking. The Arts and Economic Prosperity Study is an example of this collaboration. This analysis showed that the arts in Alexandria is a $111.8 million industry with 2,628 full-time equivalent jobs generating $32 dollars over and above ticket sales in activities such as dining and retail sales.
Alexandria Commission for the Arts
Annual Report
July 2017–June 2018

Project and Event Photographs

QuinTango Concert June 2018

Poetry Workshop, Durant Center April 2018

Jane Franklin Dance March 2018

Alexandria Commission for the Arts Meeting
January 2018
Time & Place
“the Finest Amenities”

Time & Place
“Centennial of the Everyday”

Alexandria Commission for the Arts
Scottish Walk, December 2018

Art Purchase Awards, 2018
June 15, 2018

To: Mayor Allison Silberberg
   Vice Mayor Justin Wilson
   Councilman Willie Bailey
   Councilman John Taylor Chapman
   Councilman Tim Lovain
   Councilwoman Redella Pepper
   Councilman Paul Smedberg

Cc: Mark Jinks, City Manager

Re: Special Event Policy at Interim King Street Park

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts thanks you for your continued support of arts and culture in Alexandria, including your recent approval of the Old Town North Arts and Culture District. We look forward to working with the Planning Department and Old Town North stakeholders to activate this plan to its maximum potential.

Today, we are reaching out in support of a waiver of the current special events policy at Interim King Street Park at the Waterfront. At our May meeting, the Commission unanimously supported the staff recommendation of a one-year waiver to this policy. This will allow special events—including rotating public art, hands-on Mobile Art Lab experiences, activities with local artists and arts organizations, and small concerts and other performances—on consecutive weekends at the Interim King Street Park at the Waterfront.

We look forward to the activation of the Waterfront at Interim King Street Park and ask to receive updates from staff on its impact during this trial phase. Thank you again for your support of the arts in the Alexandria and at the Waterfront.

Artfully Yours,

Matthew Stensrud, Chair
Alexandria Commission for the Arts
December 15, 2017

To: Mark Jinks, City Manager
Cc: Mayor Allison Silberberg
     Vice Mayor Justin Wilson
     Councilmember Willie Bailey
     Councilmember John Taylor Chapman
     Councilmember Tim Lovain
     Councilmember Del Pepper
     Councilmember Paul Smedberg
     Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
     James Spengler, Director, RPCA
     Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, Office of the Arts
     Matthew Harwood, Liaison

Re: Budget Priorities for FY2019

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts thanks you for your continued support of arts and culture in Alexandria, from maintaining and strengthening the City’s Arts and Culture Plan to sustaining the Public Art Policy for new development in the City. Alexandria’s creative culture advances the City’s economic goals and makes Alexandria a dynamic and attractive place to live, work and visit.

This artistic and economically compelling vision for Alexandria must be supported with substantial financial backing from the City. Last year, funds for Public Art Acquisition were slashed in half. Over a number of years, funds for arts grants for local non-profit organizations has been cut by over 20%. Increasing funding for the arts through both the Capital Improvement Plan and Operating Funds better aligns the City with the FY2017-2022 Strategic Plan and supports the City’s interest in maintaining a high-rate of resident satisfaction with cultural, arts and music activities as outlined in the “Flourishing Arts, Culture & Recreation” thematic area and corresponding indicators.

We also recognize the financial challenges facing the City – from sewers to schools and roads to the waterfront. But arts and culture is also big business. Alexandria’s nonprofit arts and culture sector is a $111.8 million industry supporting more than 2,600 full-time jobs, generating over $56 million in household income to local residents and contributing $7.5 million in state and local revenue. These economic impact stats are from the Americans for the Arts’ Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 study and the latest results were recently presented by the Office of the Arts. Arts and culture is a significant part of Alexandria’s economy and City support only enhances this contribution.
With this, the Commission for the Arts would like to put forward the following priorities for the FY2019 budget:

- **Sustain Operating and Project Arts Grants**
  - Continue to fund Arts Grants at the current amount of $170,000

- **Establish a Community Engagement Grant**
  - Establish with the Office of the Arts a grant for arts organizations to engage the community, with an initial focus of education, after-school and summer-school arts programming for Alexandria’s youth at an amount of $30,000 a year

- **Focus on High-Attendance and High-Impact Programming**
  - Continue diverse, well-attended and meaningful programming even if it revenue neutral

If cuts are absolutely necessary, we encourage the City to consider the following:

- **Ensure Special Events Funds are not drawn from Arts and Culture Funds**
- **Decreasing Funds for the Mobile Art Lab**
- **Decreasing Funds for Low-Attendance Programming**

Now is an opportunity to look at the arts in a bold new way—as essential to our most pressing challenges, from educating our children during school and non-school hours, to activating public spaces within retail corridors and the new waterfront, to strengthening our community by celebrating our diversity and inclusiveness. We encourage the City to increase investment in the arts and creativity through sustaining the Operating and Project Arts Grants, establishing a Community Engagement Grant, and continuing to focus on high-attendance and high-impact programming.

Thank you for your consideration of our priorities for FY2019 and we look forward to working with you to create a more artistic Alexandria.

Artfully Yours,

Matthew Stensrud, Chair
Alexandria Commission for the Arts
April 3, 2018

Planning Commission
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: Item #9, Proposed Arts and Cultural District Text Amendment

From: Matthew Stensrud, Chair, City of Alexandria Commission for the Arts

The Commission for the Arts has appreciated being involved in the discussion process regarding the Old Town North Proposed Arts and Cultural District and the corresponding text amendment. At the Commission’s meeting on February 20, 2018, we endorsed the proposed text amendment for an Arts and Cultural District in Old Town North with the following recommendations:

- Increase total floor area for Arts and Cultural Anchor Spaces to 150,000 as opposed to the 50,000 currently proposed by City staff;
- Ensure the Office of the Arts works collaboratively with Planning and Zoning to manage the development conditions;
- Allow relevant City bodies, including the Commission for the Arts, to review and provide comment at several stages as the implementation process continues; and,
- Ensure alignment of the Old Town North Arts and Cultural District with the Arts and Cultural Master Plan 2016-2026 through current City processes.

As Chair, I can provide some additional insight into the more pertinent aspects of these recommendations based on recent discussions of City Council.

The current Small Area Plan allows for 250,000 of square feet for Arts and Cultural Anchor Spaces. While we understand staff’s interest in a trial phase, we recommended an increase to 150,000 to truly open the possible anchors to new visual and performing arts entities that might encapsulate the vision expressed by City Council during their discussion on March 20th. With a current project including MetroStage expected around 8,000 square feet and the Art League currently at capacity with a 20,000 square foot annex plus over 6,000 square feet at the Torpedo Factory, it is easy to envision two projects with current arts anchors in Old Town North using over 75% of the square footage allotted in the trial phase. The Commission does not find that this allows for developers and arts anchors to envision invigorating and community-centered spaces. Rather, an increase to 150,000—or even 100,000 or 75,000 square feet—would still provide a trial phase while broadening the impact to reach the ‘vision’ status aspired by City Council and the arts community.

Alexandria takes pride in its recognition as an arts destination and the creation of an Arts and Cultural District through this text amendment is a strong step by the City to show support for both current arts entities while enticing other anchors to consider Alexandria as their home. While we understand the concerns of the Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee regarding the use of a density
bonus in return for space specific to the arts, it should be mentioned that the Arts and Cultural District overlay is only a portion of the Old Town North Small Area Plan, and developers can consider both arts spaces and affordable housing when proposing new projects. Additionally, affordable housing incentives are still in place outside of this overlay and across the City.

Finally, we encourage Planning and Zoning to closely work with the Office of the Arts and consult the Arts and Cultural Master Plan 2016-2026 during implementation. We also suggest Planning and Zoning continue to update relevant bodies, including the Commission for the Arts and the Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee, so we can continue to advise the City to the best of our ability.

Thank you to City staff for keeping the Commission for the Arts involved in this process and thank you to the Planning Commission for considering our recommendations regarding the Old Town North Arts and Cultural District text amendment. As always, we are here to advise the City on activities and policy regarding the arts and we look forward to continuing to provide the Planning Commission with our insight and perspective during the implementation of this District.

Artfully Yours,

Matthew Stensrud
Chair, Alexandria Commission for the Arts

CC: Diane Ruggiero, Office of the Arts
Heba El-Gawish, Planning and Zoning
Jeffrey Farner, Planning and Zoning
# CITY OF ALEXANDRIABOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
## MEETINGS ATTENDANCE REPORT
### JULY 1, 2017 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2018

**COMMISSION:** Alexandria Commission for the Arts  
**CHAIRPERSON:** Matthew Stensrud

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**LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:**

- Sara Lavan – resigned July 2018
- Susan Amber Gordon – excused extended leave due to cancer treatment

*(FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON)*

**APPROVED:**

(Chairperson)
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**Agenda Item #: VI.2**

**Motion:**

"Motion to approve Alexander Community Arts Act. Report is amended."
August 2018 ACA Meeting
Grants Report

New Community Engagement Focused Grants

- City fiscal year is July 1st - June 30th. We are currently in the FY2019 (July 2, 2018, ends July 30, 2019)
- We currently have two main grants that we give out: General Operating Grants & Program Grants
- This year we created a new Community Engagement focused grant, holding out $15k from the FY19 pot of
  grant money with the intent to ask City Council to match and give us an additional $15k. This would be a $30k
  grant with a 1:1 cash match making it a $60k project. We did not get this additional $15k AND we used $1,500
toward the General Operating and Programs grants. We now only have $13,500 for this Community
Engagement Grant

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Original Proposal from Grants Committee: One $30k (1:1 matching) grant = $60k Project

Goal: To increase grant funding in order to implement a new Community Engagement Grant, one larger grant to be
awarded annually, that will leverage City dollars to have a greater significant impact on groups of residents that are
underserved.

- This Annual Grant would be awarded to only ONE applicant (not to be split up)
  - Applicants who apply and are awarded grants in the regular grant cycle may apply for this grant as well
  - The awarded project must be outside the applicant's general day to day operations, must be new or
    expanded project that is specific to the community they intend to reach
- Year 1 (FY19) the Grants Committee recommends:
  - Each year a different area or underserved population could be designated as the target audience, i.e.
    Chirilagua, or students during breaks such as Spring Break
- $15k would be set aside from the current pool of grant money
  - Request City Council increase the grant funding to match this $15k to reach an award amount of $30k.
  - Note: a $30k award = $60k project with a grantee 1:1 match
  - Committee recommends that a percentage of the grantees match would be allowed to be in-kind

Staff has Proposed the following use of the $13,500

1. One Community Engagement Micro Grants: $1,000 (nonmatching). Funding for individual artists for
   community-based arts and culture projects. Microgrants are available for projects that are free, open to the
   public and benefit City of Alexandria residents. Successful applications will demonstrate that the project
   supports community representation and cultural respect, encourages cultural diversity and/or enhances
   underserved communities, neighborhoods or populations of the City of Alexandria.

2. One Community Engagement Creative Collaborations Grant: $2,500 (nonmatching). Funding is for
   collaborations between artist(s), nonprofit organizations or businesses to create new art works which benefit
   the community. Applications are required to include at least two collaborating partners with at least one artist.
   Projects in which the creation of an artwork is central. Projects in which an active, authentic working
   partnership between the artist(s), organization or business is central to the work's development. The
   collaborations for FY19 grants are to be focused on murals private property throughout the city.

3. One Community Engagement Grant: $10,000 (matching). Funding for arts organizations and/or artists to
   create an arts project which engages and celebrates the community. Successful applications will demonstrate
   that the project supports community representation and cultural respect, encourages cultural diversity and/or
   enhances underserved communities, neighborhoods or populations of the City of Alexandria. Projects in which
   the creation of an artwork is central.

NOTE: Staff has now confirmed that according to City Policy Applicants who received Grant funding already
will not be eligible for this grant, which is contrary to what was confirmed by Staff when the ACA voted to
implement this new grant.
Staff Proposed Timeline:
October: Grants go live for 30 days
November: Grant applications due
November: Grant review and Commission approval
December: Grants awarded
January - September: Projects happen

Grant scoring would be as follows:
Micro Grant & Collaboration Grant, Non matching
Scoring: 45% artistic excellence 55% community engagement
Reviewed & Recommended by staff; Approved by Commission

Community Engagement Grant, matching
Scoring: 35% artistic excellence, 45% community impact, 25% management & budget
Reviewed & Recommended by 5-member task force; Approved by Commission

Grants Committee's Thoughts on Staff's Proposal
1. We are not interested in the $10k grant.
   - The idea was this to be a large $30k grant = $60k project
   - As it is not, it is too similar to what we are already doing for our project grants

2. $1,000 Micro Grants for artists
   - One $1k grant seems arbitrary. If we are going to do this we want to do Five $1,000 micro-grants for artists

3. $2,500 grants
   - We do not want to make this for a specific artwork, as it is written now
   - We want this to be a public/private partnership project grant, still trying to figure out details on this
     - Three $2,500 grants or Two $4,250 (or 1 grant?)
     - Susie Cohen has provided us with a proposal. We are very interested in the Public/Private Partnership idea, but as the proposal stands now we need some concrete plans/ideas on how to really do this
   - One other option to be considered is re-allocating some portion of the $13,500 to our FY19 grantees. The money came out of that budget, and if we come up with a plan where we’re excited about what we’re doing with half the money (or any percentage), and some we are less enthusiastic/confident about what we’re doing with the rest, then we can distribute that portion among the grantees.

Summary of Susie's Proposal:
- To do a pilot project that would establish three experimental Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Alexandria, one for each of the three areas of town. She spoke to two artists at the Torpedo Factory about the minimum amount of money needed for such a project. Both artists said that they would need $5,000 ($2,500 would come from ACA Grants budget, and $2,500 would be raised privately for each project.) We would need to set aside $7,500 to be able do these three projects.
**Brandi N. Yee, Chief Program Officer**

As the chief program officer, Brandi Yee oversees ACT's philanthropic and community investment initiatives including the Capacity Building Grants Program, IMPACT: Innovation + Philanthropy, LEAD, and Spring2ACTion. She is passionate about strengthening the nonprofit sector and advising donors on strategic and effective philanthropic giving and engaging them in the work of local nonprofits.

Prior to ACT, she worked with Workforce Organizations for Regional Collaboration (WORC) and Goodwill of Greater Washington, opening the Arlington Career Campus of Goodwill that offered bank skills and hospitality skills job training programs, English classes and GED courses on-site. Prior to working in the nonprofit sector, Brandi worked with undergraduate students as a career consultant at the George Mason University School of Management and as a recruiter with User Technology Associates, Inc., a government contractor.

Brandi has an M.S. in Organizational Learning from George Mason University and a B.A. in Rhetoric & Communication and Sociology-Organizational Studies from the University of California, Davis. Brandi is a member of the Diaconate of Grace Presbyterian Church-DC, serves on the Advisory Council of Food for Life, and is a founding board member of Girls on the Run - DC.

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**Monique Alcala, Special Projects Manager at CASA de Maryland**

Monique is the Special Projects Manager at CASA | CASA in Action, the largest immigrant rights advocacy group in the Mid-Atlantic region. As a veteran campaign professional she has extensive experience in strategic outreach and coalition building, and has worked with diverse constituency groups from both urban and rural areas across Virginia. Over the years, she has been a consultant and advisor to progressive non-profit organizations and political candidates, and has worked on campaigns which have helped elect leaders such as Governor Terry McAuliffe and Congressman Don Beyer.

A long-time advocate for diversity and inclusion in politics, Monique was elected as President of the Democratic Party of Virginia's Latino Caucus and held this position from 2013 to 2015. During this time, she led the political activity of Latino Democrats from across the state. This included working closely with the State Party's committees and candidates at the local, state, and federal level to engage Virginia Latinos in various efforts, as well as cultivating a strong pipeline of new leaders and activists. She was also elected to represent the 3rd Congressional District at the Democratic Party of Virginia's Central Committee and served from 2012 - 2015.

Monique is a Political Partner at Truman National Security Project and is currently pursuing her Master's degree at Johns Hopkins University where she studies the intersection of race, ethnicity, inequality, and political participation.
Motion made by: Allison (Allison Nance)  
Motion seconded by: Amber (Susan Amber Gordon)  
Vote count: Yes— 12  
No— 0  
Abstained— 6  

ACA Motion  

Agenda Item #: VII  
Motion:  

Motion to appoint Brandi Yee and Monique Atleta as community members to the Grants Committee, and to appoint Commissioner Susie Cohen to the Grants Committee.

Discussion notes:  
(continue on other side of page if necessary)
Report: To the Alexandria Commission for the Arts  
From: Shirley Downs ACA Arts Alliance Liaison  
August 9, 2018

Prior to the last meeting with the Arts Alliance Shirley Downs conferred with the ACA Chair and shared the following

Upcoming Goals to Facilitate the work of the ACA and the Arts Alliance

“Action Item:
1. Advocating to the City Council, City Manager and other departments and city agencies for more funding for the arts including arts education in schools and other learning environments, public art, and the performing and visual arts.  
Note that if we are to be successful in promoting additional funds we need to express that support to the City Manager and the City Council ASAP as the city budget numbers get locked in during September. So it would be best if action is taken now.

2. Advocating for more and better funding and initiatives to promote the arts and arts events in the city including promotions all over the city as well as the Waterfront.

3. That the ACA and the Arts Alliance work together on specific campaigns for arts related events via joint and coordinated letters and advocacy efforts with the Mayor and City Council, and via conferring with members of City Staff about these initiatives.

4. Promoting Arts events and Programing sponsored by Arts Organizations, the Office of the Arts, and other arts focused initiatives.

5. Work to expand the membership of the Arts Alliance. One group that could be ripe for membership would be people who make crafts e.g. jewelry, clothing, pottery, and other crafts. “

During the meeting the following points were discussed:

Arts Funding:
Shirley Downs indicated that Diane Ruggiero had told us that if we wished to secure additional funding for the arts it was important to push for this as early in the budget process as possible with City Staff, the City Manager and the City Council. There was a robust discussion of how best to lobby for additional arts funding in the city followed with differing opinions. The board, however, was unanimous in supporting working with Matthew Stensrud to maintain a unified voice. Kelley Organek, Chair of the AAA, announced that she and Matthew were
in touch and that a joint meeting of the ACA Executive Committee and the AAA Board was to be scheduled for fall and again before the holidays.

**The ACA Annual Report**
The ACA Liaison also shared a draft of the ACA Annual Report dealing with the Arts Alliance. Below in italics is the draft language that was recommended by the Arts Alliance.

*The Alexandria Arts Alliance is a nonprofit coalition of arts organizations, artists and arts advocates who work together to advance the arts in Alexandria. They provide monthly meetings on arts related issues and professional development topics, as well as provide a monthly e-newsletter and social opportunities for collaboration and networking.*

*To ensure that our common goals and advocacy for the arts are aligned, the Arts Alliance board and the Commission have an annual joint meeting and the Commission has a representative who attends Arts Alliance board meetings. During FY2018, the Alexandria Arts Alliance worked with the Commission to promote the results of the Arts and Economic Prosperity Study. The study showed that the Arts in Alexandria is a $111.8 million dollar industry with 2,628 full time equivalent jobs that generate $32 million dollars over and above ticket sales in activities such as dining and retail sales.*

*The Arts Alliance also conducted a survey of arts groups that participated in the City’s FY2019 arts grant program and based on the results, the Arts Alliance submitted recommendations on ways the grant process could be strengthened.*

*Both the Commission for the Arts and the Arts Alliance are advocates for increased city funding for the arts, increased arts education opportunities, and full implementation of the City’s Arts & Cultural Plan and Public Art Plan to expand and strengthen the role of the arts in the city.*

**King Street Park/Waterfront**
Patricia Washington, of Visit Alexandria, updated the AAA board on the progress of programing for King Street Park. The City will announce the opening date in the next week it is currently scheduled for October 12- after an assessment of the delays on the building project. Visit Alexandria/Historic Alexandria/Parks and Rec are jointly working on an artist roster to be used as a resource for future performances at the park. Patricia envisions an ongoing series “Portside Music Series” that will kick in spring 2019 and run through the summer. Questions about what guidelines are being used to develop the artist roster and who will curate spring/summer programing will be addressed at the September or October Meeting.
Shirley Downs indicated that ACA members would be interested in the programing and indicated she would be happy to approach Matthew Stensrud about having a presentation to the ACA about this.

**Financial and Membership:**
Alan Wile presented the financial report.

Note: possible relevance for the ACA and the Office of the Arts. It might be useful for the ACA /Office of the Arts to be aware of the potential utility of the Wild Apricot program as it allows the sorting of members and organizations via kind of programing and other characteristics. This might make it easier to sort artists to whom we are sending calls for public art, for programing of artists, and craft vendors, food vendors, and other categories of people that need to be contacted with or employed for events and initiatives.

**AAA Board Meeting Dates** were determined to be last Thursday of the month at 4 PM at Durant:
August 30, September 27, October 25, November 20

**AAA Board Member Roles**
Chair – Kelley Organek
Secretary – Joan Singer
Treasurer – Alan Wile
Memberships – Michelle Kozlak
Communications – Kelley and Patricia Washington
Social Media – Melinda Kernc - mostly FB/average of 3 posts/shares a week
Community & Social Events – Pat Miller
Liaison to ACA – Kelley suggested assigning one person to go to each meeting; Pat M suggested having as many people go as possible; all agreed

**AAA Board Meeting Dates** were determined to be the last Thursday of the month at 4 PM at Durant:
August 30, September 27, October 25, November 20

**Group AAA meeting dates**: regular meeting time at noon on 2nd Wednesday was confirmed. September 12, October 10, November 14. September meeting was discussed and planned.

**Upcoming Dates: of the ACA and other Events**

- August 21 ACA, Conference Room 4, Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria Va 22314
- September 8 Africa Fest, Noon to 5PM Ramsey Rec Center, 5650 Sanger Ave., Alexandria VA 22311
- September 8, Harmonizers birthday concert, Schlesinger Center, 4915 E Campus Drive, Alexandria VA, 22311
- September 15 Alexandria Symphony outdoor concert 4-6PM, 3737 Seminary Rd. Alexandria, VA 22304,
- September 18 ACA, Activity Room, Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria VA 22314
- September 30 QuinTango 20th birthday concert, Cosmos Club, 2121 Massachusetts Ave., Washington DC 20008
- October 6 Art on the Avenue, in Del Ray on Mt Vernon Street, Alexandria Va
- October 16 ACA, Conference Room 3, Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria Va 22314
- October 8 Torpedo Factory Artists Professional Development Workshop
- November 14 ACA (Wednesday), Activity Room, Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria VA 22314
- December 1 Scottish Walk Parade, King Street Alexandria, Va
- December 18 ACA, Activity Room, Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria VA 22314
- The Arts Crawl from the Torpedo Factory to Market Square (2nd Fridays sponsored by the Torpedo Factory)
Motion made by:  KUROWSKI  
Motion seconded by:  CATHARINE BARRETT  
Vote count:  Yes—12  
             No—0  
             Abstained—0  

**ACA Motion**

Agenda Item #:  
Motion:  SUSAN  
          APPOINT AMBER GORDON AS  
          ACA LIAISON TO ARTS ALLIANCE.

Discussion notes:  
(continue on other side of page if necessary)
OFFICE OF THE ARTS DIVISION SUMMARY

This summary is a brief narrative of activities and actions that have been taken since the previous Division Update. The Office of the Arts ACA Update is also shared with other Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities commissions and staff and becomes part of the monthly minutes for the Arts Commission.

If you have any questions or require additional information/clarification please review the following section(s) of this report or contact the appropriate staff in the Office of the Arts.

Highlights

• Staff will be visiting May + Watkins studios for a playground safety inspection in September. Installation at Simpson Park is tentatively scheduled for mid-September (depending on park construction schedule).
• SOFTlab will be meeting with the Task Force on Tuesday, September 11 to present the design proposal. Location TBD.
• King Street Park at the Waterfront event (hosted by Visit Alexandria) is scheduled for October 13-14.
• Duke Street Tunnel artwork by Mike McConnell is scheduled for installation in September.
• Staff has selected a conservation company for the public art condition assessment (5-year review) and is developing the contract for work to be done in fall, 2018.
• Public art at Lake Cook has been installed!

Public Art - Quick Update:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Art Project</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artist Residency (AlexRenew)</td>
<td>Setting Project Goals &amp; Parameters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burke Library</td>
<td>Setting Project Goals &amp; Parameters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails &amp; Paths</td>
<td>Setting Project Goals &amp; Parameters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Street Park at the Waterfront</td>
<td>Planning/Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simpson Park</td>
<td>Fabrication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Cook</td>
<td>Completed!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke Street Tunnel (ZeroZero Collective)</td>
<td>Fabrication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke Street Tunnel (M. McConnell)</td>
<td>Fabrication</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff Contact Info:

Diane Ruggiero                                      Cheryl Anne Colton
Deputy Director, RPCA                                Regional Program Director, Cultural Resources
director, Office of the Arts                        cherylanne.colton@alexandriava.gov
  diane.ruggiero@alexandriava.gov                      703.746.5565
  703.746.5590                                          

Matthew Harwood (commission liaison)                  Brett Johnson
Public Art Manager                                    Regional Program Director, Torpedo Factory Art
  matthew.harwood@alexandriava.gov                      Center
  703.746.5432                                          brett.johnson@alexandriava.gov
                                                       703.746.4577
PUBLIC ART PROJECTS – PLANNING/DESIGN PHASE

Trails & Paths

Lead Agency
Office of the Arts

Project Scope
Develop a plan to implement public art along trails and paths in the city.

Task Force Members
Shirley Downs, Allison Heck, Park Planning Rep, T&ES Rep

Current Status (per project development process)
Setting Project Goals & Parameters

Update
Task force toured a variety of trails and paths in June to review the types and locations of the path/trail system.

Next Steps
The Task Force will meet with the consultant team in September to continue to develop the plan for public art on trails and paths.

Anticipated Completion
Ongoing

King Street Park at the Waterfront

Lead Agency
Office of the Arts

Project Scope
Hire a curator/consultant to develop the public art program plan and commission projects for the site.

Task Force Members
Allison Nance, Susan Cohen, Claire Mouledoux, Clint Mansell, Jack Browand, Tony Gammon

Current Status (per project development process)
Planning/Design

Update
SOFTlab spoke with City staff regarding the site conditions at the park and is developing the design proposal.

Next Steps
SOFTlab will present their design proposal in September for Commission approval in October.

Anticipated Completion
Spring, 2019 (1st installation)
Residency (with AlexRenew)

 Lead Agency
 Office of the Arts
 Project Scope
 Hire a curator/consultant to develop a public art artist in residency program with AlexRenew.
 Task Force Members
 Beth Coast, Chris Kurowski, AlexRenew Rep
 Current Status (per project development process)
 Setting Project Goals & Parameters
 Update
 The consultant team met with the Board of Directors September, 2018.
 Next Steps
 The Task Force will meet with the consultant team in September to develop the project plan.
 Anticipated Completion
 TBD

Duke Street Tunnel

 Lead Agency
 Office of the Arts
 Project Scope
 Update artwork in the Duke Street Tunnel
 Task Force Members
 Betsy Hennigan, Gayle Converse, Katherine Carraway, Tamsin Green, Kim Barnes
 Current Status (per project development process)
 Fabrication
 Update
 ZeroZero Collective will begin fabrication and installation of the project this Fall. This will be coordinated with Mike McConnell’s art installation.
 Next Steps
 Staff will work with the artists on installations.
 Anticipated Completion
 Summer, 2018
Burke Library

Lead Agency
Office of the Arts

Project Scope
Outdoor public art at Burke Library.

Task Force Members
Catherine Barrett, Shirley Downs

Current Status (per project development process)
Setting Project Goals & Parameters

Update
The task force met in June to review the project plan.

Next Steps
Staff is working to identify community stakeholders before completing the project plan

Anticipated Completion
Spring, 2019

PUBLIC ART PROJECTS – FABRICATION/CONSTRUCTION PHASE

Simpson Park Playground

Lead Agency
Office of the Arts

Project Scope
Add a public artist to the design team to integrate and install public art as part of the playground restoration.

Task Force Members
Paul Linehan, Laura Fries, Dana Wedeles, and Lardner/Klein

Update
May + Watkins have begun fabrication of the artworks for the playground.

Next Steps
Staff will be visiting May + Watkins studios for a playground safety inspection in September. Installation at Simpson Park is tentatively scheduled for mid-September (depending on park construction schedule).

Anticipated Completion
Fall, 2018
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS

Art Purchase Awards

**Lead Agency**
Office of the Arts

**Project Scope**
Invite regional artists to submit original two-dimensional artwork for purchase consideration by the City.

**Task Force Members**
Allison Nance, Maya Contreras, Joyce Frank, Kate Elkins, Nina Carpenter

**Update**
Ten artworks have been selected and are on display in City Hall.

**Next Steps**
Convene the task force in early September to make the final purchase recommendations to bring forward to the Arts Commission.

**Anticipated Completion**
Ongoing

Potomac Yards Metro

**Lead Agency**
WMATA

**Project Scope**
Include public art in the new Potomac Yards metro station.

**Task Force Members**
N/A

**Next Steps**
WMATA will select their members for the public art jury.

**Anticipated Completion**
TBD

Torpedo Factory Art Center Community Engagement Process

**Lead Agency**
Office of the Arts

**Project Scope**
The engagement process will develop a set of goals and strategies for the TFAC (phase 1). This will help determine the appropriate governance structure (phase 2) for successful continued operation and long-term sustainability.

**Task Force Members**
Catherine Barrett, Beth Coast, Antonio Melus, Danielle Romanetti, Lisa Schumaier

**Update**
The consultant team received all of the survey and focus group data from the City and are reviewing the data to develop a report.

**Next Steps**
The consultants will provide a report for review and consideration.
Public Art Task Force Roster

Public Art Project Task Force
The Commission for the Arts will form an ad hoc Public Art Project Task Force for each project that the Program undertakes. The ad hoc Task Force will convene on an as needed basis to advise on the development of each project.

The Task Force will: Advise Office of the Arts staff on the development of an Public Art Project Plans and recommend the Plan to the full Commission; Review artist portfolios and recommend selection of an artist to the full Commission; Report to the Commission on its activities on a monthly basis, and; Review artist concepts and recommend approval of concepts to the full Commission.

Simpson Park Public Art
1. Vacant (Arts Commissioner)
2. Vacant (Arts Commissioner)
3. Elisabeth Lardner (proj. stakeholder)
4. Dana Wedeles (proj. stakeholder)
5. Laura Fries (comm. stakeholder)
6. Paul Lineham (comm. stakeholder)

Artist Residency (AlexRenew)
1. Beth Coast*
2. Chris Kurowski*
3. Alex Renew Staff (proj. stakeholder)
4. TBD (comm. stakeholder)
5. TBD (comm. stakeholder)

TFAC Community Engagement
1. Catherine Barrett*
2. Beth Coast*
3. Lisa Schumaier (proj. stakeholder)
4. Danielle Romanetti (comm. stakeholder)
5. Antonio Melus (comm. stakeholder)

Art Purchase Award
1. Allison Nance*
2. Vacant (Arts Commissioner)
3. Maya Contreras (proj. stakeholder)
4. Joyce Frank (comm. stakeholder)
5. Nina Carpenter (comm. stakeholder)

Trails & Paths
1. Shirley Downs*
2. Allison Heck*
3. Ramiro Ross (proj. stakeholder)
4. Robert Narvaez (proj. stakeholder)
5. TBD (comm. stakeholder)
6. TBD (comm. stakeholder)

Duke Street Tunnel
1. Gayle Converse*
2. Tamsin Green*
3. Katherine Carraway (proj. stakeholder)
4. Betsy Hennigan (comm. stakeholder)
5. Kim Barnes (comm. stakeholder)

Burke Library
1. Catherine Barrett*
2. Brian Kelley*
3. Kyle Maier (proj. Stakeholder)
4. Kathleen Schloeder (proj. stakeholder)
5. Vacant (comm. stakeholder)
6. Renee Dipilato (ex-officio)
7. Shirley Downs (ex-officio)

Waterfront/Fitzgerald Square Public Art
1. Susie Cohen*
2. Allison Nance*
3. Tony Gammon (proj. stakeholder)
4. Jack Browand (proj. stakeholder)
5. Claire Mouledoux (comm. stakeholder)
6. Clint Mansell (comm. stakeholder)

*Arts Commissioner
# Public Art Planning & Project Development Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identification</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identifying the Project in the Annual Plan</td>
<td>• Projects are identified in the Public Art Workplan, a document developed annually by the Office of the Arts with input from the Workplan Task Force. The Public Art Workplan is approved by the Arts Commission and by City Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setting Project Goals and Parameters</td>
<td>• Once a project has been initiated, the Arts Commission establishes a Public Art Project Task Force specifically for that project. • Office of the Arts staff, with input from the Project Task Force, develops a Public Art Project Plan. This plan includes goals, location, timeline and budget; the artist selection process and community engagement process; and a list of internal and external stakeholders for the project. • The Project Plan is approved by the Arts Commission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing the Artist Pool</td>
<td>• Based upon the approved Project Plan, the Office of the Arts develops a pool of artists and collects qualifications for the Project Task Force to review. • The pool of artists can be collected through an open competition, pre-qualified artist list, curatorial process or invitational. • Artist qualifications generally include a cover letter from the artist expressing their interest in the project, a resume, and examples from the artist’s portfolio with a corresponding description of each project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selecting the Finalists</td>
<td>• The Project Task Force reviews artist qualifications based on criteria outlined in the approved Project Plan. • Depending on the process in the approved Project Plan, the Project Task Force can select a single artist based upon qualifications, or a small number of finalists (generally three to five).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selecting the Artist</td>
<td>• If finalists are selected, they may be: • Paid a stipend to develop a concept proposal and present that proposal to the Project Task Force. • Interviewed by the Project Task Force. • A combination of the above. • The Project Task Force recommends selection of an artist to the Arts Commission based upon the Concept Proposal and/or interview.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approving the Contract</td>
<td>• The Office of the Arts develops a contract agreement with the artist. • The agreement is approved by the City Manager or City Council, depending on the size of the contract.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approving the Concept Proposal</td>
<td>• The selected artist develops a Concept Proposal, if that was not a part of the artist selection phase. • The Office of the Arts facilitates community engagement conducted by the artist as part of their process of developing a Concept Proposal. • The Project Task Force reviews the Concept Proposal and recommends it to the Arts Commission for approval.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approving Final Design</td>
<td>• The Office of Arts conducts a review of the final design documentation provided by the artist for both technical considerations and to ensure it is in conformity with the approved concept proposal. • The Office of the Arts facilitates technical reviews by other City staff as required. • The Office of the Arts signs off on the Final Design.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabrication</td>
<td>• In most cases, the artist is responsible for fabrication. The Office of the Arts monitors fabrication to ensure it is on schedule and in conformity with the approved design. • In some cases, the Office of the Arts will play a more direct role in overseeing the fabrication of artwork, with the artist acting in an advisory role.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation</td>
<td>• The Office of the Arts works with the artist, relevant City Departments, and other stakeholders to schedule and facilitate installation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ARTICLE K - Alexandria Commission for the Arts[1]

- Sec. 2.4.90 - Creation, composition and organization.

(a) There is hereby established a standing commission known as the Alexandria Commission for the Arts.
(b) The commission shall consist of 16 members to be appointed by the city council. The composition of the commission shall be as follows:
   (1) four members shall have expertise in the arts, including, but not limited to, arts educators, professional practitioners of various art disciplines and professional administrators working in the arts;
   (2) three members shall have specific expertise in visual arts either as professional practitioners of visual art, curators of visual art, or as professional arts administrators currently working in the field;
   (3) three members shall represent the public at large, as arts consumers or participants;
   (4) three members shall be professionals in fields relevant to arts and cultural development, including cultural planning, marketing, finance, funding, tourism, promotion, non profit organizational development, and real estate development;
   (5) two members shall be professionals in the field related to the visual appearance of the cityscape, such as architecture, environmental design, landscape architecture or urban design; and
   (6) one member shall be a student who resides in the city and attends a high school located in the City of Alexandria.
(c) Members of the commission shall be appointed in the manner prescribed by article A of this chapter. The members shall serve for a term of three years, except in the case of an appointment to fill the unexpired portion of a term. (Ord. No. 3782, 2/25/95, Sec. 1; Ord. No. 4482, 5/12/07, Sec. 1; Ord. No. 4920, 1/24/15, Sec. 1)

- Sec. 2.4.91 - Function; powers; duties.

(a) The functions of the commission shall be as follows:
   (1) to advise 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;
   (2) to establish and periodically review criteria and standards for arts grant applications for city funds and accountability for the use of such funds; the allocation from such funds to eligible organizations and activities as may be appropriated by the city council for such purpose;
   (3) to 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;
   (4) to review and approve public art project plans for specific public art projects, and to review and approve artist selection and concept development;
   (5) to create committees and task forces, as necessary, to focus on public art project development and artist selection;
   (6) to review proposals for donations of public art and commemorative art and make recommendations to the city council;
   (7) to collaborate with the office of the art on public art project evaluations; and
   (8) to support public communication and outreach as related to the arts and;
   (9) to serve as citizen liaisons to city planning initiatives when public art is involved.
(b) The commission is empowered to adopt rules and regulations in regard to procedure and other matters so long as the same are not inconsistent with the city code, including, but not limited to, the establishment of committees, through which to carry on its functions and purpose.
(c) A commission chair, vice-chair and secretary shall be elected annually by the commission members at the organization meeting designated in the commission’s bylaws. (Ord. No. 3782, 2/25/95, Sec. 1; Ord. No. 4482, 5/12/07, Sec. 1; Ord. No. 4920, 1/24/15, Sec. 1)
Alexandria Trails Public Art

Project Task Force Meeting #2
July 17, 2018
Potomac Yard
Four Mile Run
Hooff's Run
Holmes Run (I-395)
Holmes Run (All Veterans Park)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motion made by:</th>
<th>Motion seconded by:</th>
<th>Vote count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allison Nance</td>
<td>Beth Coast</td>
<td>Yes—12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No—0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Abstained—0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ACA Motion**

**Agenda Item #:**

**Motion:**

Motion to appoint Allison Heck to the Arts Purchasing Award