

CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 13, 2010

Members Present: Su-Lin Carbonelli, Alderman Frances Clark, Dorreth Cole, Jennifer Delmonico, Douglas Hausladen, Ife Gardin, Chris Jacobs, Robert Parker, Mark Julius Potocsny, Dean Sakamoto, Aleta Staton, Nghi Thai, Janna Wagner. **Staff Present:** Barbara Lamb, Kim Futrell **Members Absent:** Slate Ballard.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by J. Delmonico at 5:50 p.m. Introductions were made for the benefit of Chris Jacobs, whose membership on the Commission is pending.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

J. Delmonico called for motion to approve the July 2010 minutes. B. Parker motioned, seconded by A. Staton. The motion unanimously passed.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Events: DCA in collaboration with LCI and the Office of Economic Development recently hosted a community celebration and cookout in Newhallville. The event introduced the Newhallville WRAP (Winchester Revitalization Art Project) a multi-year arts and cultural initiative as part of the neighborhood revitalization envisioned by the City to begin to evolve as a result of the recent BOA approval for the adaptive re-use of the nearby Winchester factory building. DCA's involvement resulted from a request for a proposal from OED/LCI for ways we might work with the community using arts and cultural activities to activate the city-owned vacant lot at 535 Winchester Avenue. WRAP will be managed by a very part time project coordinator and assistant to assist with event management.

Jazz Festival: This year's jazz festival produced by Jazz Haven was held two Saturdays, August 14 and 21. The event was well attended and presented a line-up of local performers, graduates of many of the city school music programs and nationally recognized talent. DCA continued to provide marketing support and assist with city permits and other support. Doug Morrill, the founder and current President of Jazz Haven is planning to step down and is working with DCA to identify ways to attract new, younger members to its board and create a long-term vision for its future.

Mayors Community Arts Grant Program: The grants program awarded grants to 22 organizations and 1 individual artist. A list of awardees is available on the DCA's website.

Percent for Art: East Rock School Percent for Art meetings will begin this fall. D. Hausladen expressed an interest on serving on the jury for the East Rock School project.

Public Art: DCA is continuing to develop its inventory of public art and recently submitted images and information to WESTAF, an art services organization in Denver that specializes in technology for arts organizations. New Haven will be one of the two cities in the nation to be part of WESTAF's pilot database program. Additionally, Yale University has expressed an interest in incorporating the artwork on its campus. The national database is scheduled to go live by the end of the year.

Project Storefronts: Project Storefronts is up and running and has received considerable attention from media outlets such as the New Haven Advocate, New Haven Independent, the Arts Council and WNPR. In addition to providing a downtown retail opportunity for artists at next to no cost during this pilot program, the various entrepreneurial partners have programmed gallery openings, various social gatherings, meetings and offer hands-on workshops, all of which enliven the Orange Street area in the evenings and weekend. The projects were selected for the pilot program based on applications which

included information on their overall concept, budgeting, signage & marketing. The project is currently in place through the end of October however there is potential it to continue in place as well as to expand into other city neighborhoods.

New Haven Sister Cities: The lecture on B. Lamb's visit to Hue, Vietnam at the main public library downtown in July was very well attended and very well received.

NHSC will be hosting a new member recruitment and exhibition reception for the artworks of Tung Huang at Project Storefronts Tuesday, September 21 from 5-8pm.

Other: A representative from the Cultural Affairs Commission was requested to serve on the Shubert Facilities Committee. C. Jacobs expressed interest in participating.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Plan: A Strategic Planning Committee as previously discussed was convened on August 16 to consider alternative structures for DCA/CAC. In addition, there was representation from the Community Foundation, the NH Economic Development Corp, the Arts Council, CAPA/Shubert, and REXX (the regional economic development organization). The discussion covered a broad range of topics related to the arts and governance, as well as how the arts are represented in New Haven. All agreed that we should present a case for more engagement of the arts community in development planning.

V. NEW BUSINESS

None discussed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The commission discussed hosting the October meeting at Project Storefronts.

THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12 (due to Columbus Day) AT 5:45 PM. The meeting will be held at Project Storefronts, 71 Orange Street.