

Cultural Planning Subcommittee (CPS)
Portsmouth Arts and Nonprofit Committee (PANC)
Minutes of the joint meeting – **June 12, 2023**
In Conference Room A at Portsmouth City Hall

Attending:

Karen Rosania, chair, Alan Chace, co-chair, Jeffrey Cooper, secretary taking minutes
Tom Kauffold, Susanne Danforth, Jason Goodrich, Ellen Fineberg, Geraldo Gonzalez, Karen Battles, John Mayer, Attending by Zoom: Emma Stratton, Amanda Kidd Kessler, Robin Lurie Meyerkopf
Barbara Massar, PANC co-chair, Courtney Perkins, Beth Falconer, Genevieve Aichelle, Renee Giffroy, Robin Albert,
Sean Clancy, City liaison, Kate Cook, City Council liaison, Ben Van Camp, Portsmouth CoC,

Meeting called to order at noon

Barbara Massar gave opening remarks on the importance of the project we are undertaking, to develop a Culture and Arts Plan for inclusion in the City's Master Plan

Minutes of the May 8 CPS meeting were approved unanimously with the correction that Group 4 is Communications

Minutes of the May15 PANC meeting were approved unanimously

Workgroup 2

Tom Kauffold and Kate Cook led a discussion of the draft ordinance that would create a new Culture and Arts Commission as part of City government
(note that a copy of the draft has been previously circulated in the attachment to an email from Sean dated June 6)

- The economic impact of the arts in Portsmouth is \$58 MM per year
- They have interviewed several former members of Artspeak and learned that a problem was that their charter was unclear
- The draft language attempts to be specific while allowing flexibility. It is modeled after that of the Economic Development Commission EDC
- Proposed membership is 15 plus alternates, plus a representative from City government and the City Council. The members are to be primarily representatives of the major arts organizations active in Portsmouth.
- **Several people spoke to encourage representation of the wider arts community, particularly individual studio artists, the for-profit arts community as well as the non-profit arts community. Language needs to be adjusted to that affect. Same for the described "Powers and Duties."**
- The process of selecting members needs to be transparent
- The arts agency will be funded by a combination of City appropriation and grant funding

- The overall goal of the arts agency will be to support and implement the Cultural plan which we are in the process of writing

Group 2 expects to complete it's work by the July meeting and pass our draft ordinance to the City staff to be shepherded through the approval process

Kate also reported that a new Public Art Review Committee has been established and is now active. They have developed a specific set of criteria for reviewing public art proposals. Public art installations and funding for them come to the city in one of two ways

1. Through the Percent for Art policy whereby the city designates funding for a public art project as a percentage of the cost of any City building projects
2. Donations whereby an individual or organization will secure the funding for the project and propose it to the City, which will then accept or decline it as a gift.

Workgroup 4 – Communications

- Suzanne thanked us all for sending the personal biographies which will be used in getting the word out about our project.
- Group 4 has met with most of the various neighborhood committees who are all knowledgeable about our efforts and ready to help as needed
- Jason has had further discussions with Stephen Chinosi at PHS regarding student involvement and they are planning to solicit about a dozen student volunteers who will help out over the summer vacation as “cultural research fellows.”
- Rotary Club is also ready to help as needed
- Group 4 will develop a set of talking points for those of us who may have opportunities for public speaking
- A fact sheet has already been circulated, with a QR code. We can each circulate it to people we know who may take an interest

Group 5 – Public Engagement

- Group 5 has basically been preparing materials we think will be useful to the Consultant once they are officially contracted. This includes:
 - a list of art agencies local to our region with contact information
 - a sample list of questions we would like to ask the various arts agencies focusing on their audience, their economic impact, opportunities and challenges of doing business in Portsmouth, and ways the arts agency could be helpful to them
 - a sample discussion guide for focus groups with local individual artists living and/or working in Portsmouth and the Seacoast, focusing on how they are doing, challenges and opportunities, what brings them here, how an arts agency could be helpful to them.
 - a sample list of questions we would ask members of the general public through quick interviews, cards to fill out, or using Flashvote

- a list of public events where the committee may want to survey members of the public
- The consultant will have opportunities to review and edit this work, and will be key to implementation and analytics.

Report from Sean on the consultant

- The agency with whom we are contracting is ACG, Arts Consulting Group. It is a national company headquartered in Boston. They have written cultural plans for several cities around the country.
- The timeline is tight but doable
- Contract negotiations are nearly complete, could be finished as early as June 13 meeting
- Sean will be 'project lead' which means that he will be the primary contact with the consultant, but not the sole contact
- Two representatives of ACG joined us by Zoom, each introducing themselves and outlining their prior experience
 - **Heran Sereke-Brhan, Ph.D. (she/her/hers)** resides in DC
 - **Naghm Wehbe (she/her/hers)** resides in LA
- They will be visiting Portsmouth in person for f2f meetings
- They showed a graphic outlining the stages of their process
 - Prepare and Align – getting to know us and our community
 - Ask, Listen, Learn – the public engagement process
 - Understand, Strategize – processing the data gathered
 - Plan and Lead – the actual writing of the plan

Meeting adjourned at 1:20, followed by a group photo taken outdoors by local photographer Ken "KenPHotoGeek" Goldman