

**Roanoke Arts Commission Minutes  
March 21, 2023**

The Roanoke Arts Commission met on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. at the Eleanor D. Wilson Museum at Hollins University, located at 8009 Fishburn Drive, Roanoke, Virginia.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ben Bazak, Laura Carden, Donna Davis, Treasurer; Helen Dean, Catherine Koebel, William Penn, Vice-Chair; Meighan Sharp, Chair; Pat Wilhelms and Karl Willers.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Valerie Brown, John Cornthwait, John Hitchins, Whitney Johnson and Betsy Whitney.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Douglas Jackson, Arts and Culture Coordinator and Melissa Murray, Recording Secretary.

Jenine Culligan, Director and Curator at the Eleanor D. Wilson Museum at Hollins University, gave RAC members a tour of the *Suzanne Schireson: Aftercare* and the *A Marriage of Art and Math: Artwork Inspired by Dual Platonic Solids* exhibits, both sponsored in part by the City of Roanoke through the Roanoke Arts Commission.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:57 p.m.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of February 21, 2023 were before the body. No corrections necessary, the minutes were approved as submitted.

**TREASURER REPORT:** \$7,848.99 reported by Donna Davis, Treasurer.

Douglas Jackson shared that Eva Lynch-Comer has been chosen for the *Writer by Bus* program and following discussion, the RAC voted to provide a \$1,000 stipend out of the Art Matters funding. He suggested using Art in Place funds for rehabbing the Dorothy Gillespie mural and following discussion, the RAC voted to spend up to \$14,000 for the project. Douglas also mentioned that the Cultural Endowment has a discretionary fund and has \$4000 to provide to the Gun Violence Task Force and dependent on what they choose to do with it, the RAC would consider using the \$3000 AFAC funding received from the City of Roanoke.

SUBJ: MONTHLY REPORT – March 21, 2023  
TO: ROANOKE ARTS COMMISSION  
FROM: DOUGLAS JACKSON, Arts and Culture Coordinator

**SOCIAL MEDIA -- @artinroanoke**

- Facebook: 3,731 Followers (up 26)
- Instagram: 2,030
- Newsletter: 1,289
- YOTA registrations: 380
- Website
  - 2023 (to date): 2,400
  - 2022: 11,084

**PRESS & PRESENTATIONS**

- **Self-Portrait Videos**
  - [Simone Paterson](#)
  - [Hannah Milam](#)
  - [Rich Davis](#)
  - [Dan Kuehl](#)
- Daisy Art Parade,
  - [WFIR](#)
  - [Roanoker](#)
- Most recent Cultural Calendar: [here](#)

**THE COMING MONTH**

March 21 - World Puppet Day at Morningside Farm  
March 22- Dance Espanol at Berglund Center, 7 PM  
March 23 - Arts and Culture groups convening - collective marketing  
March 28 - Artist project reflection and meaning workshop (YOTA Tuesday, 7 PM)  
April 1 - Writer by Bus Eva Lynch-Comer begins riding the bus  
April 4 - Soul Box workshops 4 and 6 PM, EnVision Center  
April 15 - DAISY ART PARADE!!!  
April 18 - Next RAC Meeting - AFAC awards, Guest YOTA coach Kathryn Schnabel  
April 17 - Municipal Building Gallery Talk, 6 PM  
April 18 - Poetry in Place Workshop Grandin Theatre (Art Matters)  
April 22 - Earth Day Movement Workshop at Gainsboro Library, 2 PM

**PUBLIC ART PROJECTS (Collections and Placemaking)**

Public Art projects carried over from previous year

- South Roanoke Library E-Branch Wrap – 100th anniversary of Crystal Spring, email sent to Chris Jones 3/19 to pin down date.
- Holding \$3K for Safer Neighborhoods committee of Gun Violence Task Force
  - i. [www.Soulboxproject.org](http://www.Soulboxproject.org) -
  - ii. June Gun Violence Awareness Month event at VTCSOM

**FY 2022-23 PUBLIC ART PLAN**

1. River's Edge - South Jefferson Bridge — \$25,000 - Panel recommendations today
2. Art in Place Phase 1 (public/private) — \$10,000
  - i. \$4K WRABA - on hold
  - ii. Dorothy Gillespie Mural conversations underway - Roughly \$20K, may need \$12K (2 from public infrastructure program, won't need all funds this year)
  - iii. Fielding Calls from interested parties - Dixie Products, Breadcraft
3. Art in Place Phase 2 (public infrastructure) — \$12,000
  - i. Melrose-Rugby / Brown-Robertson project – Tied now to Floodplain effort. Parenting with stormwater, parks and rec, schools, and neighborhood. Build from activity happening at Lick Run Farm?
  - ii. Walnut Street bridge at Greenway?
  - iii. Others — Need artist/neighborhood partnership and lead
4. Elmwood Park Sculptures — \$40,000 - panel recommendations made, collections has met to site these, waiting to hear back from Library on one piece
5. Collection: 2D art by artists of color and diverse backgrounds — \$3,000
  - i. Roanoke Biennial - photographic triptych “shirley card” ?
  - ii. Donation : Judge Beverly T. Fitzpatrick donation from artist Eric Fitzpatrick for courthouse.

**Additional Projects**

1. Hidden in Plain Site / Henrietta Lacks support - fundraising complete, team developing outreach events for spring and summer) ([www.roanokehiddenhistories.org](http://www.roanokehiddenhistories.org)) OCT 4

**Potential Upcoming Projects**

1. Purchase of Sister Cities artists at Taubman (FY24), Roanoke College (FY24)
2. Meeting with WVCC STEAM engineering lab soon.

**Maintenance & Rotation**

1. Beneath the Roundhouse moving again by fans placed in the walkway. Artist came and inspected the piece.
2. Global Harmony repairs – in contact with Stephen Fairfield, Jim Hudson has given estimates, he will repair if we can get the CONCRETE REPAIRED FIRST. Richard Taylor to start any time soon.
3. War Memorial being cleaned.
4. MLK sculpture relief wax cleaned and reapplied
5. Yulandra Livingston work being hung in HR Training Room Municipal North
6. Grafitti on Arches. - young child, low to ground, artist notified.
7. Damaged Hill Climb will cost \$5K to fix - First payment made, Artist picked up on 2/17.

**VI. Planning & Evaluation – Building up components for next Arts & Cultural Plan-**

1. Arts Connect – Theme of recovery period and Arts and Cultural Planning. This is growing into our Arts & Culture plan framework.

2. Collective Organizational Planning
  - i. Adaptive Leadership Training FALL 22 completed.
  - ii. Arts groups convening on 3/23 re collective marketing
  - iii. \$7,000 in planning funds- RCE (\$4K) + RAC (\$3K)
3. Arts based action planning—
  - a. Through YOTA
  - b. Bi-monthly Arts and Culture leader conversations happening in 2023.
4. Neighborhood engagement –
  - a. Through artists in residence and Art Matters Grants
  - b. Our Town *Arts Connect Neighborhoods* application FY23
  - c. Bloomberg application
  - d. Grants for Art Projects FY 24
5. Collective Marketing – BUZZ 4 GOOD upcoming
  - a. Economic Development with City Economic Development (in progress)
  - b. Art Matters – Social Impact: Equity, Justice and Inclusion - YOTA projects

## VII. GRANTS – Closing, Active, Awarded, Pending and in development

### *Active*

1. VCA FY 23 - \$4.5K – Closed – Alma Ensemble / awaiting payment, reached out to VCA
2. NEA GAP FY22 –\$25K – Accepted, matched with \$35K from City, Artist in Residence
3. ARPA NEA –\$150K Art Matters: Recovery Grants for Artists, \$140K spent
4. Gun Violence Mini-grant -\$9K for EnVision Center Artist in Residence
5. Services payments from Stormwater (\$6K), Parks and Recreation (\$6K) and Berglund Center (\$6K)

### *Awarded*

1. *NEA Grants for Arts Projects’ 23* – Continued artist-driven projects strategy. (\$20K). This round of artists in residence will be all aligned with the neighborhood centers strategy focused on neighborhood activation, neighborhood capacity development, and physical arts-based neighborhood improvements. **Match with \$20K from Percent for Art Funds** drawing on additional Percent for Art funds to implement larger physical projects developed through the effort. \$40K artists fees for artists and coaches; Percent for Art for project funds.

### *Pending*

1. *NEA Our Town Grant* - Application in for \$75K, **Match commitment from City at \$75K** for *Arts Connect Neighborhoods* Strategy, RCE partner. April Notification.
2. **Bloomberg** Public Art Grant: <https://apply.bloomberg.org/submit> [This long-shot grant will be positioned as the Arts Connect Neighborhoods strategy. Spring 23 shortlist notification, Fall full notifications](#)
3. **NEA** [Grants for Art Projects for Daisy Chain Art Activations.](#) Match with \$100K from Percent for Art Funds and Emerging Neighborhoods Strategy
4. **VCA** [Creative Community Partnerships Grant - Due April 1 \(AFAC determination - Mish Moves\).](#)

William Penn reported on behalf of the AFAC Committee that interviews were held March 16<sup>th</sup> with 26 of the 27 organizations that applied for funding. He mentioned that the allocation meeting is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup>, the committee recommendations will go before the RAC for vote at the April meeting and then to City Council for approval.

Laura Carden reported on behalf of the Collections Committee that they met at Elmwood Art Walk and chose locations for each piece. She mentioned that Eric Fitzpatrick has offered to donate a piece featuring his father, Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, to the collection and following discussion, the RAC voted to accept the piece as submitted for donation to be displayed at the courthouse.

Ben Bazak and Pat Wilhelms reported on behalf of the Placemaking Committee that the Williamson Road Plaza project that will highlight the diversity of the area was discussed at the last meeting.

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Douglas Jackson noted that Hollins University donated frames for artists to use.

There being no further business the Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Melissa C. Murray  
Recording Secretary