

**Roanoke Arts Commission Minutes  
April 18, 2023**

The Roanoke Arts Commission met on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. in the Economic Development Conference room, 117 Church Avenue, SW, Roanoke, Virginia.

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

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

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

Meighan Sharp introduced new member Becky Carr and welcomed her to the Commission.

For the monthly RAC spotlight, Douglas Jackson shared information and pictures from the Daisy Art Parade, which was funded through an Art Matters Grant. He also mentioned possible upcoming grants that he will keep the Commission updated on.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of March 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.

William Penn reported on behalf of the AFAC Committee that 28 organizations applied and he shared the suggested allocations for the \$365,500 funding. Following discussion, the RAC voted to approve the allocations as submitted, which will now be submitted to City Council in May for approval. William mentioned that the Virginia Arts Commission granted \$4500 which the RAC will divide between Mish Moves and Down by Downtown. He also noted that Betsey is leaving the RAC & she will be missed on the AFAC committee.

Laura Carden reported on behalf of the Collections Committee that they met at the Courthouse to view artwork done by youth that is displayed in the juvenile area. She noted that they will be going to the annual art shows at both Fleming and Patrick Henry High Schools & will have a total of \$275 of awards at each. Following discussion, the award funding was accepted as submitted. Douglas Jackson showed a picture of the *Free Wheelin* sculpture which is being offered as a donation to the City of Roanoke by Nene Rowe. Following discussion, the RAC voted to accept the donation.

Douglas Jackson reported on behalf of the Placemaking Committee that repainting of the Dorothy Gillespie mural located on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street across from the Municipal Building will begin Monday and that DRI is helping to pay for the project. He also noted that the Committee chose Jonathan Murrill as the artist for a mural being done near RMH.

SUBJ: MONTHLY REPORT – April 18, 2023  
TO: ROANOKE ARTS COMMISSION  
FROM: DOUGLAS JACKSON, Arts and Culture Coordinator

**SOCIAL MEDIA -- @artinroanoke**

- Facebook: 3,759 Followers (up 28)
- Instagram: 2,040 (up 10)
- Newsletter: 1,289
- YOTA registrations: 380
- Website: 2023 (to date): 3,086  
(2022: 11,084)

**PRESS & PRESENTATIONS**

- **Self-Portrait Videos**
  - [Katherine Devine](#)
  - [Lisa Linger](#)
  - [Robyn Mitchell](#)
  - [Amanda Kelly](#)
- Daisy Art Parade
  - [WSLS](#)
  - [Macaroni Kid](#)
  - [Roanoke Rambler](#)
  - [Roanoke Times](#)
  - [WDBJ](#)
- Most recent Cultural Calendar: [here](#)
- *Roanoke Rambler* Calendar: [here](#)

**THE COMING MONTH**

April 18 - Poetry in Place Workshop Grandin Theatre (Art Matters)  
April 22 - Earth Day Movement Workshop at Gainsboro Library, 2 PM  
April 24 - Work begins on Dorothy Gillespie Mural  
April 25 - Marquee in Verse - HOWL - Grandin Theatre  
April 26 - William Fleming Art Show, 6:30-8 PM  
May 1 - Next Collections Committee Meeting (11 AM)  
May 6 - Next Placemaking Committee Meeting (11 AM)  
May 9 - YOTA Tuesday (virtual) Arlington Art Truck featuring Cynthia Connelly

May 13 - Lark Ascending Ballet at Trinkle Stage,  
 May 16 - Next RAC Meeting - Guest YOTA coach Kathryn Schnabel  
 May 16 - Artists, Crafters, Makers, & Shakers Roundtable  
 May 16 - Patrick Henry Art Show  
 May 23 - Buzz for Good Sneak Peak - Economic Development and the Arts  
 May 26 - Self Portrait Project Closes  
 May 26 - Elmwood Sculpture Show Opens  
 May 26-30 - Festival in the Park  
 June 1 - Courthouse Reception for overhaul with Heather Marshall and Students  
 June 1 - National Gun Violence Awareness Month

### **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. Getting Chris Jones in touch with Blue Ridge Stamp – getting closer!
- 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 - postponed, looking for another strategy

### **FY 2022-23 PUBLIC ART PLAN**

1. River's Edge - South Jefferson Bridge — \$25,000 - Jon Murrill getting put under contract.
2. Art in Place Phase 1 (public/private) — \$10,000
  - i. Dorothy Gillespie Mural conversations underway - City commitment of up to \$14K approved. Total cost - \$18K
    1. \$500 Gillespie Foundation
    2. \$500 Property Owner
    3. \$5,000 DRI
  - ii. Fielding Calls from interested parties - Dixie Products, Breadcraft, Sister Cities
  - iii. Exploring more co-ordinated mural strategy, projects need drivers
3. Art in Place Phase 2 (public infrastructure) — \$12,000
  - i. Melrose-Rugby / Brown-Robertson project –
  - ii. Walnut Street bridge at Greenway?
  - iii. Others — Need artist/neighborhood partnership and lead see (2.iii above)
4. Elmwood Park Sculptures — \$40,000 - panel recommendations made, collections has met to site these. 7 pieces available, using 31,500 of the existing funds. This won't put one in front of the raleigh court library. We'll have to explore another strategy for that.
5. Collection: 2D art by artists of color and diverse backgrounds — \$3,000
6. Donations :
  - i. Judge Beverly T. Fitzpatrick donation from artist Eric Fitzpatrick for courthouse.
  - ii. Nene Rowe's "Free Wheelin'"
  - iii. Jimmy Deck piece in courthouse (pending information)

**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)) EVENT DATES - May 21, Aug 6, Sept. 28

**Potential Upcoming Projects**

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

**Maintenance & Rotation this year**

1. Beneath the Roundhouse received artist attention
2. Global Harmony repairs – concrete repair made, Jim Hudson to repair
3. War Memorial cleaned.
4. Damaged Hill Climb repaired and returned
5. MLK sculpture relief wax cleaned and reapplied
6. Yulandra Livingston work being hung in HR Training Room Municipal North
7. Grafitti on Arches. - young child, low to ground, artist notified.

VI. **AFAC - FY 24 Grants Determined - Council Report Date pending.**

VII. **NEA Art Matters Grants recommended:**

- Support for Community Arts Reach Spring Events - direct payment to artists (unfunded grant in round one. Worked with organization to structure fundable work benefitting NW neighborhoods. (Total \$2,600)
- Polly Branch - \$650
  - BJ Lark - \$650
  - DeRon Lark - \$650
  - Tahitia Woods - \$650

**VII. 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. Theme of Daisy Art parade “Fall in Love through the Arts.
2. Collective Organizational Planning
  - i. Adaptive Leadership Training FALL 22 completed.
  - ii. Doug leading collective marketing Task Force
  - iii. Buzz4Good economic development episode to include “It’s all Here” song by Bryan Hancock, JP Powell and others
  - iv. \$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 - SUCCESSFUL!

- c. Bloomberg application pending
- d. Grants for Art Projects FY 24 pending
- 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

### VIII. 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 - \$3K remaining, rolling over to prepay fall artist services
5. Service 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–mentoring younger artists. **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.
2. *NEA Our Town Grant* - Application in for \$75K, **Match commitment from City at \$75K** for *Arts Connect Neighborhoods* Strategy, RCE partner. April Notification.

#### *Pending*

1. **Bloomberg** Public Art Grant: <https://apply.bloomberg.org/submit> [This long-shot grant advances the Daisy Art Parade as a neighborhood energy driver. Spring 23 shortlist notification, Fall full notifications](#)
2. **NEA** [Grants for Art Projects for Daisy Chain Art Activations.](#) Match with \$100K from Percent for Art Funds and Emerging Neighborhoods Strategy
3. **VCA** [Creative Community Partnerships Grant - Due April 1 \(AFAC determination - Mish Moves + Spot on Kirk\).](#)

\*\*\*\* Douglas Jackson proposed using Art Matters grants to pay 4 artists \$650 each for festival performances. Following discussion, the RAC voted to approve the grants as suggested. Douglas mentioned needing a new logo for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RAC which was established in 1983.\*\*\*\*

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Douglas Jackson and Meighan Sharp thanked Betsy Whitney for her work on the RAC and noted that she is leaving to be President of the Roanoke Women's Foundation.

There being no further business the Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Melissa C. Murray  
Recording Secretary