

**Roanoke Arts Commission Minutes  
June 20, 2023**

The Roanoke Arts Commission met on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. in the Economic Development Conference room, 117 Church Avenue, SW, Roanoke, Virginia.

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

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Helen Dean.

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

Douglas Jackson introduced Miriam Yopp, Arts and Culture Intern. Miriam is working to update public art on the website, including pictures and locations.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of May 16, 2023 were before the body. No corrections necessary, the minutes were approved as submitted.

**TREASURER REPORT:** \$7,423.99 reported by Donna Davis, Treasurer. She noted that 4 checks totaling \$275 cleared.

William Penn noted on behalf of the AFAC Committee that there is no report this month.

John Hitchins reported on behalf of the Collections Committee that the Call for Portraits comes out tomorrow and the deadline to apply is July 12. He also noted that the prizes were presented to the high school art students.

Valerie Brown reported on behalf of the Placemaking Committee that they discussed contributing \$2000 for a mural on the Humble Hustle building located at 601 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Following discussion, the RAC members voted to approve the \$2000 contribution as submitted by the committee as part of the *Art in Place* investment.

SUBJ: MONTHLY REPORT – June 20, 2023  
TO: ROANOKE ARTS COMMISSION  
FROM: DOUGLAS JACKSON, Arts and Culture Coordinator

**SOCIAL MEDIA -- @artinroanoke**

- Facebook: 3,913 Followers (up 113), post reach 26,711 last month
- Instagram: 2,156 (up 57)
- YOTA Newsletter: 1,258 (up 20) - 44% Open Rate, 900 total opens last week
- YOTA registrations: 400
- Website visitors: 2023 (to date): 4,674 (up 946)

**PRESS & PRESENTATION**

- William Penn to Grandin Village Co-Op Owners
- Meighan Sharp and Katherine Devine to Roanoke Valley Sister Cities
- Courthouse Renovation
  - *Roanoke Tribune*
- Self Portrait Project
  - [Valley Business Front \(Whitney Brock\)](#)

**THE COMING MONTH**

- June 21 - Arts + Economic Development @ 5 Points Music Sanctuary
- June 24 - These Labored Hills Dance Performances at Mountain View Community Garden
- June 25 - Heart Apples project moves to Mountain View Community Garden
- June 30 - Kinnfolk Star Above the Mountain at The Spot on Kirk
- June 30 - Soul Box display comes down
- No July Placemaking Committee Meeting
- July 3 - Hairfirmations Event (YOTA projet)
- July 12 - Portrait Proposals Due
- July 17** - Collections Committee selection of Portrait Project artists (**Time TBD**)
- July 18 - Virginia Chapter American Planning Association Mobile Workshop on YOTA
- July 18 - Next RAC Meeting

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

Public Art projects carried over from previous year

1. South Roanoke Library E-Branch Wrap – 100th anniversary of Crystal Spring. Getting Chris Jones in touch with Blue Ridge Stamp – getting closer!
2. 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 Valley View

**FY 2022-23 PUBLIC ART PLAN Wrap up**

1. River’s Edge - South Jefferson Bridge — Under Contract, Ben as Liaison, carrying forward
2. Art in Place Phase 1 (public/private) —
  - i. Dorothy Gillespie Mural conversations complete

- ii. Fielding Calls from interested parties, carrying forward proposals
    - 1. Dixie Products
    - 2. Breadcraft
    - 3. Old Southwest - Rescue Station
    - 4. B&D Comics
    - 5. Old Southwest B&B
  - 3. Art in Place Phase 2 (public infrastructure) - carrying forward proposals
    - 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 — in turnover now, largely complete
    - i. 1 Piece still to repair and install
    - ii. 3 pieces to ship to artists
  - 5. Collection: 2D art by artists of color and diverse backgrounds
- Materials for Courthouse renovation funded
- 6. Donations :
    - i. Judge Beverly T. Fitzpatrick donation from artist Eric Fitzpatrick for courthouse. – approved, official letter to go out
    - ii. Nene Rowe’s “Free Wheelin’” – approved, official letter to go out
    - iii. Jimmy Deck piece in courthouse (pending information) carried forward acceptance
    - iv. Loan of Mr. James Tarpley, Angel of Grandin Village (loan only for now)

### **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 - Aug 6, Sept. 28, Oct. 4

### **Potential Upcoming Projects**

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

### **Maintenance & Rotation this year**

#### **Pending**

- 1. Damaged artwalk piece: START by Scott Froshauer

#### **Complete**

- 2. Beneath the Roundhouse received artist attention
- 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 4th floor
- 7. Global Harmony repairs – concrete repair made, Jim Hudson to repair
- 8. Installed railing on 1st floor South
- 9. Awaiting Art Matters shows for 4th floor

VI. **AFAC** - FY 24 Grantees notified. Have requested all 1st, or full requests in month of July.

VII. **NEA Art Matters** Grants

Grant agreements being followed up on. Projects and performances still taking place.

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—
  - . Through YOTA
  - a. Bi-monthly Arts and Culture leader conversations – NEXT June 15
  4. Neighborhood engagement –
    - . Through artists in residence and Art Matters Grants
    - a. Our Town *Arts Connect Neighborhoods* application - SUCCESSFUL!
    - b. Bloomberg application pending
    - c. Grants for Art Projects FY 24 pending
    5. Collective Marketing – BUZZ 4 GOOD upcoming
    - . Economic Development with City Economic Development (in progress)
    - a. 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* - \$75K, **Match commitment from City at \$75K** for *Arts Connect Neighborhoods* Strategy, RCE partner.

*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).

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

As this is their last meeting, Douglas Jackson thanked Valerie Brown and Pat Wilhelms for their service on the Roanoke Arts Commission.

There being no further business the Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Melissa C. Murray  
Recording Secretary