

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

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Ben Bazak, Becky Carr, John Cornthwait, Donna Davis, Treasurer; Helen Dean, Charlene Graves, John Hitchins, William Penn, Vice-Chair; Ilsa Saavedra-Rogan, Meighan Sharp, Chair and Lauren Woodson

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Laura Carden, James Davis, Catherine Koebel and Karl Willers.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jason Cromer, City of Roanoke Revenue Analyst; Trinity Kaseke, City of Roanoke Budget Business Analyst; Douglas Jackson, Arts and Culture Coordinator and Melissa Murray, Recording Secretary.

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

The Chair introduced new RAC members Charlene Graves, Ilsa Saavedra-Rogan and Lauren Woodson.

MINUTES: The minutes of June 20, 2023 were before the body. No corrections necessary, the minutes were approved as submitted.

TREASURER REPORT: \$7,348.99 reported by Donna Davis, Treasurer. She noted that one \$75 check cleared. Ben Bazak, Becky Carr, John Cornthwait, Donna Davis, Treasurer; Helen Dean, Charlene Graves, John Hitchins, William Penn, Vice-Chair; Ilsa Saavedra-Rogan, Meighan Sharp, Chair and Lauren Woodson

Meighan Sharp reported on behalf of the Executive Committee that they have nominated the current officers to remain in their positions for the upcoming fiscal year. All nominees have agreed to remain as officers (Meighan Sharp, Chair; William Penn, Vice-Chair; Donna Davis, Treasurer and Melissa Murray, Recording Secretary). RAC members voted to approve the nominations as recommended by the Committee:

Ayes: RAC Members Ben Bazak, Becky Carr, John Cornthwait, Donna Davis, Helen Dean, Charlene Graves, John Hitchins, William Penn, Ilsa Saavedra-Rogan, Meighan Sharp and Lauren Woodson-11

Nays: None-0

The Chair explained the responsibilities of each committee and then passed around a sign-up sheet for the new fiscal year.

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 40 artists have been chosen from the Call for Portraits submissions. He noted that there will be a reception for the *It's Here! The Roanoke Portrait Project* from 5:30 - 6:45 the evening of September 18th prior to the City Council meeting.

It was noted on behalf of the Placemaking Committee that there is no report this month.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA -- @artinroanoke

- Facebook: 3,972 Followers (up 62), post reach 9,018 last month
- Instagram: 2,185 (up 29)
- YOTA Newsletter: 1,315 (up 60) - 47.2% Open Rate, 1108 total opens last week
- YOTA registrations: 400
- Website visitors: 2023 (to date): 6,355 (up 1,319)

PRESS & PRESENTATIONS

- Hairfirmations in *Roanoke Tribune*
- [It's Here Portrait Call on WDBJ](#)
- [Portrait call in Roanoke Tribune](#)
- [River's Edge Mural](#) on *WVTF*
- River's Edge Mural and graffiti on *WVTF*
- [River's Edge Mural](#) on *WFXR*
- [River's Edge Mural](#) on *WDBJ*
- [Juneteenth event and mural](#) (Robyn Mitchell) on *WDBJ*
- [Soul Box Project at Valley View](#) on *WDBJ*
- [Heart Apples for the Homeless project](#) on *WDBJ*
- [Latest WFIR Culture Calendar](#)
- [Gun Violence Audit article](#) in *Roanoke Times*
- [Gillespie Mural](#) in *Roanoke College magazine*
- [Economic Development and the Arts in Roanoke Times](#)
- Doug presented to [City Council](#) (7/3, 2 PM) - starts 1 hour in
- Doug presented to City of Roanoke Director's Leadership Retreat (7/7)

THE COMING MONTH

- July 19 - [LISC/NEA Our Town Webinar](#), 2 PM
- July 20 - Presentation to Old SW Neighborhood Association
- July __ - New Member Orientation / Refresher
- July 28 - Miriam's Last Day
- August 1 - Placemaking Committee- 11 AM
- August 1 - Work begins on River's Edge North Mural - Paint days next 2 weeks
- August 2 - Doug meets with Roanoke Cultural Endowment Board
- August 3 - Collections Meeting, 11 AM
- August 15 Next RAC Meeting
- August 16 - [Hidden in Plain Site Reception & Screening](#), Grandin, 5:30-7:30 Free.

September 12-14 - Artspace Visit
 September - Watch for Arts and Culture issue of *The Roanoker*

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
www.Soulboxproject.org -

i.

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
 - i. Materials for Courthouse renovation funded
6. Donations:
 - i. Judge Beverly T. Fitzpatrick donation from artist Eric Fitzpatrick for courthouse. – approved, official letter still 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) 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
2. Need Plenum Orb picked up
3. Need Tesis taken out
4. Need Depth of Form installed
5. May have access to boom lift. What needs repair at a height?

Complete

6. Beneath the Roundhouse received artist attention
7. War Memorial cleaned.
8. Damaged Hill Climb repaired and returned
9. MLK sculpture relief wax cleaned and reapplied
 10. Yulandra Livingston hung in 4th floor
 11. Global Harmony repairs – concrete repair made, Jim Hudson to repair
 12. Installed railing on 1st floor South
 13. Awaiting Art Matters shows for 4th floor

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

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—
 - a. Through YOTA
 - b. Bi-monthly Arts and Culture leader conversations – NEXT June 15
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. NEA GAP FY22 –\$25K – Accepted, matched with \$35K from City, Artist in Residence One more payment cycle to go
2. ARPA NEA –\$150K Art Matters: Recovery Grants for Artists, \$140K spent
3. Gun Violence Mini-grant -\$9K for EnVision Center Artist in Residence - \$3K remaining, rolling over to prepay fall artist services - Need to do a city report
4. Service payments all received: 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.
3. **VCA** Creative Community Partnerships Grant - Due April 1 (AFAC determination - Mish Moves + Spot on Kirk).

Not Awarded

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
*** NOT AWARDED ***

Pending

1. **NEA** Grants for Art Projects for Daisy Chain Art Activations. Match with \$100K from Percent for Art Funds and Emerging Neighborhoods Strategy

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

It was mentioned that parking validation is available to RAC members who park in the Church Avenue garage for Commission meetings.

It was noted that the August RAC meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held September 19th.

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

Respectfully submitted by

Melissa C. Murray
Recording Secretary