

## **Cultural Affairs Commission Meeting**

### **July 1, 2024**

**Attendees:** M. Cajigas, A. Crutchfield, I. Gardin, K. Flores, K. Wuzzardo

**Staff:** A. Jefferson, K. Futrell, T. Rich

**Guests:** S. Haber, T. Punzo, N. Gilson, M. Monk Flake

Meeting called to order at 4:38pm by M Cajigas.

#### **I. Minutes**

M. Cajigas called for a motion to approve the May minutes. I. Gardin motioned to approve minutes. Seconded by K. Wuzzardo. Minutes unanimously approved.

Introductions and welcome to pending members Marcella Monk Flake and Naseema Nelson.

#### **II. Directors Report**

Staff Reports

S. Haber Yale Presidential Fellow is currently working on the Black Wall Street Festival's Economic Empowerment Summit and the Film Festival.

This is the first year of activation events leading up to the main event. Community orientated in economic empowerment and discussions. The Summit's focus is Expanding Horizons, will be held within city hall 5:00pm -9:00pm. Resource tables options for businesses/community. N Gilson will put in touch with Cityseed.

M. Cajigas recommended additional individuals as potential panelists.

Black Wall Street Festival – Events are scheduled for August 11 – 17, 2024. Additional information can be found by visiting [bwsfestival.com](http://bwsfestival.com). The Festival on the Green will be held Saturday, August 17. About 100 vendors signed up to date for the Saturday event. The week's event includes:

- Artist Showcase. Many contributors are our partners and already doing the work and are being held under the umbrella
- Film Screening - Q House outdoor screening Black Wall Street & Steve Driffin
- Economic Empowerment Summit
- BWS Fashion Show
- Entrepreneur Party
- Festival on the Green
- BWS Afterparty/BAR Crawl
- BWS Festival Brunch

Additional event support may include individuals from the Workforce Alliance. Outreach for additional volunteers should include New Haven Promise, the Shubert, Bregamos Theater.

City Hall Activation - Members discussed concepts for monthly entertainment by M. Riley beginning in Fall to be held in City Hall.

ARPA - T. Rich provided an update on ARPA projects. 6-7 organizations have received funding. Working on internal delay in some agreements to begin programming. NBC promotions of small businesses entitled "Connecticut in Color" are currently airing.

Public Art - K. Futrell provided an update on the mural apprenticeship program and the mural at the Goffe Street Armory (County Street side overlooking community garden) using cooling paints.

Cultural Equity Plan – The progress report will provide a snapshot of milestones (efforts launched as a result), antidotal remarks, demonstrate what we have learned, and accomplishments. A. Jefferson will forward to CAC for comment and potential omissions. Additional funding would enable future reports such as a creative economy study to look at gig economy, etc. K. Wuzzardo inquired about the opportunity for local organizations to share changes instituted. M. Cajigas noted a report could frame past, current and future arts/cultural landscape. Members considered fundraising opportunities and initiatives

Other - The Word Poets approached having a Youth Poet Laureate. Interest has been expressed in having the commissioners be involved in the programming.

M. Monk Flake discussed a future event (October 11-14, 2024) with Chase Dillon, a Disney actor. The event will include how to get a child into the industry.

A. Crutchfield - are there interactive ways to raise money? Small amounts, a listing of benefits.

### **III. Old Business**

None discussed

### **IV. New Business**

September Meeting - M. Cajigas requested to cancel the August meeting and reconvene September meeting into an in-person meeting.

### **V. Public Comment**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 5:58pm. I. Gardin motioned, A. Crutchfield seconded.

**NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 (DUE TO THE HOLIDAY) AT 4:30PM**