

Cultural Affairs Commission Meeting
March 3, 2025

Attendees: A. Crutchfield, I. Gardin, M. Loter, R. Moore, K. Wuzzardo, R. Moore, N. Gilson

Absent: M. Cajigas, M. Monk Flake, K. Flores

Staff: K. Futrell

Guest: Shamain McAllister

Meeting called at 5:03pm

I. Minutes

M. Cajigas called for a motion to approve the February minutes. K. Wuzzardo motioned to approve minutes. Seconded by R. Moore. Minutes unanimously approved.

II. Directors Report

K. Futrell thanked all who were able to attend the going away gathering for A. Jefferson. A more intimate celebration may be planned towards the end of March or early April. More details to come.

K. Futrell is the primary personnel in the office, as T. Rich is traveling for a couple of weeks.

A new extension agreement for Myles Riley is being drafted to continue Studio Haven programming at least through the end of April, as he graduates in May.

March programming for Studio Haven includes the Puerto Ricans United, Inc. (PRU) Abolition of Slavery Commemoration Event on March 22nd. The Elm City Flow Open Mic series will now relaunch on April 11th.

Neighborhood Cultural Vitality grants deadline was Sunday, March 2nd. 57 applications received. 26 new applicants out of the 57, possible all time record for new applicants. Aiming to notify grant awardees the first week of April, with the assistance of those who agreed to serve on the review panel.

Successfully hosted Unapologetically Radical webinar via streamyard on February 22nd. Over 500 attendees on YouTube platform alone.

Black Wall Street is scheduled for Saturday, August 16th; one day event this year. Working closely with The Breed on programming and contacted by NBC Connecticut regarding marketing. Members discussed having attendees record thoughts on current culture, and an artist can turn those clips or soundbites into something creative.

Members discussed touring Tweed Airport with K. Futrell to determine potential areas for NH marketing.

Staff reviewing Long Wharf Theatre's request to utilize Canal Dock Boathouse for performance in Fall.

Press event for Toad's Place 50th Anniversary on March 5th at 1:30pm.

Potential for 3 additional commissioners to come on board. Two will be going before the Board of Alders for final confirmation in March.

III. Old Business

None discussed

IV. New Business

None discussed

V. Public Comment

S. McAllister provided updates regarding festival season for International Festival of Arts & Ideas. Sister Cities film series with every sister city of New Haven in the works. Received Any Art Town grant and produced film on serviced NH neighborhoods. Public showing of "Exhibiting Forgiveness" with NXTHVN in June. A&I Festival will run June 14th - June 28th. Stage on The Green starting June 20th. All free events. Big Read book is "Fahrenheit 451;" kickoff is April 1st at Wilson Branch. Theme for education and community impact events is "Engaged Minds Empowered Lives." Edgewood Beaver Hills will join in Neighborhood Festival in May. Part-Time positions open and listed on Arts & Ideas website.

I. Gardin noted Life Celebration event for Aleta Staton on Monday, June 16th in City Hall at 5:30pm. Will need assistance with Mayoral Proclamation and light refreshments. Diasporacon (Comic Book and Graphic Novel Conference) will be at NXTHVN on April 27th.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned 5:36pm. I. Gardin motioned to adjourn. Seconded by K. Wuzzado

NEXT MEETING MONDAY, April 7, 2025 AT 5:00pm via zoom