

Watertown Public Arts and Culture Meeting

Monday, March 27, 2023

Attending: Archy LaSalle, Dawn Scaltreto, Liz Helfer, Erin Webb, WCAC

Call to order 6:12

1. Opening – Opening by Archy – Land acknowledgement – When Sacheen Littlefeather of the Apache Tribe accepted Academy Award for Marlon Brando in 1973, other actors including John Wayne and Clint Eastwood were disrespectful as she accepted the award. Last Monday night, Archy attended a meeting by the Massachusetts Historic Commission via Zoom about changing the Massachusetts state flag and motto. The meeting was recorded. “By the Sword we Seek Peace” is a collaboration of the Historic Boston, Elizabeth Solomon, Brittany Peauwe Wunneypog Walley and David Detmold starting a dialogue about change to our Massachusetts’ motto, “By the Sword We Seek Peace,” and flag design, featuring a depiction of an Indigenous person with a sword clasped over his head. Among the points discussed were that Indigenous people are not cartoon characters or mascots as so often depicted. We as citizens have to wrestle with these truths and listen to the conversation. We need to change our flag and motto, it does not need to stay fixed. Here is a link to the recording of the conversation:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TO1zRfScFA>
2. Minutes may not be approved as we do not have a quorum. We will review and approve next month.
3. Resignation of Carole Katz – She did much for our group and we need to acknowledge her contribution, especially to getting us off the ground.
4. Subcommittee and Project Reports
 - a. Governance and Finances – Archy is excited about development efforts that are upcoming. Liz says we have two people waiting to be interviewed for the PACC committee. Dawn recommends David Breen of VDA, a community oriented, out of the box thinker. Liz is working on our advisory committee formation.
 - b. Outreach Subcommittee – 540 people on our list, and the newsletter will continue to go out. March Arts Bulletin is on deck and is ready to go. Archy and Erin had a meeting about getting more people to apply to our calls for art and emphasizing diversity. We can make our Calls to Art more inclusive, and Archy is committed to being an ambassador to get diverse people to apply. It can feel like you are doing everything you can and still not achieving your goals, but Archy is convinced there is more that we can do in our outreach. Bill Meyer has a gallery out in Springfield. He is black and indigenous, and a sculptor. Archy is setting up a meeting with him and he will know more people who may apply. There is a group in Plymouth that has a lot of Latinx people who we may encourage to apply. If not this round, then maybe the next. We need to reach out and be better – the people are here and in this city. Erin points out that we are committed to paying artists a fair rate for their efforts. We want to support Archy in his outreach.
 - c. Community Sculpture Walk – Liz discussed the development in the next call to artists to be more encouraging for BIPOC artists to submit and connecting with MCC and NEFA. The signposts came today for the signage, and she is getting the information from the artists for signage. The artists are scheduling dates and times to install. Liz got a braille label maker to

- make slugs that fit our signage. She is excited to kick this off. Musician Matt Hanna may be available to play for an opening event.
- d. Edible Watertown – “Edible Plants” will replace “Plants of Our...” for the next call for visual artists and writers. We have our MAPC grant for climate resiliency to finance the gardens at the WMS. The plan will be reviewed and approved by the superintendent and school committee. There will be a public call for art to design signage and determine identifying signage wording. Judy Fallows is our main partner and is a true powerhouse in getting things done.
5. New Business
- a. Yard Art – Liz - Yard Art is opening April 1st! There are 97 people signed up, more than last year and many new people. Archy is going to go around photographing people’s installations and is especially interested in people actively working on and installing their artwork. Erin had a friend help make hers who was excited to participate.
 - b. Cultural District Meeting – April 3, 7 pm. A Map Subcommittee is already forming, as well as a Marketing Subcommittee. There is a group that is planning the governance and structure of the partnership which will continue as the CD continues. We may kick the calendar to this group to assist us in creation and maintenance. There are in-person meetings coming up for these subcommittees.
6. Visitor Input – No visitors tonight, but Dawn talked about how she met the new Senior Center Director, Lydia McCoy. She is very interested in the arts and including Watertown Seniors in arts and cultural activities in Watertown. She talked about the possibility of applying for a grant or funding to support an arts-based happening or class that encourages better health and cognition among our aging population.
7. Next meeting – Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 24, 2023, 6 pm. That is a sculpture walk install day for Peter Dellert and Joe Chirchirillo.
8. Move to adjourn by Archy, adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Evans Scaltreto, 3/27/2023