



CITY OF DANBURY CULTURAL COMMISSION

256 Main Street
Danbury, Connecticut 06810
203 797 4508

July 24, 2023

Minutes of the Meeting

Meeting called to order by Chairman Harvey Center at 6:30 pm with Commissioners: John Cooke, Cheryl Hill, Ed Moore, Gregory Smith, and Coordinator Gregory Wencek. Absent: Mary Burke, John Cherry, Alma Faham, Deepti Nagaraja, and Perry Price. Attending from the public: Siubhan Fallon.

Presentation of Minutes

The Minutes of the June meeting were presented. A motion by JCooke to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by CHill. Passed by unanimous voice vote.

Correspondence

Email: CoJack re: coordination of their art project with the City; Leah Maier, Director of Harm Reduction and Prevention at Apex Community Care in Danbury re: inquiring about possible resources or collaboration opportunities; and various Commission projects (literary contest, poet laureate, make music day)

Mail:

Phone: request for information about grant application.

Reports on DCC sponsored events

- Sidewalk Chalk Day July 15 with CityCenter Danbury & the Farmers Market

EMoore: There was good attendance. GWencek: there were a total of 9 participants.

- Musicals at Richter - The Addams Family and Fairy Tale Theater

JCooke: There was a good size audience and they did a great job.

Danbury events not sponsored by the Commission

- Danbury Music Centre
 - Chamber Music Intensive Faculty Concert - Danbury Music Centre Thursday, July 20 7:00 – 8:30pm
- Summer Movies Outdoors - PAL, Library and Parks and Recreation Thursdays in July 8:45 – 10:45pm
- Danbury Museum
 - Music in the Garden June 30 5:30 – 6:30pm
 - Guided Tours of 4 Danbury Museum Historic Buildings on our Main Street campus
 - Guided Tours of the Ives Homestead
- Carillon concert series Saint James Church Wednesdays June 28 - July 26 1:00 PM
- Music at the Ridge
- Danbury Railway Museum
- City Center Danbury
 - Concert on the Green
 - Downtown Chow down
 - Farmers' Market
- Palace Theater Danbury
- Galleries
 - Gallery of the Visual and Performing Arts Center WCSU Westside campus, 43 Lake Ave. Extension
 - Gallery at Still River Editions 128 E Liberty St.
 - Flag Bearers: jennie carr, Keisha Rollins, Roxy Savage, Mark Savoia, and Rita Valley Five artists' take on flags and flag-like motifs July 8 - September 29, 2023



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- in VIEW project Main Street Danbury
 - A Storefront is available near Main and White
- WCSU

Upcoming events

See addendum. There is at least 1 event every weekend day to November.

Coordinator's Report

1. Contact with Carmen Cobb of CoJack art and their vision for the City not only in terms of showcasing their Art, but more in attracting artists from various locations and age levels.
 - a. Carmen 203-449-3518 CoJack54.com (website)
2. Marketing - is the Commission in making banners for events Commission sponsors i.e.: International Festival
 - a. Apparel - need to finalize the order this week. This is NOT a Commission expense.
3. Sidewalk Chalk day a success
 - a. 9 participants, three signed up in advance but didn't check in.
 - b. Four winners were picked by EMOore, Laz Chavez, and me. Prizes sent by CityCenter.
4. Jane Jacobs walking tour August 6th tour
 - a. Meeting with Brigid Gurtin at the Museum, the tour partner on August 16th.
5. Project development
6. Make Music Day
 - a. Grant Report filed
7. Request for publicity volunteer to assist with gleaning events and writing blurbs
 - a. The Commission now may post events on the CAWC calendar. It is a partially automated process. They will import the raw data and I will have to edit it and provide an image for each. ONLY Commission produced events will be allowed (not grant events).
8. Poet Laureate project begun
 - a. Notice is on the website and emailed to the press. (Patch picked it up.)
9. Budget appears to be finalized
10. **The Supporting Arts grant program Application Deadline is Sunday, August 13, 2023 at 11:59 PM**
 - a. **This is a grant we have now. There is insufficient time to apply in this fiscal, as the process takes 3 months. This could be used to pay me. The timeline opened July 9.**
 - b. New Requirements for FY24 1. Arts organizations must have a designated accessibility coordinator. This requirement must be met prior to submitting an application. 2. An applicant must complete an ADA Self-Evaluation to receive grant funds. The ADA Self-Evaluation is not due at the time of application.
 - c. This is the general operating support to help Connecticut's municipal arts departments cover programmatic costs associated with their mission-related work. This type of grant is flexible and gives the grantee the ability to use the funds where they are most needed.
11. Meeting the goals stated in the Finance budget document
 - a. Provide Equalable advocacy, and increase Diversity - a grant request for next month



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- b. Explore participation with the CT Office of Film, Television & Digital Media - I have begun to research this project again. Gathered information from the state's program and from New Milford and Southbury.
- c. Continue to increase the participation of younger audiences - discussion with Carmen Cobb of CoJack
- d. Sponsor events - work on Poet Laureate July through September, Walking tour with Museum in September and Chalk Art in October
- e. Expansion into the community - with Center City to assist Danbury International Festival

Appeals from Community groups:

None

Old Business

1. Designs for Danbury

GSmith presented his draft of rules modified to reduce the scope of the project, as discussed at the June meeting. This draft requests ideas, not projects, and reduces the awards accordingly. GWencek: offers that the submissions should have a Creative Commons license applied rather than copyright transferred to the City. GSmith asks the Coordinator to submit the proposed modification to him for review.

2. Sidewalk Chalk again in the fall
 - a. CityCenter and the Coordinator would like to host another event in October
3. Poet Laureate for the City
 - a. The Coordinator is asked to reach out to Western Connecticut State University and the Danbury School system to solicit participation and potential candidates.

Applications will be accepted from **July 15, 2023 through September 15, 2023**

New Business

1. Federer mural restoration, EMoore.GWencek: will discuss this with the Museum director. The museum has worked on this plan in past years. Also the State has a grant available but it takes so long to go through the City's grant application process that the 2024 window closes too soon. The Commission should aim at the FY2025 timeline. GSmith: the National Trust for Historic Preservation has grants available for this purpose. JCooke has heard that the City is interested in having more people see the mural. It could include moving the mural to another location. GWencek noted that rather than moving the mural, which would be very expensive, more viewing opportunities should be available, to augment this Commission's efforts such as CT Open House Day. Discussion about how to increase interest included inviting students to identify the stories. It was noted that many children today are not aware of these stories. It was suggested that a correlation between these stories and "Pixar" or "Disney" movies be highlighted. Commissioner Moore knows someone from the Preservation Experience and Mr Cooke will invite State Representative Farley Santos to discuss this issue.

Action on Grant Requests:

None



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Other Business

1. EMoore: Should the Commission consider a retractable banner to make it available to groups which receive funding from the Commission? JCooke will inquire at Bethel Printing re: their input. This banner would be offered for display at events financially supported by the Commission and would potentially include the logo, website, and the phrase "This event Sponsored in part by the Danbury Cultural Commission." Discussion is tabled for a future meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 7:38

Made by EMoore. Passed by Unanimous voice vote.



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NOTE:

Corporation Counsel has provided the Clerk's office with the following... Current as of 3/16/20:

Effective with Gov. Lamont's Executive Order No. 7B issued on 3/14/20, the requirement of public attendance at all meetings of public agencies is suspended. Meetings are to be held remotely by conference call, videoconference, or other technology, provided that (in summary):

1) the public has the ability to view or listen to each meeting or proceeding in real time by phone, video or other technology.

Therefore the Commission office had set up a video conference call which started at 6:15 on Monday evening. Commissioners and the public connected to Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 847 9469 1061 Passcode: 816120

One tap mobile: +19294362866,,84794691061 # US (New York) Meeting ID: 847 9469 1061 Passcode: 816120	Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York) Meeting ID: 847 9469 1061 Passcode: 816120
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If the Zoom video connection is lost, call the backup phone conference at 1 605-475-4120 Access Code: 816120

The meeting started at 6:30 and was not recorded by the Commission.

Available Grants:

Walmart Overview

Community Grants range from a minimum of \$250 to the maximum grant of \$5,000.

Organizations must submit an online application to be considered for funding.

The 2022 grant cycle begins Feb. 1, 2023 and the application deadline is Dec. 31, 2023.

Applications may be submitted at any time during this funding cycle. Please note that applications will only remain active in our system for 90 days, and at the end of this period they will be automatically rejected. Organizations may only submit and/or receive 25 applications.

Areas of Funding: (Partial list)

Quality of life: **Improving access** to recreation, **arts or cultural experiences for low income** individuals and families in the United States

Education: Providing **after school enrichment**, tutoring or vocational training for low income individuals and families in the United States

<http://giving.walmart.com/walmart-foundation/community-grant-program>

State of CT

[The Artists Respond program](#) Application Deadline: October 25, 2023 at 11:59pm

Artist-led projects use the arts to inspire, empower, educate, and transform Connecticut communities.

[The Supporting Arts grant program](#) Application Deadline: Sunday, August 13, 2023 at 11:59 PM general operating support to help Connecticut's arts organizations and municipal arts departments cover programmatic costs associated with their mission-related work. This type of grant is flexible and gives the grantee the ability to use the funds where they are most needed.



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Upcoming events Addendum

Downtown Chowdown - CityCenter
Thursday, June 1 11:30am – 3:00pm
Weekly on Thursday, until Jun 30, 2023

Concert on the Green - CityCenter Danbury
Saturday, July 7 7:00 – 10:00pm
Bi-Weekly on Saturday, until Jul 8, 2023
Ives Street Danbury, CT

Carillon concert series
Wednesday June 28 - July 26 1:00 PM
Saint James Church West St. Danbury

Dancing Under the Stars - CityCenter Danbury
Thursday, July 28 6:30 – 8:30pm, until Sep 30
Rooftop of the Patriot Garage (21 Delay St)

Farmer's Market - CityCenter Danbury
Saturday, July 1 10:00am – 2:00pm until Oct 29
Ives Street Green Danbury, CT 06810

Music in the Museum - Danbury Museum & Historical
Society
Friday, July 28 6:00 – 7:00pm
Monthly on Friday, until Aug 26, 2023
Main Street, Danbury, CT 06810

* The Music Man - Musicals at Richter
Friday, July 28 7:00 – 10:30pm
Weekly on Sunday, Friday, Saturday, until Aug 13, 2023
100 Aunt Hack Rd, Danbury, CT 06811, USA

Music at the Ridge
Sunday, July 2 4:00 – 6:00pm
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury
24 Clapboard Ridge Rd, Danbury, CT

* Danbury International Festival - CityCenter Danbury
July 29 – 30

Italian Festival - Amerigo Vespucci Lodge
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, August 4 1:00 – 9:00pm
10 Christopher Columbus Ave, Danbury, CT 06810, USA

* Charles Ives Music Festival at the WCYO Orchestra
Concert - Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra
Thursday, August 10 7:00 – 9:00pm
Western Connecticut State University - Hagman Hall
Westside Campus, 43 Lake Ave Ext, Danbury, CT 06811

San Gennaro Festival Danbury' 2nd Annual
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday,
August 23 until Aug 28, 2023
1 Ives St, Danbury, CT 06810

Trailer Box Gallery
Juan Bordes Sculpture
12 Francis J Clarke Circle- Bethel Ct.

Still River Editions
The Ladies: Leslie Singer
APRIL 8 - JUNE 30, 2023
128 East Liberty Street, Danbury, Connecticut

Western Connecticut State University

*Events sponsored by the Commission