



Needham Council for Arts and Culture

Meeting Minutes

7:00 PM, Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Agenda

- Welcome, roll call - Julia
 - NCAC Members Present
 - Sharon Breitbart
 - Julia Gould
 - Betsy Millane
 - Charly Nanda
 - Corrine Rhodes
 - Heather Simmons
 - Joni Shockett
 - Absent: Elizabeth Cook, Samantha Hoff, Gail Lustig, Bala Muthukaruppan, Dennis Zhang
 - Other People Present: Amy Haelsen, Economic Development Manager
- Approval of past minutes - Julia
 - Motion – Sharon
 - Second – Joni
 - Approved
- MCC grant update, Charly
 - Denials went out, no issues with concerns about reason for denials
 - Charly contacted a few of the denials (Open studios, Revitalization trust fund, etc.)
 - Approval letters sent
 - Grant Modifications
 - Needham Open Studios - Utilize 2021 Funding for May 2022
 - Delvena Theater Company - use 2022 and 2021 funding combined for use on two shows(Lizzie Borden and The incredible Mae West)
 - Roll call vote to approve modifications
 - Needham open Studios – Coreen Abstain, All others approve
 - Delvena Theater – Unanimously approved
- Other grant review, Charly
 - Grant came in late, Indian Community of Needham, Request \$800
 - Show at Pollard MS, educational Show featuring Indian music
 - Some funding already
 - Proposal missing more event details (event location, date, letters of support, etc.)
 - Will revisit when there is more information
- Public art planning, Charly
 - Mural discussion/Updates
 - Heather and Joni are Leads of Committee
 - Goal: Color the town, add public art piece that brings professional art to needham, pay an artist a living wage, DEI access initiative
 - \$20,000 approved for two murals - Selectboard looking for proposal on how

- \$20K would be spent
 - Design would need to be approved by Selectboard, even if mural is on private space
 - Questions discussed:
 - RFP: Wide Call vs Invitational Call
 - Gather description of Mural ideas, portfolio, sample work, etc.
 - Request they gather community input
 - Select 3 finalists and pay for their possible designs?
 - Theme: We set vs artists provide
 - Location of mural
 - Curate selection committee to include people from community
 - Consensus based on discussion
 - Write a call with a general theme
 - Focus on curating a list of 12+ artists who are ok with or have experience developing murals with community input
 - Selection community includes community members
 - Select finalists from curated list, place in newspaper for public input
 - Review with Selectboard
 - Wont bring in partners at this time
 - Location TBD
 - Funding would be half or 3/4 of budget
 - Public Art Committee to begin working on action items listed above
- Advocacy & Municipal Funding update
 - Tomorrow morning, committee on small business – taking public input on creative economy
 - MCC on 1/24 is seeking input on how to spend the \$6M for artist recovery
- Other business
 - Olin College – 1/27 – Virtual Connecting Communities
 - Meet new president and discuss partnership and college updates
 - Needham Town Funding - Finance committee going through town department budgets
 - Decisions being made late February/Early March

Future Meeting Dates

Meeting Date	Location	MCC Timeline Event	Notes
March 8th, 2022	Remote	Grant Processing	
April 26th, 2022	Remote	Survey	
Week of May 16th	In Person	Artist Reception	*Not a regular meeting
June 14th, 2022	In Person	Elections	