



**City of Ann Arbor**  
**Meeting Minutes - Final**  
**Ann Arbor Public Art Commission**

301 E. Huron St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

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Wednesday, June 1, 2022

7:00 PM

Electronic Meeting

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Webinar ID 927 4816 0648

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**ROLL CALL**

*Welcome, returning Commissioner, Mary Thiefels*

*ARPA Engagement Team; Heather Seyfarth and Skye Stewart*

**Present:** 9 - John Kotarski, Allison Buck, Venita Harrison, Peggy Wier-Leonard, Sophie Grillet, Sarah Fuller, Marianetta Porter, Jamall Bufford, and Linh Song

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Approved**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION***ARPA Public Participation on Use of a Half-million dollars in Federal Funds*

*City Council set aside \$500,000 for the Ann Arbor-based arts + creative industries - At its Monday, April 4 meeting, the Ann Arbor City Council discussed and voted on the final ARPA funding plan and proposed amendments. Included in the final plan was \$500,000 for the Ann Arbor-based arts + creative industries. The addition of dedicated funding for the arts was added near the end of the City of Ann Arbor's ARPA public engagement process and therefore did not receive the level of scoping that the other funded projects received. Therefore, Public Services recommended seeking the input from the Ann Arbor Public Arts Commission (AAPAC) – the Council-approved advisory body for matters relating to public art – to provide direction on how to distribute the funds.*

*Engagement Team Presenters:*

*Heather Seyfarth, Special Projects Manager & Community Engagement Specialist and*

*Skye Stewart, Public Services Chief of Staff*

*Virtual Meeting Attendees: T'onna Clemons, Deb Polich, Nick Azzaro, Steph Holic, Curtis Wallace, Express Your Yes - NOW Studios, BoychoirA2, Darius Hall, Jeri R. and Jeff Crockett.*

*Written Public Comments received: Chris Grant, Cliff H Nixon, Frederic Smith, Pat Pooley, and Robert Frank*

*The Ann Arbor Public Art Commission (AAPAC) seeks the public's input tonight to provide direction on how the City should structure the application process for the ARPA dedicated arts funding. The plan designated \$300,000 for Artists and Art Organizations as well \$200,000 for arts-based trauma programs for youth and BIPOC communities.*

*The Art Commission will develop recommendations to provide to City Council and staff to shape this opportunity based on the recommendation from this public participation group. Input from this group will develop plan about how the program should be shaped and how to distribute the funds. City Council has authorized the funds and has directed staff to build a program so input tonight will assist in doing this. The program will be based on the input from this group and the guidance from leadership. This plan will determine how we spend the dollars by the end of 2024 but*

*the dollars do not have to be fully extended until 2026 with plan and contracts in place.*

*Recommendations, themes and suggestions from the public:*

*Artists want to create and perform and allow new projects to come to the forefront; Artist know how to rebuild the community; Ideas on new projects that can revitalize the community are necessary; Time for renaissance and artists to lead the way; elevate the importance in the artist community; art is central to Ann Arbor identify; Allow the community to drive this by building bridges; Address trauma; Go through other organizations to connect to all artists; Collaborate to get most bang for our buck; Community should build shape via a project lens.*

*Thankful for your comments as we are not alone and as a community we came together to make this opportunity happen.*

*The Commission and staff appreciate and understand the publics' passion surrounding art. AAPAC is aware that there is a greater need than resources but your input here tonight is important and will assist the City in strategically shaping this program going forward.*

**Presented**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*May 2022 Meeting Minutes are delayed and will be presented at the August meeting*

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

*RECLAIM Courthouse Presentation - Heather Martin, Founding Director of Youth Arts Alliance. Heather has facilitated hundreds of creative arts workshops for youth and adults involved and impacted by the criminal justice system in an effort to establish opportunities for creative expression in the juvenile justice system.*

*Youth Arts Alliance approached by Judge Tracy E. Van den Bergh to receive thoughts on a display of art in the hallways of the Washtenaw County Courthouse. This conversation led to a full presentation to all county Judges and staff. Potential opportunity for a larger project here. This exhibition and all of the work involved will be rooted in the project and could lead additional resources throughout the community which could promote this and other artistic visions and missions throughout the community.*

**REPORT FROM STAFF**

*Ericka Smith of GIVE 365 provided an update on their work with T'onna on her proposal for a footbridge mural at the Argo Cascades in partnership with GIVE 365.*

*The Ann Arbor Art Center's A2AC Alleys project has commissioned a series of four innovative works of public art in the alleyways of downtown Ann Arbor and continue to receive guidance from the Building Department.*

**REPORT FROM COMMITTEES**

*Capital Improvement Project Working Group - Open placement after Commissioner departure.*

*Outreach Working Group - Develop more partnerships with local business ie. AADL (Eli Neiburger), Rec & Parks, etc. these partnerships could provide a broader venue for public meetings, presentation, and promotion of events - call for artists, etc. AAPAC currently participating in the 2022 Summer Games for the community. Mr. Neiburger identifies Molly Buckley, AADL Events & Exhibits, Library Technician; UM announces new partnership with Monument Lab to help build opportunities, create new bridges and collaboration on events throughout Ann Arbor. News re Monument Lab who will soon be hosting a two year residency. (notes from outreach meeting)*

*Special Project Working Group - Reclaimed Project and other along with ARPA discussion should be share on the City web for the community. A residency for artists could be a traditional item and could be used to connect with the community and collaborate. Keep it simple, broad and open for new ideas.*

*Online art proposals can be submitted online via the Public Art Commission webpage.*

*Communication Work Group - Open placement after Commissioner departure. Opportunity for AAPAC to participate in the Ann Arbor District Library Summer Games; highlights (4) local city art pieces close to City Hall. Great opportunity for the commission to participate. Thank you Councilmember Song for this wonderful idea.*

*Leadership Work Group - Mary Thiefels has joined this group. Currently reviewing applications for commissioner opening.*

*Fundraising/Development Work Group - Open commissioner position*

*Annual Chair and Vice Chair review; no items to report*

*City Council Update*

*Housing Commission approved their partnership with Avalon Housing for affordable 68 units near the downtown food co-op. Room on the first floor for mixed use and possible gallery.*

*Barrier Busters, child savings account, vulnerable communities and finalization of hiring of City Administrator, Milton Dohoney.*

*Parks team collaborated with Survivors Speak group and will install a BLM Mural on a Gallup park walkway. Mary Thiefels available to advise on street painting.*

*Flag project resolution with Mayor Taylor commission needing parameters established to move this forward.*

*Next meeting set for August 3rd*

*Announcement - \*Art Hop June 11 - 12th*

**ADJOURN**

*9:50pm*

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**City Clerk's Office  
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