



MEETING MINUTES

June 11, 2020 6:18 PM | ZOOM (VIRTUAL)

TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly Meeting – June
FACILITATOR	Yasmin Goris
NOTE TAKER	Jeremy Bouchard
ATTENDEES	Yasmin Goris, Mitchell Perry, Jeremy Bouchard, Thomas Conroy, David Filar, Lisa Malo, Jennifer Riley, George Sedares, Nikki Erskine
LATE	
GUESTS	<i>Erin Williams, Che Anderson. Nicholas Mills, Ricky Guillaume</i>

I. ERIN WILLIAMS & CHE ANDERSON – THE CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

- a. History the Worcester Arts Council and The Cultural Development Office, how it relates to the Mass Cultural Coalition, and its focus moving forward.

II. NICHOLAS MILLS – WPI STUDENT RESEARCH TEAM

- a. Researching youth programming and its availability during COVID-19.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES	
CONCLUSION	Approved
Yasmin moved to approve minutes from May meeting; Jeremy seconded the motion.	

IV. BUDGET REPORT	
CONCLUSION	Approved
Yasmin motioned to approve the budget report; Lisa seconded the motion.	

V. RICKY GUILLAUME – THE MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL

- a. MCC looking internally at diversity.
 - i. -Outside firm has been tasked with hiring a new Executive Director, assuring the process is diverse and inclusive.
- b. Budget Update:
 - i. WAC to receive an allocation for 2021 but the amount is unknown.
- c. March Survey on impacts of COVID-19:
 - i. -566 Organizations:
 - \$55.7 million in revenue lost as a result of COVID-19.
 - ii. -595 Individual Artists:
 - \$3 million in personal income lost as a result of COVID-19.



- iii. -\$47,000 awarded to individuals for relief with the New England Foundation for the Arts.
- iv. -272 grants of \$1,000 were awarded to individual artists.
- d. \$9.3 million invested into the cultural facilities fund to help organizations and non-profits create and update spaces to make them inclusive.
 - i. -Hopkinton Center for the Arts, Petersham Art Center, Tower Hill Botanical Garden, and the Worcester Art Museum all received funding from this fund.
- e. Gaming mitigation grants - \$3.3 million in total.
 - i. -The Worcester Center for the Performing Arts received \$250,000.
 - ii. -Music Worcester received \$75,785.
- f. Town Hall with Jim McGovern:
 - i. -May 22nd: pushing for \$3 trillion Heroes Act which has been passed by the house.
- g. The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) allocated \$959,000 to the MCC for 2021.
 - i. -Up \$48,000 from last year.
- h. Update on 2014 grant recipient Lauren Monroe.
 - i. -Started the Worcester Face Shield Project, creating face shields for healthcare workers.

VI. GRANT AMENDMENTS

- a. Worcester Community Cable Access: The Central Mass Jazz Festival is moving to 2021.
- b. Seed to Fashion by Mihoko Wakabayashi: Budget was adapted to make accommodations for COVID-19.
- c. Vote Results: Both unanimous yes votes.

VII. GRANT REIMBURSEMENTS

APP #	Individual/Organization	Amount	Decision	Status	Notes
WAC-20	Mechanics Hall	\$1,500	Approved		Yasmin and Mitchell to sign and return to Nikki.

VIII. COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY

- a. This year's survey was edited to help WAC determine the importance of events being conducted in person or virtually going forward.



- b. The survey will now allow participants to select three priorities for 2021. Previous surveys restricted participants to only one selection. Additionally, selections within the priorities question were evaluated and updated.
- c. Discussed how to best maximize outreach and engagement with the survey.
- d. The grant rubric was discussed briefly but discussions were tabled for the next meeting.
- e. Lisa and Jeremy to collaborate on a press release for this year's survey.
- f. WAC would like both the survey and the press release to be released in as many languages as possible, there are 91 spoken languages in the city of Worcester.

IX. WAC ROLES & SUBCOMITTEES

- a. Council Secretary: Vote held to approve Jeremy as secretary. Vote was a unanimous yes.
- b. Council Co-Chair: Jennifer & David expressed interest but would like more information. Discussion tabled.
- c. Social Committee: Lisa and David.
- d. Events Committee: Yasmin, Jennifer, and George.
- e. Strategic Planning: Jeremy, Tom, and Mitchell.

X. OPEN SEAT ON WAC

- a. Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) is not meeting at this time. Nikki expects that the CAC will be able to meet virtually to discuss candidates in the near future.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:27PM