

**Gloucester Committee for the Arts
Minutes of Meeting
25 May 2023
Harbormasters Office**

In Attendance:

Karen Ristuben, Chair
Rebecca Reynolds
Judith Hoglander
Chris Griffith
Rebecca Nagle
Phil Storey

8:40 am meeting called to action

Minutes from April 26, 2023 approved

Arts Coordinator

The final candidate accepted another job opportunity and the job is being reposted. We will ask David F about timing.

CPA - Grant

The CFTA's proposal has been filed and the Committee will schedule a meeting with the CPA committee. To be scheduled by Karen with the CPA committee (in process).

City Attorney Suzanne Egan has drafted an MOU to receive the funding from CPA. Karen will share the draft with the CFTA and work on a final draft for when/if receive the grant.

City Hall Archives Fire - regarding smoke damage to artwork in the city hall.

There has been a professional art restorer hired to remove smoke damage to any artworks (not just a CleanPro). Rebecca Reynolds suggested finding out the type of materials they're using to clean the murals, Karen will follow up with DPW.

The Committee for the Arts room at City Hall is fine, and continues to hold a filing cabinet of historic notes, promotional materials, postcards, ornaments, etc.

ARPA / 2023 City Budget

Inventory

The CFTA plans to work on a digital database of city-owned artwork in 2023 with the use of ARPA funds. After reviewing the Artwork Archive software, the committee feels this service would appropriately support the City's needs to digitize the inventory.

Several inventory lists exist from various sources over the years. Chris has digitized the printed or word document inventories that Rebecca Reynolds and Judith provided from years past. To supplement, Karen will reach out to DPW to see if it has a list of plaques.

Project will need:

- Software (inexpensive) sourced by committee members
- A paid data entry coordinator to work with photographer, populate all data, confirm locations, perform basic assessment of condition, fill gaps where needed.
- A paid photographer to document all artworks including conditions that need remediation

Karen will create a draft request to the City for the Inventory project for CftA review. Chris will put together a first draft of the RFPs for CftA review.

Tablet Rock

Rebecca R will ask David F about responses by vendors to conserve the tablet

New Project: Boulevard Plaque near cannon

Karen Tibbetts has sent a proposal to clean and stabilize the bronze plaque near cannon on Gloucester's Boulevard.

Has provided current status - in need of repair, has provided a source of funding (Gloucester Fund/Barry Pett - with funds raised by Roger Armstrong), has restorer ready to do the work Bruce Lane, timeline summer of 2023.

Committee unanimously voted to recommend that the City accept this proposal. Karen will notify Mayor Verga and cc Karen Tibbetts, recommending acceptance of this proposal.

Public Art Policies & Procedures

Rebecca Nagle will replace Phil Storey on Policies & Procedures subcommittee as Phil has completed first draft of Poet Laureate section and Rebecca has done some review of Salem's public art policies. The subcommittee will meet later in the summer to continue work on providing an updated draft for review. This will include acceptance of gifts, privately-owned artworks on city-owned land, and other issues for which there are no existing policies.

CFTA will confirm these basic steps for its role regarding gifts of artwork or public art projects by the city: receive and assess gift or project proposal, make recommendation to Mayor, Mayor approves gift or project and Mayor seeks City Council approval if necessary. Project coordinators receive final approval from City.

We will confirm what level of gift (cash amount or in-kind amount or funding for a project on CFTA's priority list) requires approval from City Council.

CFTA's priority list for restoration and conservation projects will be done in concert with community gifts and proposed projects.

Current Gift Proposals

Susan Hall would like to donate a nocturne portrait of City Hall by CAPA Plein Air Kari Ruiz from CAPA 2022. Sale value was \$1,100.

Rebecca R: in accepting artworks we need a Deed of Gift that allows us full use of the artwork (including resale).

Unanimous vote in favor of recommending to the Mayor that the City accept the Kari Ruiz painting as a gift.

Frank E. Davis portrait

Mayor has previously received CFTA's recommendation to accept this gift

Roger Curtis paintings

CFTA Collections subcommittee is meeting with Judith Curtis on May 24 to view the paintings she is offering. Subcommittee will make its recommendation to the full CFTA for consideration at June meeting.

Property Tax Relief for Cultural Purposes

David Calvo suggested the City consider a property tax break for owners who rent out studio space to working artists. First step - take a look at other communities and compile case studies for comparison.

Recommendation - ask David C to take leadership with support from Arts Coordinator (once hired)

Motion to adjourn unanimous 9:50am