



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

8:00 AM

Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at the City County
Building in Room 421; attend virtually via Zoom.

A. Call To Order

Present in person: Chair Ritcherson, Supervisor Xistris-Songpanya, Commissioner Handy

*Present virtually: Commissioner Curet, Vice Chair Klehr, Commissioner Miquelon,
Commissioner Parks-Snider, Commissioner Puleo Moyer, Commissioner Gallagher,
Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Yudice*

Staff in person: Mark Fraire, Augusta Brulla

Call to order at 8:01 a.m.

Present 11 - Chair RODERICK RITCHERSON, AMNERIS CURET, Vice Chair MARY KLEHR,
MARCIA MIQUELON, KELLY PARKS-SNIDER, FRAN PULEO MOYER, Supervisor
OLIVIA XISTRIS-SONGPANYA, LAURA GALLAGHER, JENNIFER GARRETT, JAY
HANDY, and KELSEY YUDICE

B. Introduction of Incoming Commissioners

- Jay Handy is a businessman and artist.

- Kelsey Yudice is a Madison native who is an actor, director, and producer.

- The commission is at capacity with 11 of 11 seats filled.

C. Consideration of Minutes

[2022
MIN-548](#)

[MINUTES FROM THE 01/11/2023 ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMISSION MEETING]

Attachments: [2022 MIN-548](#)

A motion was made by Supervisor Xistris-Songpanya to approve the January
Commission Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Miquelon.

The motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

D. Action Items

There are no action items.

E. February Discussion Topics

1. Youth Engagement (led by Vice Chair Klehr and Commissioner Parks Snider)

- Vice Chair Klehr and Parks Snider articulated two goals: identifying what Dane Arts is doing to support youth in the arts, and what commissioners can do to celebrate and elevate this work.
- Dane Arts has an "Arts in Education" grant category which is focused on youth. Other projects beyond this grant category serve youth as well.
- Supervisor Xistris-Songpanya has been working with several other supervisors to secure \$40,000 from the Executive Budget for arts programming that provides equitable opportunities for youth. This fund will be distributed during the regular grant cycle in a separate line item.
- Additional ways Dane Arts has supported equitable opportunities for youth in the arts is through festivals such as Willy Street Fair, La Fete de Marquette, Isthmus Dance Collective, Represented Collective's Legendary project, and Meadowood Neighborhood Community Center Hip Hop and education.
- Commissioner Parks Snider combines art with activism through children-centered projects that involve community organizing that empowers participants.
- Past projects by Commissioner Parks Snider include projectgirl.org, and Women Against Hate United by Love, which led to opportunities for youth to be changemakers.
- Commissioner Parks Snider and Vice Chair Klehr spoke about community disconnect post-pandemic, how the arts can bring community together, and how to think creatively about limited funding and space.
- Parks Snider pointed out the importance of bringing visiting artists into children's communities, rather than expecting them to come to arts venues.
- Parks Snider mentioned goals such as leveraging commissioner expertise, and bringing awareness to youth arts through publications and events with a focus on joining and partnering rather than building.
- Commissioner Miquelon pointed out that arts organizations are doing great work, but often do not know how to obtain resources. Miquelon recommended checking out a UW Extension Program called "By Youth, for Youth." Miquelon invited the commission to Wild Rumpus Circus' upcoming performance at MYArts:
<https://therumpusroom.org/wild-rumpus-ticket-sales-form/>
- Commissioner Puleo Moyer shared a link to Free Arts NYC:
<https://freeartsnyc.org/mission-impact>
- Commissioner Garret pointed out the role of individual commissioners as advocates for the arts whenever possible.
- Vice Chair Klehr and Commissioner Parks Snider will return with key takeaways and actionable items at a later date.

2. Grant Process Refresher

- Dane Arts typically has just under \$200,000 to distribute between two cycles per year.
- The 2023 Cycle 1 has received about 60 applications.
- Dane Arts staff confirm eligibility of applications which are reviewed and scored by several panels of reviewers. The resulting scores are inputted into a grant allocation formula, and commissioners approve final award amounts.
- Commissioner Curet provided a refresher on the grant allocation formula. The goal of this process is to align funding to quality of grant application (application score), consistently across all qualified applications, acknowledging that total grants requested amount is greater than Dane Arts Commission grant funds available.

F. Chair/executive committee report

1. Areas of Focus discussion/reports

- Commissioner Garret will be added to the community engagement/publicity area of focus.
- Community Engagement: Commissioner Puleo Moyer and Commissioner Parks Snider met to create a list of action items which will be shared with the Commission during the March meeting.
- Funds Advisory/Friends of Dane Arts: Chair Ritcherson and Director Fraire will determine by the next commission meeting if Dane Arts is permitted to create a separate Friends Group.
- Marketing /Arts and Economic Prosperity: Commissioner Miquelon and Commissioner Gallagher will meet in February to discuss.
- Policy and Handbook: Vice Chair Klehr will continue to support Dane Arts staff by updating the handbook.
- Commissioner Curet would like to reexamine the grant allocation formula considering the additional \$40,000 for youth initiatives and would like to create a list of grant best practices.
- Chair Ritcherson voiced a commitment to diversity on the commission as well as supporting the arts community through partnerships to the benefit of Dane County taxpayers and residents. Dane Arts continues to ensure that the arts are equally accessible to all, and Dane Arts funding is equally accessible by all.
- Chair Ritcherson also expressed the on-going goals of the chair and executive committee are to keep the commission at full capacity, make sure the commission is operating consistent with the policies and procedures of the county board, and make sure the commission continues to innovate.

G. Executive Director's Report

- Dane Arts staff are reviewing the 2023 Cycle 1 grants.
- Director Fraire invited the commission to attend a youth art performance at COPA on Friday, February 25, 10 am – 11 am.
- Commissioners are invited to attend the Business of Art Conference March 30 – April 1.
- Reference Director Fraire's notes for additional details.

H. Future Meeting Items and Dates

- The next commission meeting is Wednesday, March 8 at 8 am.

I. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None.

J. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None.

K. Adjourn

A motion was made by Commissioner Handy to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 am

Minutes respectfully submitted by Augusta Brulla pending approval by the commission.