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**CITY OF NORWALK
ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 7, 2021
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: Marc Alan, Chair; Janet Evelyn; Nori Grudin; Brian Kaspr;
Jolie Leung; Melissa Matuska; Kadeem Roberts; Steven Rust;
Elizabeth Tardif; Robert Abriola (6:08 p.m.)

STAFF: Jessica Vonashek, Chief of Economic and Community
Development

OTHERS: Jennifer Bangser, Norwalk Film Festival; Lauren Clayton, MLK
Corridor Artist; Julio Pardo, Artist.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Alan called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Alan called the Roll as indicated above and announced that Mr. O'Callaghan resigned from the Board due to scheduling conflicts with his school.

- ** MS. MATUSKA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO TAKE THE AGENDA OUT OF ORDER**
- ** MS. LEUNG SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. ALAN; MS. EVELYN; MS. GRUDIN; MR. KASPR; MS. LEUNG; MS. MATUSKA; MR. ROBERTS; MR. RUST; MS TARDIF)**

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- ** MS. MATUSKA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MLK CORRIDOR ART PROPOSALS FOR EXECUTION INCLUDING THE WORK OF LAUREN CLAYTON ON BOTH THE STAIRWELL LEADING TO THE SOUTH NORWALK TRAIN STATION AND THE WPCA TRANSFER STATION AND AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM TO EXECUTE ANY CONTRACTS NEEDED TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT.
AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000.
ACCT# 0921 1450 5777 C0792**
- ** MS. EVELYN SECONDED**

Mr. Abriola joined the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Ms. Evelyn gave an overview of the process to approve artwork for the MLK Corridor.

Mr. Alan asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the artwork included in the meeting packet.

Ms. Clayton introduced herself and presented slides of her work and of her proposed artwork for the MLK Corridor projects. She discussed the staircase design and noted that the staircase is heated. The stair treads will hold the message. She explained that the thought was to keep the design relatively simple and involve the community.

Mr. Pardo said at this point in the process, they are going to be preparing and priming the spaces. They will engage as many volunteers as they can to paint the base coat. He noted there will be a lot of opportunities to bring in volunteers.

Mr. Alan asked Mr. Pardo if he had any budget information. Mr. Pardo shared the budget on the screen and said they started out with \$50,000. He discussed the student art project where students will create art for four traffic boxes. This will be an on-going program. Ms. Evelyn asked where they will source the student participants. Mr. Pardo said he did not have that detail at this time.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. ABRIOLA; MR. ALAN; MS. EVELYN; MS. GRUDIN; MR. KASPR; MS. LEUNG; MS. MATUSKA; MR. ROBERTS; MR. RUST; MS TARDIF)**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public said she proposed some project and would like to work with the Arts Commission on a proposal for a light installment. Mr. Alan suggested she talk with Mr. Rust to see if they can come up with a proposal they can bring back to the Commission.

IV. ADMINISTRATION

a. Approve the minutes of the August 3, 2021 regular meeting

The following correction was made to the minutes:

Ms. Grudin presented the budget instead of Ms. Evelyn.

**** MR. KASPR MOVED TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AS AMENDED
** MR. ABRIOLA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. ABRIOLA; MR. ALAN; MS. EVELYN; MS. GRUDIN; MR. KASPR; MS. LEUNG; MS. MATUSKA; MR. ROBERTS; MR. RUST; MS TARDIF)**

V. COMMITTEE/STAFF UPDATES

a. Budget Committee Update – Nori Grudin

Ms. Grudin reviewed the expenditures for the month of August. The total amount left is \$12,418.81.

b. Communications Committee Update - Michelle Rakowsky & Marc Alan

Mr. Alan explained that he has been trying to have a meeting to no avail. He noted that Mr. O’Callaghan stepped down and Ms. Leung is also contemplating stepping down due

to a scheduling conflict. He said he will meet with Ms. Rakowsky early next week to talk about the newsletter. Ms. Vonashek said she could help with the newsletter.

c. Infrastructure Committee Update

Mr. Kaspr reported that Ms. Church reached out to the Department of Transportation in regard to art work on their property. He will connect with Ms. Church before next month's meeting and come back with a plan. He asked anyone who wishes to get involved, to contact him.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Presentation from Norwalk Film Festival – Marge Costa & Jennifer Bangser

Ms. Bangser presented information about the second annual Norwalk Film Festival. She explained that they will be choosing a variety of films that fit the theme of the film festival. The Film Festival will take place during the weekend of December 17, 2021; the Wall Street Theater will be their main venue.

Ms. Bangser said there is a fee to submit a film, but the fee will be waived if the topic is important to Norwalk. Mr. Alan said that it would be in their best interest to endorse the Film Festival. He asked Ms. Bangser to send the sponsorship deck to him and he will forward it to the rest of the Commission. He noted there is a tremendous amount of film making doing on in Norwalk.

c. Discuss maintenance costs of public art in the City.

Mr. Alan said he will defer to Ms. Church to discuss this topic at next month's meeting. He said they do not have a budget to support public art in Norwalk. Ms. Vonashek said she and Ms. Church can discuss this item and bring it back to the Commission next month.

Mr. Alan said public art is located all over the City. Ms. Matuska said she would love to know where all of the public art is located throughout the City. Mr. Alan said it should be on a City website. Mr. Kaspr said it should fall under the jurisdiction of the Infrastructure Committee. He agreed that they should know where all of the public art is located and added that it would be a massive undertaking.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Vonashek reported that the MLK Corridor group is going to meet tomorrow to discuss priorities. They will provide an update at next month's meeting of the Arts Commission.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

** MS. EVELYN MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR.
ABRIOLA; MR. ALAN; MS. EVELYN; MS. GRUDIN; MR. KASPR; MS.
LEUNG; MS. MATUSKA; MR. ROBERTS; MR. RUST; MS TARDIF)

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services