

Poughkeepsie Public Arts Commission

Minutes | January 18, 2024 | 6:30pm | City Hall

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Members of PPAC in attendance: Jeff Aman, Carrie Decker, and Art Jones,

II. APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2023 MEETING

Art Jones moved to approve the minutes of November 16, 2023; Carrie Decker seconded.

The minutes were approved by unanimous ayes.

III. CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

PPAC chair Jeff Aman spoke about vacancies on the Poughkeepsie Public Arts Commission. Three additional members need to be appointed—one by the mayor and two by the Common Council.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

1. RESOLUTION 9: REVISION OF PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION MISSION STATEMENT

The revised PPAC mission statement, which was approved at our last PPAC meeting, has been updated on the City's website.

2. MAIN STREET CORRIDOR MAP OF ARTS AND CULTURE

PPAC chair Jeff Aman said an artist was commissioned to do the Main Street Corridor Map to educate the public about what is going on in the arts within the city. A QR code will be added. Questions arose about what else might be added, such as public art sites for example? Whether we should call it the "main street corridor map" was also questioned.

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IV. OLD BUSINESS (continued):

3. RESUME OPEN DISCUSSION ON ARTS COMMISSION ADVOCACY: CITY PRIORITIES

- **Conclusion of October and November meetings: We need an arts and culture advocate.**

Although no vote was taken during our discussion, it was generally agreed by the three PPAC members in attendance that we should request city officials to consider hiring someone to serve as an arts and culture advocate.

- **What portion of our economy can be attributed to the arts?**

This information is already available for Kingston and Beacon, but not for the City of Poughkeepsie. There are, however, ways by which to estimate it.

- **Could the City of Poughkeepsie be a tourist destination?**

People in the business community would likely agree. Perhaps the Walkway Over the Hudson already makes this so.

- **Kingston: Department of Art & Cultural Affairs, Arts & Culture Master Plan**

This document contains ideas that might be useful for the City of Poughkeepsie to consider.

- **Driving a change in external (negative) perceptions of Poughkeepsie?**

We need to focus on ways in which public arts might help to bring about a positive change in this perception of the City of Poughkeepsie.

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IV. OLD BUSINESS (continued):

3. RESUME OPEN DISCUSSION ON ARTS COMMISSION ADVOCACY: CITY PRIORITIES (continued)

- **Conservancy of Poughkeepsie Public Art**

This involves keeping an up-to-date listing of public arts sites and being proactive in maintaining them—rather than waiting for serious problems.

- **Development of Tourism assets: maps, tours of art, history, architecture, murals, etc.**

A long list of things might be developed as tourism assets.

- **Development of Tourism assets and a marketing plan: PKGO, The Buzz, NYT, etc.**

This involves finding ways to publicize our tourism assets.

- **Implement “% For The Arts” to fund conservancy, creation of new art, and events?**

There was some debate regarding whether a “% for the arts” fee should be specially proposed to City officials by the PPAC, or whether we might instead suggest looking into a much broader variety of possible funding sources—as alternatives to direct funding from the City. These funding sources might include federal and state grants, corporate and other private foundations, and donations from individual donors that might provide long-term benefits for developing public arts sites and events.

- **Work on Strategic Plans: tour boat docks, bandshell, sculpture gardens, cistern, etc.**

A person hired as an arts and culture advocate would be expected to be involved in long-term strategic planning for the public arts.

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V. RESOLUTIONS: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS: None.

VII. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMUNICATION: None.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

IX. CURRENT EXHIBITS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Krieger Elementary School: “Beauty and the Beast”
January 25 at 6:00pm**
- **Gallery 40: “Inspired by Blue” juried exhibit**
- **WomensWork.art: TBD**
- **New York Academy of Ballet: Upcoming Master Classes
at <https://www.nyaballet.com>**
- **Fall Kill Creative Works: Classes and workshops at
www.fallkillcreativeworks.org**
- **Adriance Memorial Library: Exhibit by Stephen Connelly**
- **Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center: exhibits by Stacy Pearl,
Jane Ehrlich, and Rebecca Zeh**
- **Majed J. Nesheiwat Convention Center:
www.midhudsonciviccenter.org**
- **Bardavon 1869 Opera House: Trolley Barn: “Shadow
Dancing” Feb. 2 from 6-8 pm.**
- **Stockade Works: www.stockadeworks.org**

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IX. CURRENT EXHIBITS AND UPCOMING EVENTS (continued):

- New York Stage and Film currently has job offerings for their summer season.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

Carrie Decker moved to adjourn the meeting; Art Jones seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next PPAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Art Jones, PPAC Secretary