

Poughkeepsie Public Arts Commission

Minutes | June 20, 2024 | 6:33pm | City Hall

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Jeff Aman, in attendance were commission members Carrie Decker, Harrison Brisbon-McKinnon, and Tim McQueen.

II. APPROVE OF MINUTES OF MARCH 21 MEETING DEFERRED.

III. CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

1. Chair Aman mentioned new courses announced by Stockade Works, the Juneteenth / Father's Day event at Waryas Park.
2. Carrie Decker noted that many visitors to Waryas Park were from out of town, including NYC and Connecticut, that saw some action from the Walkway.
3. Harrison Brisbon-McKinnon noted that there is a new African Bead exhibit at the Lehman Loeb at Vassar College, open to all.
4. Tim McQueen mentioned there is an arts and music pot luck scheduled for Kaal Rock Park on July 4 and invited all to attend - the PK Popup and Cookout.
5. Chair Aman showed an initial copy of the Summer in the City rack card

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **MAIN STREET CORRIDOR MAP OF ARTS AND CULTURE:**
<https://pkgoarts.org/main-street/> : Chair Aman gave an update on the map of the Main Street Corridor of Arts and Culture Venues displaying an image of the Main Street corridor in a positive way, not in terms of what it could be but as it current is. Visit pkgoarts.org/main-street/. Maps are currently on display in City Hall and in the Convey/er/or gallery and in Gallery 40. More on the way.
2. **FOCUS ON THE MAIN STREET CORRIDOR:** A brief discussion was held about our recent efforts to activate the Main Street corridor. Discussion will resume in the July meeting of the Public Arts Commission. There seem to be many activities possible, such as displaying art in vacant storefronts, new murals, and such.

V. RESOLUTIONS: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS: None.

VII. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMUNICATION:

1. **JAZZ IN THE VALLEY ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY:** Greer Smith and Dylan McCarthy presented a comparison of the Jazz in the Valley event and three other

cities having similar festivals. They provided a brief history of the annual event, the world-class musicians they bring, the current breakdown of their audience and their outreach to City residents and to our School District students. There was discussion about the plans for 2024, their desire to expand their event in 2025 which will celebrate their 25th year, and their need for additional funding to accelerate their growth. Jazz in the Valley provided over \$65,000 in revenue to Dutchess County in 2024, which led to presentation of potential economic impact if the event were to grow to match what is occurring in similar size cities: Wilmington, Delaware, Reading, Pennsylvania, and Cape May, NJ. These cities attract 10,000+ visitors for their multi-day festivals that generate millions of dollars of revenue. They definitely will need help from the City of Poughkeepsie to make this happen.

2. **NO LONGER EMPTY:** An overview of the proposed project was presented by local artist and sculptor Suprina, looking to decorate vacant storefronts and under-utilized spaces with artwork. The project goals are to beautify the Main Street corridor and help out City of Poughkeepsie artists. In the short term they would like to complete this project in the next two months coincident with the Poughkeepsie Open Studios weekend September 28/29. They went through the project plan dates and will be completing their financial needs in the next week. This initial project would be run by a few volunteers and the remaining staff and artists will be compensated for their time. Suprina also discussed longer term plans for future years to work with the Art Effect and others to grow the coverage and type of art.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

IX. CURRENT EXHIBITS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Gallery 40: “This is Us+” - June 1-30 - Mary Ann Glass, Paola Bari, Nansi Lent, Leslie Bender**
- **WomensWork.art: Reopened in the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center**
- **New York Academy of Ballet: Summer Dance Classes at <https://www.nyaballet.com>**
- **Fall Kill Creative Clay Works: Classes and workshops at www.fallkillcreativeworks.org**

- **Fall Kill Creative Textiles: Classes and workshops in the Glebe House**
- **Adriance Memorial Library: “Character Studies” exhibit by Andre West in the Rotunda Gallery**
- **Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center: exhibits - Paul Esposito, Adrien Seitz, “b.with the sea” Group**
- **Majed J. Nesheiwat Convention Center:**
www.midhudsonciviccenter.org
- **Bardavon 1869 Opera House:** www.bardavon.org

X. ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The next PPAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 18, 2024 at 6:30 pm.