

# **Poughkeepsie Public Arts Commission**

Minutes | August 18, 2025 | 6:30pm | City Hall

## **I. ROLL CALL**

- The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Tim McQueen.
- Members of PPAC in attendance: Tim McQueen, Carrie Decker and Chris Burney

## **Ia. JULY MINUTES APPROVAL**

- July 2025 minutes approved by board members in attendance.

## **II. Notes from the Chairperson**

- Tim attended Jazz in the Valley and noted it was a wonderful event, with a full gathering of people, music, food venues and lots of activities. Mayor Flowers gave an award to Greer Smith.
- Tim attended Open Studios in Poughkeepsie on the last day of the event and met some wonderful artists and non-artists spreading and continuing art legacy around the city.
- Chris attended the Open Studios as well and gave a big congratulations to Nikki Hung and Elinor Levy for their dedication, passion and drawing in crowds to the multitude of studios across the city.
- Carrie attended Jazz in the Valley and Open Studios with the same support as Tim and Chris.

## **III. OLD BUSINESS**

- Chamber ART: Onaje Benjamin attended in person, and a discussion around finalizing the project as it is about to commence with future voting on funding. Images have been shown to the board with a plethora of information as we grow on this project.
- Public Arts Policy: Art Jones was unable to attend and will be discussed at October meeting.
- Marketing: Abigail Cerra was unable to attend and will be discussed at October meeting.

#### **IV. UPDATES on APPROVAL FUNDED PROJECTS**

To date funded arts projects are as follows:

- Vets 4 the arts
- P.A.I.N.T. Event
- Concert series at Kaal Rock Park
- Jazz in the Valley
- Open Studios

Item to vote on:

- Chamber Art Project

#### **V. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

- Carrie spoke on her attendance at the Jazz in the Valley and Open studios. Steady flow of people- traffic and is noticing out-of-towners like to attend FREE art events. In the public eye looking for new ideas and artists.
- Chris spoke about his role as Treasurer and is working with the city for art funding to be transparent and process is gaining an easier flow. This establishes artists' receiving their city funds in a timely manner and gains a platform for new and established artists.
- Tim spoke about the appreciation of the work everyone is doing to make this committee seen and be reflective of projects benefiting the citizens of Poughkeepsie. He would like to see a 'plug and play' system where everyone takes on accountability for themselves, their art and continue to shed light on new and future projects.

#### **VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- **Onaje Benjamin**, local photographer, spoke about his Chamber project and the move to have physical photos digitized for historic preservation. All items hung will be custom matted and framed.
- Archiving thousands of photos is sensitive are being archived. Big question, is where to start and have all these images housed and accessible to institutions and the public.
- He noted old, (black and white), post cards and photos were at times hand painted prior to color film.
- There are a slew of organizations that are moving towards digitizing for future generations, (i.e. fire stations, churches, libraries and historical places).
- His Chamber project is set to be, (once voted on), housed in City Hall walls of digitized and reproduced photos of themed historic years related to the City of

Poughkeepsie. Once voted on, we can set the timeline of changing yearly with different themes.

- We all discussed how to involve public participation and social media presence, perhaps The Buzz, for public knowledge.
- **Paola Bari**, local artist and a founder of Gallery 40 spoke to the board members on how other artists (including weekly Wednesday art gatherings) could collaborate with the Arts Commission. It would be great to have knowledge of our projects to discuss at future meetings and how we could share resources with each other.
- She noted that perhaps every now and then for us to attend one of their meetings to recap what the city of doing and what they are doing instead of working in silos.
- The board members noted that we are working on our Social Media presence and web site to future engage and education the public our mission and projects we are involved with and to share ideas and resources. This is excellent for networking and working together for arts sake!

## **VII. UPCOMING & CURRENT EVENTS | EXHIBITIONS**

- September (Sept 20 & 27) Kaal Rock Concert Series | Poughkeepsie
- Gallery 40 | Sept 19 Fashion Show | Sept 20 Cynthia Dill, John McGiff
- Arts Mid Hudson – Sound and Music opening night Sept 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Bardavon – Cowboy Junkies Friday sept 19

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

- Chris Burney moved to adjourn the meeting; Carrie Decker seconded the motion.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:02PM.
- The next PPAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 6:30PM.

Minutes prepared by Carrie Decker, PPAC Secretary