



**CONNECTING THE ARTS WITH THE COMMUNITY**

**November 10, 2015**

**MINUTES**

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**Present:** Becki Christopherson, Susan Wallerstein, Diane Jellerette, Kathy Hebert, Julyen Norman, Melissa Slattery, Chris Bradley

**Absent:** Sophia Gevas, Tony Velez, Jeff Price

**Guests:** Jennifer Bangser, Dorothy Mobilia, Janet Evelyn

Chair, Susan Wallerstein, called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM followed by introductions & sharing

**Upcoming/Future Events:**

*November 15* -Preview show opening, Tony Velez, Norwalk Historical Society Museum

*December 5* – Norwalk Symphony Orchestra, Messiah Sing a Long

*April 9, 2016* – SLOW Art Day

*April* – Poetry Month including selection of Poet Laureate

*May 5, 2016* - Documentary on WPA at Norwalk Community College with Norwalk and Westport Historical Societies

*May 16, 2016* – Norwalk Public Schools Art Show

*June 11, 2016* – CT Open House Day

*June 25-26, 2016* – Norwalk Arts Festival

*June 9* – NICE Festival, Oyster Shell Park

*August* – SoNo Arts Celebration

*September* – Boat Show, Live Green and Oyster Festivals

**New Business**

Presentation by Janet Evelyn about the Norwalk International Cultural Exchange (NICE) Festival. It was suggested that she pursue strategic partnerships with the Norwalk Arts Society, to treat Mike Moccaie as her liaison to city departments, and to present a sponsorship letter electronically to the arts commission.

**Updates**

1. **Mayor's Gallery** – Melissa reminded everyone that the next show opens on Wednesday, November 18th at 6pm; at 6:30pm the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency Director Liz Stocker will moderate a panel discussion about Norwalk's Creative Economy. Jeff Price and Gerald Myles are panel members. Melissa shared preliminary ideas for Mayor's Gallery Diversity Show - Martin Luther King's birthday is in January, when the show will be up. Inclusion is the salvation of diversity. Community of Dreams using MLK's speech, and Obama's speech about racism. What do you dream for Norwalk? Digital entries of a selfie with their dream for Norwalk and all of the entries on the wall. Becki suggested setting up a Photo Booth day at the Norwalk Public Library. Melissa suggested going to the Norwalk arts teachers and NCC. Susan suggested that might be too much work. Jennifer will help with the technical aspect. Susan asked members to volunteer to serve as liaison for each show, responsible for supporting the curator with press release, refreshments, etc.
2. **Citywide Art Show** – Reminder from Susan that we need someone to serve as liaison with school system and alumni (student & teacher) jury group (Louise Flax, Danielle Calloway, Khalaf Jerry, Paul Duruvo, others tbd)
3. **Poet Laureate** – Applications due in January with selection/announcement in April. Meeting with Transit Authority about putting poems on wheels buses. Discussed importance of poets' comfort level with social media and potential for Traffic Graphic box featuring poetry on four sides.
4. **Public Art Policy** (city owned assets) - Gifts and donations form is being tested by donations from Bruce Mellion, Jeff Price, David Cole. Legal is working through it too.

Final - approved

New Business

1. **2016-17 Budget** - Susan, Mike Moccaie, Liz Stocker, David Westmoreland (Historical Commission) - proposing a budget item in the arts commission budget for a Cultural Affairs consultant to serve the Arts and Historical Commissions, Economic Development Director, and Parks & Recreation. We have job descriptions from other cities. The person might be based at Fodor Farm to work with the Preservation Trust and other cultural non-profits which will set up offices there. This will increase our budget from \$14,000 to \$28,000. Redevelopment has some money for inventory work, etc. LAA grant is available through the state for municipalities.
2. **Norwalk Historical Society** – Museum preview opening on Sunday @ 4 PM. There is a gift shop too, which will be an added stop on WPA tours.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM**