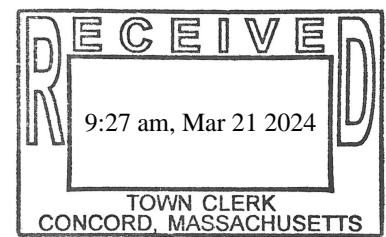


Concord Center Cultural District Taskforce Minutes
February 9, 2024 at 11 am, held at Umbrella Arts Center



Members in attendance: Tanya Barteveyan, Richard Fahlander, Jerry Wedge, Carole Wayland.

Staff Liaison: Mimi Graney. Guest: Natalie Reiser, Mark Gailus. Absent: Kate James

Attendance and Minutes:

- Draft minutes from the January 12th meeting were reviewed and corrected. With corrections the minutes were unanimously approved.

Funding Allocation:

Committee continued conversation about possible approaches as well as projects to consider for funding.

After a period of brainstorming the committee discussed Making It Public. Ms Graney explained this program seeks to build capacity among municipalities for the commissioning of public art with particular attention to issues of public procurement and expanding opportunities for BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ artists. As part of its participation in the program Concord received a grant of \$15,000 from the New England Foundation for the Arts to execute a temporary art project. A Call to Artists was issued last October for art to be installed in Monument Square in the autumn of 2024. Three semi-finalists have been selected to present at a Community Forum in the Town House on March 6 at 6:30 pm. A contract is anticipated be executed with the finalist in April.

The Committee discussed the existing shortfall in funding for this project. The necessary funds to cover artist fees is \$22,000. With \$15,000 from NEFA this leaves a shortfall of \$7,000. The Committee also discussed how programming centered on this art installation would leverage this opportunity and fit within both the deadlines and criteria of the MCC funds available to the Cultural District to allocate.

Committee unanimously approved allocation of Concord Cultural District MCC grant funds in the amount of \$7,000 to be used to pay artist fees for the Making It Public Project.

The Committee unanimously approved allocation of \$8,000 for programming associated with the art installation with the details to be discussed further and defined at the March meeting. This allows the conversation to be informed by the presentation of the semi-finalist artist's Community Forum on March 6 that would include both the installation and the kinds of programming the artists' envision. Learning the details of these installations will enable this Taskforce to better understand appropriate companion programs and associated funding allocation.

Next Meeting:

Friday, March 15 at 11 am at Umbrella Arts – this meeting will start work on second part of this taskforce's charge "to recommend an existing entity that can facilitate the Concord Center Cultural District on a permanent basis."