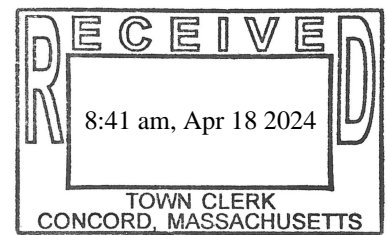


**Concord Center Cultural District Taskforce Minutes**  
March 15, 2024 at 11 am, held at Umbrella Arts Center



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

Staff Liaison: Beth Williams, Mimi Graney. Guest: Mark Gailus.

Attendance and Minutes:

- Draft minutes from the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed and corrected. With corrections the minutes were unanimously approved.

Funding Allocation:

Freedom's Silhouette, the work by Liz Helfer, has been selected for temporary installation in Monument Square. The proposal is moving forward for a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Districts Commission and then to the Select Board. Discussed the design and how, in a reflection of the robust design and the delay in the groundbreaking for the 250<sup>th</sup> memorial for the site, the dates of installation may be extended from the original September to December to September 2024 through spring 2025.

Group discussed their collective understanding of the taskforce's intention of how to allocate the remaining \$8,000 of the Massachusetts Cultural Council's FY24 grant for programming. The points around which the MCC restricts the funds are that it must be for activities that impact the district, involve the arts and economic vitality, and must be encumbered by June 30 and spent no later than December 31, 2024. The discussion centered on what focus if any the taskforce would bring to bear in determining programming to be funded and how it would solicit and select appropriate sub-grantees.

After a period of discussion, **Mr Wedge made the motion: That \$8,000 in MCC funding be expended for programming focused on the selected sculpture through a Call for Art with such programming to take place between September 8 and December 31, 2024.**

Ms Barteveyan sought to amend the motion to substitute the focus of programming to be "on the theme of freedom". Ms Barteveyan's amendment failed to receive a second.

**Mr Wedge's motion was taken up for a vote and was approved** with Mr Fahlander, Ms James, Mr Wedge, and Ms Wayland voting yes and Ms Barteveyan voting no.

The Taskforce then discussed the Call for Programming. Mr Fahlander will work with staff to draft the document that will be distributed to Taskforce members via email. Members will submit their responses to Ms Graney to incorporate as she deems appropriate to achieve a clear consensus document. That final draft is anticipated to be available for the Taskforce to approve at a meeting scheduled for April 12. This meeting will be held in a hybrid format.

Recommendation to Assign Charge

Ms Graney presented to the Taskforce a memo of her summary of the organizational approaches for oversight of MCC Cultural Districts across the state. The approaches included Municipal Department, Municipal Committee, Business Improvement District, Economic Development Non-Profit Organization. The Taskforce discussed which of these models might be most appropriate for the context of Concord. In the absence of an existing non-profit with an appropriately aligned mission, the model of Arlington's

association within the Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture seemed to be one most deserving further study.

The upcoming Arts and Cultural Convocation later in March that brings together the West Concord and Concord Center Cultural Districts, local Arts Commission, and the 250<sup>th</sup> Committee for Arts, Literature and Music was suggested as an opportunity to gather additional insights.

The Taskforce will continue discussion on this topic at the next meeting. Presenting the options in alternative, ideally graphic, formats was requested, as was research on Arlington's model and what differences, if any, there might in the definition of a committee, commission, board, etc.

Next Meeting:

Friday, April 12 at 11 am – this will be a hybrid meeting. Chair will announce location and link with the agenda.