

**West Hartford Commission on the Arts
Regular Meeting Agenda
July 17 2023 at 6:30 PM**

I. Meeting Opening

- Call to Order: 6:37 PM
- Roll Call: Karen Bachman, Javier Colon, Chuck Coursey, Latanya Farrell, Ginny Kemp, Carol McCabe, Mirela Panaitisor, Sue Rothenberg
-Absence Excused: Matthew Bragg
- Approval of May Meeting Minutes: Mirela made motion to approve the minutes, and Karen seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved 8-0.

II. Public Comment: no public comment.

III. Old Business

- WHY West Hartford Arts & Culture Calendar: Now in use by artists & groups. If members hear of any organization that has not received the info on calendar submission process, notify Chuck.
- Discussion of Places & Spaces for Local Artists – “Artify & Enliven West Hartford”: Ginny, Chuck & Latanya have drafted a Commission planning document on proposed steps to promote the arts community, which was reviewed.
Objective: Help identify places and spaces for local artists to share and showcase their work.

Immediate Tasks:

- Prepare talking points/messaging/presentation for Stakeholders, Artists & Media (Chuck)
- Secure testimonials from businesses and organizations who have hosted artists & their work in their establishments.
 - ✓ The Russell (LaTanya)
 - ✓ WeHa Brewing & Roasting Co.- Art Display (Chuck)
 - ✓ Figure 8 Properties - Ballet Theater Co./WHSO/Holiday Stroll (Chuck)
 - ✓ University of St. Joseph – Art Display (Chuck)
 - ✓ Blue Back – Image Marketing (LaTanya)
 - ✓ Plan B (Chuck)
 - ✓ Americana Restaurant & Bar (Chuck & Carol)
 - ✓ Artisan (Carol).
- “What’s Up WeHa”: 5/25 event coordinated by LaTanya was successfully held from 6-8 PM at Blue Black Square. Event included several artists from previously created Job Bank. Participants included Spoken Word Artists, WH Community Theater, Visual Artists, Face Painting, & a Techno Musician. Latanya said it was great connecting with local artists at this event. She would like to coordinate another similar event, perhaps in the fall.
- West Hartford Center Infrastructure Master Plan & West Hartford Wayfinding Signage Plan: Chuck advised the plan is still in works, as per economic development coordinator Kristen Gorski.

IV. New Business

- Karen asked if there is any way to physically announce events beside the Unity Green banners. Chuck believes the town's signage plan may include event posting, and Chuck will discuss this topic with the Town Manager.
- Carol advised that the Town Library is coordinating a contest to select art for the downtown light pole banners. Chuck will inquire if the Library needs any assistance with this effort.
- Karen and Javier have conflicts for 8/21/23 meeting.

V. Adjournment: Mirela made motion to adjourn, and Latanya seconded the motion. Adjournment was unanimously approved at 7:38 PM.