

AMAC meeng agenda for June 14, 2023

5:30-7:00 PM

Locaon: Arts/West

132 West State Street

Athens, Ohio 45701

In attendance: Jeff Risner, Katheine Ann Jordan, Emily Beveridge, Nancy Epling, David Telega, Kelee Riesbeck, Holly Ittle

Regrets: Andrew Chiki

Guests: Kate Fetterolf, Carter Rice

Legislative updates: Andrew Chiki & Jeff Risner

Andrew Chiki update via email:

- We did get funding for the parking garage finalized from City Council and I have gotten some preliminary design ideas for the top of the garage. I'll send out a scan for everyone to look at when I get a chance.
- Construction fencing will be going up by the end of the week for the fire station (I'll let those on the ad-hoc talk about the RFP going out)
- The last round of traffic wraps are being installed after being delayed. I know for sure that a wrap has gone up at the E. State/Stimson intersection but not sure about the others. I will be getting the list of where each piece has been installed soon.

Jeff Risner update:

- The mayor has approved Kate F. for the commission, position will be up for vote at the June 20th meeting. Jeff will be there to introduce the nominee, Devin Sudman will be the AMAC representative in attendance. June 20th @ 7pm.
- New conference table at city hall is a work of art, made from the maple tree that was cut down from East Elementary
- The city of Athens signed the Agency international development with Ukraine, becoming a sister city (exchange ideas and art). The Mayor has more information about this. Reason is to show solidarity with Ukraine. They have the oldest university in Ukraine (connection to Athens).
 - Kelee questions if we have any other sister cities.

Minutes from May 10, 2023 AMAC meeting for approval

- Motion to approve: Jeff. Second: Nancy. Approved: All.

Public Projects:

- Headquarters- Percent for Art update: Holly I.
 - RFP & press releases have been posted and the website is updated. There have been no questions or emails yet.
 - Deadline is 5pm on August 1st. AMAC is prepared to extend the deadline per the ad-hoc committee suggestion, looking for at least 20 submissions by established artists with ties to Athens.
 - Installation is tentatively scheduled for the Fall of 2024, giving the artist a year of fabrication time.
 - Emily B: The weather might play a part in needing to extend the timeline.
 - The goal is to know the needs of the sculpture before the concrete is poured (10 pads will be installed, 7 permanent and 3 that can be changed).

- The award is \$7,500 for all time and labor, this is not competitive with regional and national awards.
- ACM+AF (Aug. 12) Kelee Riesbeck and Andrew Chiki
 - Kelee has been meeting with Scott Winland as well and Andrew to bounce off ideas and just be an AMAC figure if Scott needs anything. She is meeting with him again on June 20th.
 - Scott is in the middle of planning for the event, bands are booked/vendors are in progress/street closure in planning.
 - Holly: Was ACMAF an AMAC idea? Emily: Scott has been doing it for a number of years prior to his commissionship on AMAC. It was a way to bring people uptown during the summer in addition to raise funds for local projects. In its stages, it happened twice before the pandemic.
 - Holly: Can AMAC play a stronger role in the planning process? Kelee is doing more research into this. Andrew C will know more details on finances as it is built into the city's finances.
 - AMAC will not hold a table at this event, but we will make a presence.

Other Projects:

- Athens City Mural audit and enhancement: David Telega and Kelee Riesbeck
 - Last week, Lee and David met with Josh to discuss 'Map Athens' for self guided educational tours. The idea is to do a map/tour about the art located in Athens. There are many ways to go with categories (traffic boxes, business art, public art, east side vs west side, etc). First project might be the most iconic representation of Athens Art "When you think of Athens art, what comes to mind"?
 - Instead of doing it all at once, we can do smaller sections of the town or specific art (murals, sculptures, etc) and slowly build the project.
 - Nancy Stevens is the person who puts this all together.
 - Devin asks if this could be a service project with local HS students? If this is the case, Devin will coordinate with local schools/teachers.
 - Conversation began by Jeff to question if AMAC has a potential for a greater reach/impact in Athens County. This came from points made that Athens HS is not the only school in the district.
 - Lee asked, "Are we serving everyone that we can serve?", in which Holly responded. "There is a need for a county-wide commission. A representative from each location would meet. This could be incredibly dynamic."
 - In the future, this project could be a collaboration with the Athens Photographic Project as well? "How to take a good picture".
 - Goal is to get 10 pictures/descriptions to Nancy by August. Lee is on this.
 - David points out that we need to get this out of the idea stage and make sure that we are making progress and completing goals.
- Athens City Pool percent for art project: Katherine Ann Jordan
 - Katherine Ann questioned why this topic was on the Agenda. Lee stated it was an accident, and was a request for clarity by a commissioner.
 - Holly asked what happened with the drawing with the Splashpad in collaboration with Passionworks.
 - KatherineAnn stated that it was fading, working with the previous director on painting with Passion Works, it was deemed too expensive and unsafe. So they had just put the pad facing on it.
 - Jeff took the time to remind the committee about a general understanding of the ordinance with the city. "The Percent for Art was generally ignored by the city/AMAC until the fire station project. Public Art was the last on their minds for those projects so it was lost/forgotten about. We cannot be retroactive in funding as they were appropriated to those specific past projects." He went on to say, "If there was someone on top of this, AMAC could go to council and state if

the money will be floated. Proprietary funds can only be spend on one thing and cannot be transferred. The renovations to City Hall are coming from Capital Improvements."

- Holly stated, "lessons learned, for 'use it or lose it'. The money is not earmarked for future use if you don't use it."
- Emily mentioned, "The ordinance may not specially state that funds cannot be earmarked for future use."
- KatherineAnn, "Can we suggest Percent for the Arts to be on the next agenda? Andrew has the best knowledge on the topic and is not present tonight."
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Arts West/APRD Update:

Katherine Ann Jordan

- Artist in the Parks on June 15 "Ready Aim Flowers" "Chris Michael and the Andrews".
- The Pride Parade was a wonderful event.
- Posting for the new Program Specialist this week. It will be on City of Athens jobs. Working on revising the job description.
- Holly questioned, "When do you see it being filled?"
- Katherine Ann said, " The posting will be open for a month. The Civil Service Exam needs to be taken by applicants (its a lengthy process). From there, they can only choose from the top 10 highest scoring for interviews. In an ideal world there will be someone ready to go by the Fall to be activated in the new position."

Emily Beveridge

- Emily has resigned from her position as Program Specialist at ARTS/West, and has prepared a statement to give to AMAC, that she read to the body.
Copy of statement attached for the record
- Holly thanked Emily for her service and stated, "It is super powerful that you have presented this to us tonight."
- Emily went on to say, "We have an important role. Arts funding is life changing. It is not putting a mural on a building. The administration needs to follow through, it is a rule (percent for arts ordinance) for them to follow and they didn't."
- It is up to the AMAC body. If we want to be artists/advocates, we will follow through on her suggestions. What we do can be a life force. It can make people change and give meaning.
- Lee shared that "We are grateful for your openness and advocacy. It is an advantage to us all. I have no idea on retroactive funding, but absolutely open to talk about it. Setting that aside, your advocacy is the reason why ARTS/West has had such a successful run the past few years."
- Holly stated that "We need a call to action and respond to Emily's submission." "When we discuss percent for the arts, could this be a line item as well? Perhaps we want to make recommendations to the Council on this."
- Emily Suggests that AMAC do a deep dive of the 2007 ordinance. Has not

- been followed through by the city, it is a law.
- Lee suggests more time and more information (August) to gain information and get more educated on the ordinance.

Announcements and other business

- Holly: In her hometown they do a 'Portrait of Liberty', where they gather all attendees to take a picture at the event. Maybe we can do a "Portrait of Athens" at the Community Arts Festival to document the members of the town year to year.
- Lee Questioned on if she submitted the Bylaws to council. We will double check with Patti to see if they have been submitted. If not, it will be taken care of promptly.
- David made comments on the content of the bylaw materials, AMAC assured him that the content was what was requested by the Mayor's office.
- Will AMAC have a July Meeting? In the past, we typically take a month off in the summer to allow for flexible schedules for commissioners.

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn: Holly. Second: Nancy. Adjourned at 7:05pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 12, 5:30-7:00 PM at Arts/West

June events:

Pride Week in Athens | June 5-10

Uptown Athens, Pride Week closer w/ Brandon Thompson's Disco Doesn't Suck dance party | June 9 Athens

Community Center: Concerts at the Park | June 15, 6-8 pm

Uptown Athens, Boogie on the Bricks | June 24

Emily Beveridge Art Industrial Complex Address

I want to express my gratitude as I am leaving my position as The Arts West Program Specialist after over 6 years in the position, and after almost 9 years of work at Arts West, and over 15 years of combined service through both employment and volunteer work. I am the individual who has served the community the longest directly in this capacity through Arts West. It has been an incredible and unique experience, and I want to thank my current Director, Katherine Ann Jordan, Deputy Service Safety Director Andrew Chiki, who was Assistant Director of Arts Parks and Recreation when I was hired, the current and past Arts West staff, interns and volunteers, the community members I served, and also the current and past members of AMAC, who I have worked with since assuming my position as Program Specialist.

Athens is where I have resided my entire adult life, I have lived here over 20 years, and I have no intention of living anywhere else. This is primarily due to the presence of the arts and artists in our community. As an artist myself, I am consistently inspired by my community. I also find hope in the fact that the arts in the area have a tremendous capacity to grow, and create much needed stability in a county that desperately needs additional industry and opportunity for its citizens.

Through my sustained service through a government funded Arts Center, I feel I have a unique perspective of what may be achievable to provide the needed additional support for the arts on a City and County level. While I take pride in what I was able to do at Arts West, I also faced a number of challenges in my role. This is primarily due to the current funding levels allocated to the Arts, which is typically between 6 - 10% of the overall Arts, Parks and Recreation Department Budget. In a given year without additional grant funding, Arts West has around \$20,000 - \$30,000 in money that can be used directly for Arts West programming purposes. This is not enough funding to provide consistent year round arts programming that maximizes the use of the Arts West facility. Staffing and staff compensation is also inadequate to support the hours of a typical arts center. It is troubling to me that as of now, Arts West will only be open to the public six hours a week.

When Arts West was purchased by The City, AMAC was more heavily involved in the day to day operations of Arts West. At that time, Arts West was not yet part of what was then the Parks and Recreation Department. The focus at that time was to have Arts West primarily serve as a performing arts venue, which was the purpose of its foundation, and what the tax levy that funded it was for. At this of my departure from my role as Arts West Program Specialist, I would like to make the following recommendations to the members of AMAC:

-That a subcommittee of AMAC be formed to provide recommendations for a future vision of Arts West that is more in line with the original intent of the organization. This committee should also make recommendations about what percentage of the overall Arts, Parks and Recreation Budget should be allocated to the arts to provide a suite of comprehensive classes, performances, and programs to maximize the use of the Arts West facility. This subcommittee should also take into consideration what maintenance to the facility is needed to make the space more presentable and usable for the community.

-That an additional subcommittee of AMAC be formed to reevaluate the percent for Art Ordinance. It is my recommendation that the ordinance become mandatory for all new construction in the City, instead of being merely a recommendation. This subcommittee should also investigate whether the City followed through on the ordinance with its own previous construction projects following the passing of the ordinance. If it did not, it should be explored if there is a way to retroactively allocate City funds to the Arts in the dollar amount equal to what should have been allocated.

-AMAC should also consider what the future vision of its role within the City could be. Many cities and counties with a similar notoriety for the Arts as Athens County have City County Arts Alliance groups. These groups provide general support for all arts organizations and artists in their area, and typically manage giving grants, and providing comprehensive websites of arts opportunities in their area. Arts Alliance organizations typically have staffs, and are not volunteer run.

I want to thank AMAC for giving me the opportunity to speak to you tonight. I look forward to my future, where I will be an advocate for the arts as a citizen of Athens. My closing thought is you cannot be an artist without being an advocate, which will be a guiding vision for me in the next phase of my life.

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

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Form 6220

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Ordinance Na 0-138-07

Passed----- December 17, 2007

Introduced by Carol Patterson, Member

Arts & Recreation Committee

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A POLICY TO ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR PUBLIC

ART.

WHEREAS, the City of Athens believes that investing in the arts is crucial to revitalization and development of a strong community and economy, and it is an important measure of the success of a region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Athens encourages the advancement of Athens as an arts and cultural destination; and

WHEREAS, the City of Athens recognizes the achievements and excellence of outstanding artists and increasing public access to their works; and

WHEREAS, the City of Athens values the development of a public collection of artwork of high quality and wide range of artistic style and disciplines;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO:

SECTION 1: It shall be the policy of Athens City to provide a 1% allocation for public art when the City, or its defined authorities, provide appropriation for capital improvement projects, including eligible bond projects, eligible grant-funded projects, and other eligible capital projects funded from other sources. Projects over \$1,000,000 will be subject to the allocation. Such allocation shall be used to promote the cultural heritage and artistic development of the city by enhancing its character and identity, contribute to economic development and tourism, and increase the opportunities for its citizens to participate in the arts.

It shall be the policy of Athens City to encourage a similar allocation for public art by private developers within the City. Such action by private developers will impact upon the cultural heritage and artistic development of the City by enhancing its character and identity, contributing to economic development and tourism, and increasing the opportunities for the City's citizens to participate in the arts.

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Answered
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Ordinance Na **0-1384)7** Page 2of4 Passed

SECTION II: For the purpose of the public art policy, the words, terms, and phrases defined herein shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them.

Artists -^ Individuals that are generally recognized by critics and peers as professional practitioners of the visual, performing, or literary arts, as judged by the quality of that practitioner's body of work, educational background, and experience, -r

Arts Commission - Athens Municipal Arts Commission (AMAC)

Building - A roofed and walled structure built for permanent use.

Municipal Construction Project - any project to be paid for wholly or in part by the City, regardless of the source of the monies, to construct, remodel or reconstruct any public buildings, decorative or commemorative structures, parking facilities and parks, or any portion of any of such buildings, structures, facilities or parks, belonging to the City within its geographical boundaries as they now exist or shall i ; exist in the future.

Project Cost - Construction costs shall include architectural and engineering fees, ; site work and contingency allowances; it does not include land acquisition or city fees and permits. All construction costs shall be calculated as of the date the contract is executed.

Public Art - Works in a variety of media produced by professional artists that may be ; permanent, temporary or functional in nature. Public art encompasses the broadest, range of expression, media, and materials and is displayed or provided in a public facility. The term shall also include any historical restoration of existing buildings, parks, or public facilities, u •. it

SECTION III: Commercial Construction Participation.

- A. Any private developer/owner who applies to the City for a building permit to construct or reconstruct a commercial structure shall be encouraged to commit one percent (1%) of construction or reconstruction costs up to but . not limited to the sum of One Hundred Thousand Pollars (\$100,000.00) to the provision, of fine art in conjunction with subh commercial structure.

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

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Ordinance N& 0-138407 Page 3 of 4 Passed

- B. Each building permit issued by the City to any such private developer/owner will include data relative to the private developer/owner participating in the public art program in the City. ? ■
- C. Any building permit for construction or reconstruction of a commercial structure shall be reported to the Municipal Arts Commission. > . >

SECTION IV: Eligible Projects and Set Asides.

- A. Any project that is paid for wholly, or in part, by the City, or through the issuance of bonds, for the construction or improvement of any building, park, or public facility, other than routine or periodic maintenance, shall set-aside at least one percent (1%) of the City's authorized allocation, but in no event shall more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) be required to be set-aside.
- B. No set-aside shall be required to be made until such time that the contract or agreement for completion of a specific project that meets the qualifications of this Ordinance is executed.
- C. In the event that a determination is made that works of art are not desirable or not in the public interest for a specific project, an amount equal to one percent (1%) set-aside, shall be placed into a special account to be utilized for public art or maintenance of public art in furtherance of the purposes of this ordinance.
- D. The City Council may by majority vote, exempt any project from the scope of this ordinance prior to the execution or authorization of any project, agreement.

SECTION V: The following projects are exempt from the percent for art policy:

- surface parking lots, sidewalks, maintenance sheds, bridges, tunnels, sewers, trails, fish ponds and fishways, warehouses, unless such structures are integral to an eligible building project;
- buildings of a temporary nature;
- public street and highway construction;
- renovations to plumbing, heating, ventilating, air conditioning or electrical systems; and
- projects to correct deficiencies or violations of a building or housing code enacted by law.

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

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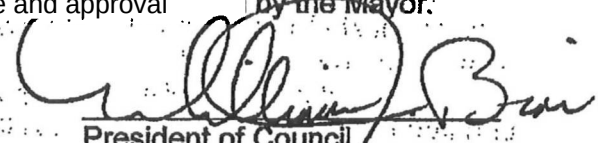
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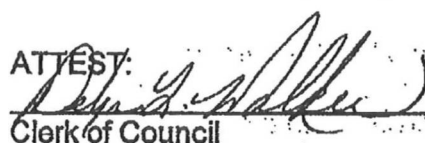
SECTION VI: The Municipal Arts Commission (AMAC) will confer with the Service-Safety Director and/or his/her designee, or Project Directors during the permitting process to ;

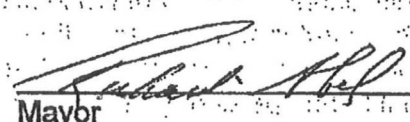
- recommend use of funds;
- advise on acquisition and placement, including the promotion of public performances and the public exhibition of the arts on City property;
- designate items as public art and approve the location; 1
- assist in fundraising and grant writing;
- establish guidelines for fund expenditure; and
- create inventory and maintenance records of public art.

SECTION VII: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect at the earliest moment permitted by law upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.


President of Council

ATTEST:


Clerk of Council


Mayor