

CITY OF ROCKVILLE
Cultural Arts Commission Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, January 8, 2025
7:00 pm

The meeting discussed various updates and initiatives related to the arts program, community engagement, public art projects, and future plans for making Rockville an arts destination.

Commission Business

- Motion made to approve December 2024 minutes -
- Susan Hoffmann, a former mayor of Rockville, has joined the cultural arts commission.

Staff Report

- Betty Wisda was recognized for 45 years of service as the arts program supervisor.
- The Rockville student juried art exhibition and Rockville Art League Winter's garden art exhibit were successful.
- Updates on public art projects, including the swim center mosaic installation and upcoming community engagement sessions for the Twinbrook and College Gardens murals.
- The memory walk project is being replaced and needs to be assessed for maintenance and restoration.
- The current selection processes for art programs have not been reliable or consistent, and revisions are needed.
- Community engagement standards and roles for artists, staff, commission, mayor, council, and community need to be defined.
- Criteria for implementing programs and projects, including equity standards and partnerships, need to be established.
- The Friends of the Arts fund will provide \$6,000 for special events that can include various art forms.
- The organizational structure and flow of information within the arts and culture program was clarified.

- Community engagement is viewed as a repetitive and iterative process that requires building relationships and trust.
- Immediate tasks for commission members include providing a list of artists and creative entrepreneurs, community meeting information, volunteering preferences, and sharing one thing about the arts in Rockville.

Commission Discussion

- The Kent Lamb's festival at Red Gate has been moved and will be smaller this year.
- The Atlantic Jazz Festival has been moved from Rockville to Bethesda, causing a loss of income for Rockville.
- There is a desire to make Rockville an arts destination and attract music venues to the city.
- Community engagement involves gathering input from the community and involving them in the selection and creation of artwork.
- The city is in the process of hiring a diversity officer, but the timeline for the hire is unclear.
- The possibility of combining the temporary arts and public art subcommittees is being discussed.
- Percival Everett is the recipient of an award for his book "James," which is highly recommended.
- The possibility of organizing a community event in conjunction with the literary festival was suggested.

Action Items

- Staff will:
 - Provide a copy of the 2019 arts study and staff presentation to the CAC
 - Confirm Community Engagement session dates for murals and provide update on hiring of JEDI position.
- Commission will:
 - Consider combining the Permanent Art Subcommittee and Temporary Art Subcommittee, but table the discussion until next month to gather more input

- Find potential candidates to fill the current opening on the commission, particularly someone who is younger and possibly male.