Newton Cultural Council

Council Meeting

November 5, 2020

Attendees:

Rakashi Chand, Jane Feigenson, Rich Frost, Paula Gannon, Kathleen Hassinger, Grey Held, Lakshmi Kadambi, Amelia, LeClair, Danielle Moriarty, Emily O’Neil, Christopher Pitts, Rebika Shaw, Robin Stein, Kathleen Wright.

Meeting began at 10:07A

* Minutes from October 1, 2020 were approved with the following revision - Diversity Committee continues to explore ways to increase outreach.

Treasurer’s Report:

* Kathleen Wright Reported that 2 more grantee payments have been added.
* As of today, $21,000 is outstanding in monies that have not been distributed.
* Kathleen continues to work with the city’s Controller to finalize exact numbers.
* Emily O’Neil asked if we have reached out to the 2020 grantees regarding their grant payments. Kathleen has been sending out regular communications to the 2020 grantees urging them to send in their update and fill out the proper forms. There has been little response.
* Approximately half of the grantee monies have been distributed.
* Per MCC guidelines, there is a one year deadline from approval (January 15) to receive reimbursement.
* Undistributed funds may roll over and can provide more dollars for the 2021 Grantees.
* It was decided to continue to reach out as a final push, to the 2020 grantees.
* A notice will be put on the NCC and City of Newton websites as well as the NCC Face book page. Kathleen will write the notice. Danielle will post the announcement on the City of Newton site and Chris will update the NCC website as well as the Facebook page.
* Kathleen reported that many grantees have not held their events yet due to Covid. Some have not responded, and some have requested extensions.

Committee Reports:

1. Nominating Committee:

* The council discussed a possible new council member, Pat Costello who is a Newton resident and is active with many art organizations, the Fuller Craft Museum and has been a community activist.
* Chris Pitts commented that his background may be a good fit regarding finance, board development and business administration. There are presently many artists of different disciplines and he would provide a good balance.
* Kathy Hassinger commented that a part of our scope includes not only art but the sciences and Pat Costello could shed more light in this area.
* Amelia LeClair made a motion to approve Pat Costello, Kathy Hassigner made the second, the council voted unanimously with one abstention on Pat Costello’s seat on the Council.
* Paula will speak to the mayor on his nomination.
* The Council felt it would be helpful for him to begin in time for the adduction process.

Committees:

1. Marketing Outreach Committee -

* Emily O’Neil
* Christopher Pitts
* Rich Frost
* Robin Stein

2. Nominating Committee -

* Kathy Hassinger - Sub Committee Chair
* Christopher Pitts
* Emily O’Neil
* Jane Feigenson
* Rakashi Chand

3. Diversity Committee-

* Kathy Hassinger
* Grey Held
* Lakashi Kadambi
* Jenn Kaplan
* Amelia LeClair

4. Newton Cultural Council Reception-

* Jane Feigenson
* Kathleen Wright
* Lakashi Kadambi
* Jen Kaplan

Adjudicating Committee-

* Christopher Pitts
* Rebika Bendayan
* Robin Stein
* Amelia LeClair

Adjudicating Committee Report:

* Chris Pitts will speak to Jason Weeks of the Cambridge Arts Association about their adjudication forms. They have an advanced process that may help the NCC.
* Danielle Moriarty spoke about the Medford Council and their adjudication form breaks it all into three categories. Youth Programs, Adult Programs and all age programs. The groups are then divided among the council members and then tabulated.
* It was agreed that the adjudication committee will organize and enter the rating numbers from each of the council members and will report back.

Marketing Outreach Report:

* With the new date of December 14th for grantee deadline, the council discussed additional ways to get the word out.
* Lakshmi Kadambi has reached out to a few groups including the Human Rights Commission
* Danielle Moriarty has included two spotlights in the Newton TAB and will submit a 3rd blurb.
* Paula Gannon has coordinated a banner to be placed on Homer and Commonwealth Ave by City Hall. Paula will also send the NCC graphic to all and ask that all the council send out to their resources.
* Newton North High created the image and did an outstanding job!
* Grant Applications to date are 11 submissions, 8 have abandoned, and 6 are in draft.
* The total monies requested to date, is $13,813.
* As there will be no in person events (for now), grantees should have a plan A and a Plan B.
* There are also a few locations that could provide a backdrop for an event to be produced and then presented on line. Venues discussed were: The Allen House, The New Art Center, and Historic Newton (2 homes)
* Revising the form to remove venue and date will be needed.

Key Dates:

* December 14, 2020 - Grant deadline
* December 14- February 13 - Adjudication process
* January 3, 2021 - Produce books
* January 4-8, 2021- Adjudication small group to meet to assign grants for review
* January 25 - February 1 - Council to meet to adjudicate.
* February 13, 2021 - Denial letters to be sent
* March 1 - Annual report due (not required but may be a good thing to do)

Next Meeting:

* December 9th @ 10:00A

The meeting concluded at 11:15A.