

**NEWTON CULTURAL COUNCIL**  
**March 19 2020 Meeting**

Present:

Jane Feigenson, Rich Frost (joined @ 11:30a), Paula Gannon, Kathy Hassinger, Grey Held, Lakshmi Narayan Kadambi, Jen Kaplan, Amelia LeClair, Danelle Moriarty, Christine O'Donnell, Emily O'Neil, Chris Pitts, Robin Stein, Kathleen T. Wright

Discussion: corrections to the minutes of the last meeting

Entire council did not receive minutes

Reviewed

**VOTE TO APPROVE MINUTES: Unanimous yes**

Paula raised the issue of cultural events that have been cancelled in Newton:

Newton Open Studios

Festival of the Arts

Kidfest

She said that the Mayor wants us to be consistent and say that these events have been **cancelled** not postponed.

The city does not have the resources to reschedule these events.

Some NCC grantees have already spent money on events that will not take place--ex. Open Studios. We need to address the question of reimbursement in these cases.

A press release from the Massachusetts Cultural Council on March 16 said that grantees will not lose their grant money if their events are cancelled or changed.

People will need the therapeutic influence of art in the future so can we encourage our artists to put on their events online?

We will send a letter to our grant recipients saying the following: We realize this is a challenging time for all of us and we, at the Newton Cultural Council, want to support you in your artistic endeavors.

If you have spent money on an event which already took place or was supposed to take place, send us your receipts for expenses and you will be reimbursed.

If your event is scheduled between March and July 1st, we encourage you to produce some program:

- modify the scope--put it online
- postpone the event to a later date

- request an extension from the NCC

Discussion:

- Method of reimbursement to artists; possibility of change over to prepayment of grants next year.

Discussion:

- Council information to grantees must be streamlined
- Reassurance to artists is paramount at this time
- Remind grantees that receipts must still be submitted
- Events that have been cancelled should be reimbursed for costs to date
- Reach out to grantees and encourage alternative presentations
  - Events to be listed on public calendars
  - Events can be tagged as NCC grant recipient
- Make your art available to the public
- Assist grant recipients with platform options

**VOTE TO CONTINUE TO FUND PROJECTS AS PREVIOUSLY DECIDED: Unanimous yes.**

Job description discussion to be tabled to next meeting

ACTION ITEMS:

- Robin will draft a letter to grantees asking for project receipts, modifications to projects, requests for extensions.
  - Extensions do not cover living expenses
- Each council member to check in with applicants they reviewed before next meeting

NEXT MEETING:

- Friday, April 17 @ 10:00a

MEETING ADJOURNED:

- 12:42p