

Public Arts Commission of Oxford

Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 4:30PM

Minutes of the meeting

Present: Steve Sullivan, Chair; Edna Southard, Vice-Chair; Robert Benson, Recording Secretary; Carole Katz, Norm Krumpe
Guest: Doug Elliott, City Manager
Absent: Stefanie Hilles, Joe Prescher (both excused)

1. The virtual meeting of the Public Arts Commission of Oxford (PACO) was **called to order by Steve Sullivan at 4:32PM.**
2. The **Agenda** was amended to include presentations by Doug Elliott and Bob Benson
3. The **Minutes** of the April 13, 2021 PACO virtual meetings were approved.

Presentation by Doug Elliott, City Manager, regarding Ella Cope's Mural

After some e-mail exchanges, it is clear that we need to find a new location for Ella Cope's mural that has been placed on the west side of Kim Peterka's building next to the Rodbro property at the SE corner of High and College. At this point, the artist retains ownership of the mural.

Kim Peterka has offered the south (alley) side of her building as another possible location for the mural. In that location, it could be seen from the parking lot of the Municipal Building. Three other suggestions were: (1) the Black Covered Bridge, (2) 15 West High Street across the alley from Fiesta Charra on the Choker Building, and (3) the Municipal Building, because walking tours of historic Oxford are scheduled to begin there in the near future.

Considerations for any location include public visibility, protection against possible vandalism, and the life expectancy of the mural. The question of free speech was raised and discussed. PACO agreed that this might become a problem with all public art but that we must not presume that this is a problem in advance or that we have to resolve it.

As a result of the discussion, Bob Benson moved that PACO reaffirm its original position of recommending to City Council that the mural be placed on the Walnut Street façade of the Municipal Building. Carole Katz seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Bob agreed to write a letter from PACO to the City Council reaffirming our original recommendation.

Presentation by Bob Benson about his meeting with Kim Daggy of Enjoy Oxford

Bob met with Kim Daggy, Director of Enjoy Oxford, on May 6, 2021. They discussed ideas about the culture of public art in Oxford.

The central idea for the meeting was a request by Bob for information and suggestions about researching the economic value and impact of the arts in Oxford and how that might reinforce ideas PACO is developing concerning our effort to see Oxford evolve into an arts community. Kim had found some valuable online references about the economic value of the arts, which she shared with Bob; she also liked the idea of promoting new activities in addition those that Enjoy Oxford already supports but was skeptical about how many new events she and her single staff member would be able to undertake.

Enjoy Oxford is funded by a hotel tax from the various lodging businesses in Oxford, not directly by the municipal budget.

However, she was very supportive of the notion that an arts community could be built and sustained in Oxford if the right groundwork and administration were organized.

Bob indicated that he would be discussing these ideas with other arts leaders in Oxford and at Miami University including OCAC, the Performing Artists series, the College of Creative Arts, and several departments in that college. Bob promised that we would keep her informed about PACO's decisions and plans; and that we would treat her as an important player in the encouragement of public involvement in new activities and opportunities.

The following URLs are those suggested by Kim Daggy as a starting point for learning about the economic impact of the arts on a community:

<https://www.wicaonline.org/blog/2020/4/15/during-economic-highs-and-lows-the-arts-are-key-segment-of-us-economy>

<https://www.wicaonline.org/blog/2020/4/15/during-economic-highs-and-lows-the-arts-are-key-segment-of-us-economy>

https://nasaa-arts.org/nasaa_research/creative-economy-state-profiles/

And there are many, many more!

4. Old Business

Vision and Action Plan Discussion

Steve Sullivan suggested that PACO should organize our visions and ideas as a means of preparing for the community meeting that we plan to hold in August or September. This would include some focused ideas and specific proposals.

For some proposals, we would benefit from using the city map being prepared by Andrew Wilson as a way of explaining our ideas. We should also prepare a calendar in order to discuss event-based ideas.

We also want to propose that PACO become a nexus of collaboration with other entities, both public, private, and institutional. For all of this, we need to narrow down our priorities.

Bob offered to work with Steve to author the draft of a “vision” document for discussion at our next regular meeting on June 8, 2021.

Adjournment: This first part of the meeting was **adjourned at 5:34PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Benson, Recording Secretary