



City of Chelsea
Recreation & Cultural Affairs Division
Minutes
Tuesday, April 27, 2021 6:30pm

Members: Marlene Jennings, Chair; Dakeya Christmas, Co-Chair; Juliana Borgiani, Treasurer; Danielle Kim; Carolina Anzola

Public: Cara Cogliano, Kati Cabral

Staff: Bea Cravatta, Omar Miranda, Mimi Graney

I. Call to order

Marlene calls the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from March 23, 2021 were unanimously approved.

III. Chelsea Fun Bus

Cara Cogliano gives a brief overview of Chelsea Community Connections, noting that they have worked in Chelsea for 25 years to prevent child abuse and neglect and DCF involvement. Chelsea Community Connections operates a clothing closet to take in donations and provide clothing to families in need. They also run Family Fun Bus every Tuesday in the summer, giving families opportunities to go to museums and places outside of Chelsea. Chelsea Community Connections also collaborates with the public schools to get free meals for these field trips. Cara notes that the Chelsea Cultural Council has funded this project for at least 3 years.

Due to the pandemic, they were not able to provide field trips last year. Cara is seeking to modify her project, while navigating public health regulations. Marlene asks if she could do 2 field trips a week with half the number of people on each bus or limit the size of group excursions. Cara notes that the cost of bus rentals are the biggest expense of this project. Bea mentions that state guidance around COVID-19 is changing rapidly, and cites the importance of outdoor excursions for Chelsea residents.

Marlene suggests that Cara comes back for the CCC's May meeting. Cara offers to do research on possible alternate arrangements and examine whether these sites would be open to group visits. Carolina mentions that she'll check back in with Cara in a few weeks.

IV. FY21 Chelsea Heritage Celebrations Grantees & LCC Grantees Status

Bea mentions that all FY21 LCC grantees have received an award letter, and she's working to compile their information to ensure that they get paid. Checks must be cashed in 180 days. If they need an extension, they need to come back to the CCC to request a modification. Bea states that FY21 Heritage grants have also been notified, and they will be receiving the first half of their grant award shortly.

Bea gives an update on David Fincher's Heritage Mural. Marlene will send the design mock-up to all CCC members. Carolina mentions that at the last planning meeting for the Heritage Mural, David presented on the design and historical relevance of the images in the mural. Marlene mentions that Chelsea City Stories launched their website and offers to distribute the link.

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V. FY20 Grant Management

Governor Bellingham-Cary House Association, If the Walls Could Talk - Marlene notes that they requested permission to put the photography on the designated page on their website.

Appollinaire Theatre - Marlene received a letter from Alison McCarthy stating that they are struggling to plan for upcoming productions due to logistical challenges around rehearsing. They are exploring whether other funding is available for their summer productions. They will seek an extension from the CCC once they hear back about the status of a grant application. Marlene will distribute their letter to CCC members, and we can vote on it at the May meeting. Danielle asks about how this FY20 LCC grant extension will affect their FY21 Heritage Grant. Bea mentions that Appollinaire may be looking to modify their Heritage Grant proposal as well. Bea affirms that it will be helpful to ask about their multiple grants: \$2K from LCC and \$19K from FY21 Heritage Grant, and understand what each grant is supporting.

Chelsea Public Library, Urban Movement - They have 1 more performance remaining before their project is complete. Bea mentions that they just need to submit a final report.

BMS Civic Mural - Omar mentioned that they will be finishing the mural soon.

Chelsea Hunger Network, Chelsea Empty Bowls - Carolina reports that the bowls were painted last year, but everything was shut down before he could host the signature event. The CCC previously approved his extension request. Carolina asked for documentation about the event and stated that a final report still needs to be submitted. Carolina will communicate that the CCC can offer flexibility in this case, but reiterate the importance of adhering to the project plan or seeking a modification if needed.

Chelsea Jewish Tours - She requested that this money be moved into FY21.

Theatreworks USA, Charlotte's Web - They have credit remaining.

Chelsea City Stories - Project is finished.

Lewis Latimer Society, Chelsea Science Fair - Danielle has struggled to get a response from them. Marlene will follow up and give them a deadline to get back to us. Marlene asked if they requested to re-allocate money to their current FY21 Latimer Lights project. Neither Danielle nor Bea recall this, noting that the Science Festival is different from the Celebration of Latimer Lights project.

People of Chelsea - Project is finished, and the final report was submitted.

Walnut Street Synagogue - Project is finished, and the final report was submitted.

Hondurenos Unidos de MA - Dakeya has struggled to get a response from them. He will follow up again.

Peggy Shippen - Project is finished, and the final report was submitted.

Jason Tardy Productions - Project is finished, and the final report was submitted.

Matt Frank - Project is finished, and the final report was submitted.

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Black History Month - Project is finished, and the final report was submitted.

Chelsea Salsa in the Park - Carolina will follow up and ask about their plan moving forward. They may need to seek a modification to postpone their timeline.

Tobin Mural Project - Project is finished. Marlene asked them to put a CCC logo on it. They agreed.

DC Field Trip - Juliana needs to follow up with them.

VI. CYC Painted Utility Box Proposal

Omar states that the Chelsea Youth Commission is exploring the location on Broadway near the Walgreens for their utility box, but had some concerns about the ongoing construction. Marlene and Dakeya agree with Carolina’s suggestion of linking to mental health resources on their utility box. Omar will follow up with them and suggest putting the QR codes for resources on the sides of the utility box.

VII. Arts & Culture Strategic Plan Distribution

Marlene reports that 20 hard-copy guides and executive summaries are available related to the arts & culture strategic plan. These guides will be distributed to city councilors, city department leads, and other city leaders. The full guide is also available online. Bea and Omar will help distribute copies.

Danielle - wants executive summary

Carolina - wants full guide

Juliana - wants full guide

Dakeya - wants full guide

Marlene - wants full guide

VIII. Announcements

Mimi shares that Chelsea Prospers is kicking off their Walking Tours. Lee Farrington is doing a Grattville tour on Sunday, May 2.

The Christopher Columbus statue was taken down recently. Marlene states that City Manager Ambrosino asked the Cultural Council and the Historical Commission to work together to brainstorm replacement options. Bea encourages CCC members to do research on alternate ideas. Marlene notes that the names of Italian American families who paid for the statue are engraved on the base, and we can consider proposing other mediums for a replacement memorial. Danielle reminds CCC members that the City Manager’s email, which Bea forwarded on February 23, noted that the replacement memorial should “honor the indigenous inhabitants of Chelsea.” Bea will propose the following meeting times to the Historical Commission: May 13 and 17 at 6:30pm.

Omar spoke to Mark and Isabel who are going to create an opera for middle school students at the Apollinare. They are getting feedback from the Youth Commission, and want to connect with the CCC to get our thoughts and suggestions. Omar notes the importance of exposing young people to opera. Marlene suggests inviting them to our next CCC meeting in May.

Danielle mentions the forthcoming Roadway Mural project that will involve four blocks of roadway murals and in front of the Appollinaire and down Division Street. Bea highlights the importance of maintaining this artwork through the weather and ensuring that it is not a distraction for drivers.

Carolina motioned to adjourn, Dakeya seconded.
Recorder: Danielle Kim

Next Meetings: May 25 for monthly meeting
Meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

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