



MINUTES

ARTS COMMISSION Meeting

7:00 PM - Thursday, May 20, 2021

Zoom Meeting

The ARTS COMMISSION of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Thursday, May 20, 2021, in the Zoom Meeting.

1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

2 ROLL CALL

Present:

Commissioner Wolfe - City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County
Commissioner McAtee - City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County
Commissioner Schumann - City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County
Commissioner Ventour - City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County
Commissioner Seagraves - City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County
Commissioner Kirkpatrick - City of Altoona, PA; Blair County
Commissioner Settles - Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County

Absent:

Commissioner Goulet
Commissioner Thompson

Following roll call, Commissioner McAtee was nominated as temporary chairperson for the May 20, 2021 meeting.

Commissioner Seagraves moved to nominate Commissioner McAtee as temporary chairperson, seconded by Commissioner Wolfe.

Approved:

Yes - 7, No - 0, Absent - 2

3 AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved with an amendment to move Allison Buck's presentation to the June 17 meeting.

Commissioner Schumann moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Kirkpatrick.

Approved:

Yes - 7, No - 0, Absent - 2

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 15, 2021 meeting were approved.

Commissioner Wolfe moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Kirkpatrick.

Approved:

Yes - 7, No - 0, Absent - 2

5 AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

No comments were made.

6 PRESENTATIONS

- a) Allison Buck, Chair of the Ann Arbor Public Arts Commission - This presentation was moved to the June 17, 2021 meeting.

7 NEW BUSINESS

None

8 OLD BUSINESS

- a) Downtown/Depot Town Noise Permitting Process and Application Reviews
- Depot Town CDC
 - Ypsi Alehouse
 - Kenyatta Barbee
 - Ziggys

Community Development Manager Christopher Jacobs presented a proposed schedule for Downtown and Depot Town performances. Two audience members made public comments.

Commissioner Seagraves moved to approve the schedule as presented by Christopher Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Kirkpatrick.

Approved:

Yes - 6, No - 0, Absent - 2, Abstain - 1

- b) Proposed Busking Policy to Support Street Art Performances - Commissioner Schumann presented an update.
- c) Artist and Community Survey - Commissioner Seagraves presented an update.
- d) Public Art Process + Guidelines - No updates.

9 DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

10 UPDATES

- a) Private Mural Projects in Ypsilanti
- b) Black Lives Matter Street Mural Project
- c) MCACA FY 2022 Grant Application Deadline - June 1, 2021

- d) Creative Washtenaw Aid for Artists, Creative Workers/ Organizations/
Businesses

11 AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

No comments were made.

12 PROPOSED BUSINESS

None

13 NEXT MEETING DATE

June 17, 2021

14 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

**Commissioner Schumann moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by
Commissioner Kirkpatrick.**

Approved:

Yes - 7, No - 0, Absent - 2



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
ARTS COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, June 17, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Virtual
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Page

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Wolfe
Commissioner McAtee
Commissioner Schumann
Commissioner Goulet
Commissioner Ventour
Commissioner Seagraves
Commissioner Kirkpatrick
Commissioner Thompson
Commissioner Settles

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VI. PRESENTATIONS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Proposed Busking Policy to Support Street Art Performances
- B. Artist and Community Survey
[Action Plan for Community Arts Survey](#)
- C. Public Art Process + Guidelines

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IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS

X. UPDATES

- A. Black Lives Matter Street Mural Project

XI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

XII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Community and Artists Survey
Ypsilanti Art Commission
Action Plan
March 18, 2021

The City of Ypsilanti, through the Ypsilanti Art Commission, will organize and solicit a survey of the Ypsilanti community in 2021. The Community and Artists Survey will be open to city residents and local artists. The intent is to collect information from the community about the arts to inform the Commission in its role with the City, share this information with local, state and national arts organizations and provide some insight on the arts in Ypsilanti at this particular time. The Commission expects to open the survey this summer. An award from the Tremaine Foundation has been offered for the implementation of the survey which will go toward outreach and analysis of the results.

The survey will:

- Be open to all city residents
- Encourage responses from local artists & have a second set of questions for them
- Provide a baseline of information about the local arts
- Include questions about the impact of the pandemic on the arts
- Ask questions related to diversity, equity, inclusion and justice and the local arts

Survey Themes

Below are the main themes that will form the basis of the questionnaire. Draft survey questions are included in the first appendix.

Themes for Community/Residents:

- How they engage with art and entertainment
- Impact of Covid-19 and their interest in attending online and socially-distanced events
- Under what circumstances will the community feel safe enough to participate in events (return to normal)
- Ask about diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice in the local arts
- If they feel included in what is already offered
- Count employment and volunteer work in the arts

Themes for Artists/People who work with or Support Artists:

- How they are impacted by the pandemic (ie cancelled projects/events, reduced staff, pay cuts, etc)
- What will help them to thrive moving forward
- How they engage with the community (and how has this changed during the pandemic)
- If they have studio space

Artist Thrive and Funding

The [Artist Thrive](#) resource is used as a component of some of the Community and Artists Survey. The Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation supports the Artist Thrive project. The Foundation agreed to provide funding for the implementation of the Community and Artists Survey. The funding was offered as a gift to pilot the foundation's increasing network of local arts organizations using the Artist Thrive tool.

Outreach

It will be necessary to staff the survey's outreach to increase the survey participation. That effort would include: social media & online content, targeted networking, help with any printed materials and present at events that can be safely staffed. The Commission would oversee the content of the outreach. An outreach or arts consultant would be necessary to complete this effort. The budget for the outreach performance is outlined below with additional details.

Diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice will be a main theme of the survey. The city's diverse population will be a primary focus of audience participation and will be a prime measure of the survey's success. A main focus of the outreach will be targeting networks to request participation in the survey in an effort to increase the number of respondents that reflect the city's diversity. Outreach to artists, at arts related events and with art organizations, will also be a part of the consultant staff's responsibilities.

Results

Upon the close of the survey, it will be necessary to examine and report on the content of the survey responses. The outreach personnel, or a second consultant, will be needed to complete this work. That effort would include: submit social media content about the results, compile a report, provide written analysis and suggest next steps to follow-up upon. The Commission would oversee the data that results and its dissemination & would provide feedback on the content of the final report. The budget for the outreach performance is outlined below.

Budget

The total budget for the Community and Artists Survey is: \$4,000. The City will acquire the funds from the Tremaine Foundation and provide the means of payment for the expenses listed in the budget below. *No other* City funds are requested. The costs associated are outlined here:

<u>Community and Artists Survey budget</u> (2021)	<u>\$4,000</u>
Subscription to online survey service:	\$350
Printing:	\$200
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● for outreach/advertising, option for printed survey for those without a computer	
Outreach:	\$2700
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Consultant/temp hours, to perform:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Social media content & updates	

- Targeted outreach to community networks
- First Friday location
- “Busking” locations
- street closure events
- 8 weeks, at \$15 per hour, 20 hours per week = \$2400
- Supplies = \$300

Analysis of the Results: \$750

- Consultant/temp hours, to perform:
 - Social media updates
 - Compile a report and provide to the Commission and City Council
 - Provide written notes and takeaway information
 - Suggest next steps
- 3 weeks, at \$15 per hour, 15 hours per week = \$675
- Supplies = \$75

Follow-up

A second phase survey would be planned for late 2022. This second survey would be targeted to local arts organizations. The follow-up survey would refer to the results of the initial Community and Artists Survey and track any direct action or progress that it had made possible.

Appendix One
Survey Questions
DRAFT

Community questions:

1. Are you a resident of:
 - City of Ypsilanti
 - Superior Township
 - Ypsilanti Township
 - Pittsfield Township
 - City of Ann Arbor
 - Ann Arbor Township
 - Wayne County
 - None of the above

2. How long have you been a resident there?
 - Less than two years
 - 2-5 years
 - 5-10 years
 - Over 10 years
 - Over 25 years

3. Please select the statement that best applies to you regarding your average participation in arts programming in the city of Ypsilanti in the past (art, music, theater, festivals or special events).
 - I have frequently participated in arts programming (about monthly or more)
 - I have occasionally participated in arts programming (several times a year)
 - I have participated in any arts programming few times or not at all

4. I had participated in the following, over the past 3 years:
 - Watched live theatre
 - Attended a dance performance
 - Attended a cultural event/performance
 - Attended a reading/poetry event
 - Attended an art gallery or visual art show
 - Went to see live music
 - Shopped at an art sale
 - None

5. When and under what post-pandemic conditions do you expect to attend events and participate socially in the arts again?
 - I'm ready to participate now
 - I'm ready to participate now (outdoors only)

- I'm ready to participate now, with masks and social distancing
- When there is a big decrease in cases
- When vaccination is a high percent of the population in the state/county
- Not likely to this next year

During this time of social justice, how do the local art, cultural events and activities you have participated in relate to issues of diversity, equality, inclusion and justice? In your opinion, how true are these statements on a scale between one (none) and four (a lot):

- I feel included and represented in the arts programs and events that are offered.
 - 1 - not included
 - 2 - somewhat included
 - 3 - often included
 - 4 - always included
- There was capacity in the arts community to learn and talk about matters of race, equity and diversity.
 - 1 - no capacity
 - 2 - fair capacity
 - 3 - good capacity
 - 4 - outstanding capacity
- There is a level of intention to build culturally relevant and culturally competent programs and offerings.
 - 1 - no level
 - 2 - some level
 - 3 - a good level
 - 4 - a high level

** The above questions on equity and social justice are based on the statements in the [Artist Thrive](#) survey/rubric.*

- Which of the following do you believe the City and the Ypsilanti Arts Commission should make as their priority to support the local arts community? Select as many as you'd like:
 - Support to working artists
 - Help build capacity within existing arts organizations
 - Leverage state and national organizations to increase local support
 - Use creative works to enhance the community
 - Increase participation in the arts
 - Equity in access to the arts
 - All of the above
 - Other _____

- What are the barriers that keep you from participating more in the arts?

- Price of attendance
- Childcare
- Transportation
- I don't have time
- No social support; no one to attend with
- Nothing has interested me
- Other _____

11. What art and arts programs would you like to see more of in the Ypsilanti community?

- Other _____

12. Are you employed or do you volunteer in the arts sector?

- I am employed in the arts sector
- I volunteer within the arts sector
- No

13. Had you been employed in the arts right before the pandemic, but are not any longer as a result of the pandemic?

- Yes, No

Artist questions:

14. Are you an artist?

- Yes, No

15. What form of art is your practice based?

- Performing Art
- Dance
- Musician
- Visual Arts
- Actor
- Writer
- Sculpture
- Film
- Graphic Art
- Decorative/Craft
- Other: _____

16. Do you currently have a designated studio space to create your work?

- Yes, I do have a designated studio space
- Yes, I have a designated studio space in my home
- No, I do not have a designated studio space
- I would like to have a designated space
- My work does not require a designated studio space

17. If you rent a studio space, what is your monthly rental fee?

- \$0-\$250
- \$250-\$500
- \$500-\$1,000
- Over \$1,000

18. Are you financially dependent on your art?

- It is less than 10% of my annual salary
- 10-50%
- Over 50%
- All of my salary

19. Do you expect your financial dependency on your art will increase in the next year?

- Yes, No

20. Has the pandemic financially impacted you (i.e. cancelled projects/events, loss in sales, reduced staff, pay cuts, etc)?

- Yes, No

21. How have you engaged in your art with the community during the pandemic that is different from before? Select all that apply:

- Used Zoom to meet virtually
- I haven't engaged--I had stopped to stay safe
- Concentrated on developing new work while at home
- Increased my online exposure (i.e. marketing, promotion, social media)
- Generated more sales/income online
- Held social distanced events
- I haven't changed what I was doing before, just doing it safely

22. What will help you thrive as an artist moving forward from this pandemic? Select three:

- Local funding from Shuttered Venue Grant
- direct employment/commissions (i.e. Put Creative Workers to Work)
- Unemployment changes/increases
- Funding for arts and non-profit employees
- small grant (i.e. Creative Washtenaw Aid, Artist Relief grant)
- Change policies/laws to promote public and private sector support to art
- Improve economic/social policies that disadvantage independently working artists
- More arts based education support to increase opportunities as an artist educator
- Other: _____

Demographic questions (before Artist questions section)

What is your age bracket?

0-18, 19-29, 30-44, 45-64, 65+

What is your annual income?

Under \$15,000, 15K to 25K, 25K to 40K, 40K to 60K, 60K to 90K, 90K to 150K,
over \$150K

What is your ethnicity?

- White, non-Hispanic
- Black or African American, non-Hispanic
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Hispanic/Latino
- Native American or Native Alaskan
- Asian
- Other races, including multiracial
- Prefer not to respond

What is your gender identity?

- Male
- Female
- Transgender female
- Transgender male
- Gender non-conforming, Non binary
- I prefer not to answer