



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
ARTS COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, November 10, 2022 @ 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Page

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner McAtee
Commissioner Ventour
Commissioner Seagraves
Commissioner Thompson
Commissioner Settles
Commissioner Wolfe

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3 - 4 A. [10-12-22 Arts Commission Minutes](#)

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VI. NEW BUSINESS

5 - 14 A. Artist Survey Review
[Action Plan for Community Arts Survey](#)
[Artist Survey - REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION \(approved 10-21-21\)](#)

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Poet Laureate

VIII. UPDATES

A. Arts/Events around Ypsilanti

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

X. PROPOSED BUSINESS

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE

December 8, 2022

XII. ADJOURNMENT



Action Minutes
CITY OF YPSILANTI
ARTS COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, October 13, 2022 @ 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

I. CALL TO ORDER (7:05pm)

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Seagraves, Thompson (C), Wolfe, Settles, McAtee

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Wolfe moved, seconded by Commissioner Seagraves to approve the agenda. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Yes - 5; No- 0;

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 8, 2022 Minutes

Commissioner Seagraves moved, seconded by Commissioner Settles to approve the minutes. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Yes - 5; No- 0;

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE -none.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Call for Proposals - Discussion

Commissioner Wolfe shared a request by local gallery owner Jen Eastridge to share her upcoming call for art amongst commissioners and Arts Commission channels.

The commission discussed the call for art worksheet that Commissioner Settles had provided.

They agree to post it as a resource for the public on the Arts Commission landing page.

The commission discussed sharing outside calls for art on the city newsletter and also discussed creating content for the city newsletter starting with commissioner bios in hopes to gain awareness about the commission and to help recruit more commissioners.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Arts Commission Information Packet for Artists

The commission discussed the information packet presented, and Commissioner McAtee will clean it up to add it to the resource list on the landing page.

VIII. UPDATES

A. Arts/Events around Ypsilanti

Commissioner Thompson asked the commission to attend the upcoming UMS community roundtable on October 24th. The commission discussed how to get involved with programming their series of events. They agreed that ensuring transportation for residents is a role they can play in advocating for at the round table.

Staff listed upcoming events such as plays at RAC, Holy Bones, First Fridays.

B. Guidelines and Rubric - on City Council agenda for review, October 17th |

The item has been rescheduled for November 1st.

Staff updated the commission about the funding for the artists survey. There is movement and response from the Tremaine Foundation. This effort will soon be back up for discussion. Staff recommended that the commission re-examine the survey since the initial survey was heavily focused on the pandemic in 2020.

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE - none.

X. PROPOSED BUSINESS

Commissioner Thompson requested that the poet laureate program be brought back on the agenda.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, November 10th, 2022

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Wolfe, and supported by Commissioner McAtee at 8:30pm.

On a voice vote, the motion carried. Yes - 5; No- 0;

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 (2021)</u>	<u>\$4,000</u>
Subscription to online survey service:	\$350
Printing:	\$200
• for outreach/advertising, option for printed survey for those without a computer	
Outreach:	\$2700
• Consultant/temp hours, to perform:	
○ 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



REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION
10/21/2021

For: Arts Commission
From: Elize Jekabson
Subject: Artist and Community Survey

Background:

The Ypsilanti Arts Commission, plans to organize and solicit a survey of the Ypsilanti community in 2022. 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. An award of \$4000 from the Tremaine Foundation has been offered for the implementation of the survey which will go toward distribution, outreach, and analysis of the results.

Members of the commission have drafted the survey questions, and an action plan to implement both surveys.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of attached resolution

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL: _____ COUNCIL AGENDA DATE:
CITY MANAGER COMMENTS: _____
FISCAL SERVICES DIRECTOR APPROVAL:



Resolution No. 2021-06
October 21, 2021

RESOLVED BY ARTS COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the Arts Commission desires to cultivate a community culture and environment that embraces and nurtures artistic and creative assets; and

WHEREAS, the Arts Commission desiree to promote and further diversity, equity and inclusion of all of Ypsilanti in the arts; and

WHEREAS, the Arts Commission desires 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 insight on the current state of the arts in Ypsilanti.

WHEREAS, the Arts Commission wishes to recommend implementation of the Community and Artists Survey Ypsilanti Art Commission Action Plan, and the Request for Qualifications for the Community and Artists Survey Outreach Consultant; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Arts Commission of the City of Ypsilanti, that this resolution by provided to the City Manager and City Council for recommendation.

OFFERED BY:

SUPPORTED BY:

YES:

NO:

ABSENT:

VOTE: