

APPROVED
MINUTES OF
THE VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
ARTS COMMISSION MEETING
HELD IN THE BUECHNER CONFERENCE ROOM
OF THE VILLAGE HALL
APRIL 16 AT 6:30 P.M.

Arts Chair Seitz-Pagano called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mary Seitz-Pagano, Arts Chair
Janet Souter
Kristen Walter
Brian Wolf
Gretchen Grassl
Leena Joshi
Carla McAleer
Kate Schwarz

Members Absent: Erika Cutlip

Also Present: Derek Mach, Staff Liaison

Arts Chair Seitz-Pagano led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance. Arts Chair Seitz-Pagano and the arts Commission welcomed Commissioner McAleer and Commissioner Schwarz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COMMISSIONER WALTER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JOSHI, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 15, 2025 ARTS COMMISSION MEETING. ALL WERE IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

FILM FESTIVAL

Commissioner Souter provided an overview of the Oscar Shorts Film Festival. Commissioner Souter commented that the event was well attended. Arts Chair Seitz-Pagano thanked the subcommittee for there work on the program. Commissioner Joshi commented that pictures of the event have been shared.

ARTS WALK

Commissioner Joshi suggested a subcommittee for the event. Commissioner Schwarz volunteered for the subcommittee. Commissioner Joshi commented that the art walk would feature artwork at various locations as part of a walk. Commissioner Souter commented that Mr. Chip Brooks has expressed interest in having a small art fair in the downtown. Commissioner Schwarz commented that possibly the art walk could be featured as part of Harmony Fest.

LIGHT PROJECTION MAPPING

Staff Liaison Derek Mach commented that the light projection mapping should be discussed as part of the Downtown Public Art Plan. Arts Chair Seitz-Pagano agreed.

ART GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Staff Liaison Derek Mach commented that grant opportunities should be discussed as part of the Downtown Public Art Plan. Arts Chair Seitz-Pagano agreed. Commissioner Grassl shared a few potential grant opportunities.

CULTURAL ARTS AWARD

Staff Liaison Derek Mach explained that the due date for Cultural Arts Award is April 25, 2025 and that the Commission has not received any submittals. The Commission discussed extending the due date to August.

COMMISSIONER WOLF MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JOSHI, TO EXTEND THE SUBMITTAL DATE FOR THE CULTURAL ARTS AWARD TO AUGUST. ALL WERE IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

DOWNTOWN PUBLIC ART PLAN

Arts Chair Seitz-Pagano explained that the Village Board is interested in creating a comprehensive public art plan/program. Arts Chair Seitz-Pagano commented that the Village Board expressed interest in developing a program/ordinance to encourage and allow murals as a form of public art (rather than being considered signage). Arts Chair Seitz-Pagano suggested that the Commission give thought to one or two potential art projects for the next few years. Commissioner McAleer commented that goals for the plan need to be defined. Commissioner Walter suggested having a subcommittee that works on defining the following:

- Purpose
- Goals
- Outcomes
- High level guidelines

Commissioner Walter and Joshi volunteered to be part of a subcommittee. The Arts Commission is going to discuss the purpose and goals at the next Arts Commission meeting. Commissioner Walter commented that another subcommittee could also explore:

- Research
- Funding
- Potential locations

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Staff Liaison Derek Mach explained that the Village Manager is asking each Board and Commission to contribute to the upcoming Strategic Priorities process for 2026-27. Arts Chair Seitz-Pagano explained that the Village Manager is requesting a general idea of issues that the Arts Commission thinks are current and important for the community. Commissioner Walter suggested the following and the Commission agreed:

- Develop a public art plan to strengthen economic development initiatives within the local economy and citizenry.
 - Continue to pursue grant opportunities
 - Explore options for an Art Walk
 - Pursue a Light Projection program that is featured in the Downtown
- On-going Programs
 - Cultural Arts Award
 - Film Festival

NEW BUSINESS

Arts Chair Seitz-Pagano asked if there is any new business? The Commission discussed meeting on Wednesday, May 21, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Arts Chair Seitz-Pagano asked if there are any public comments?

ADJOURNMENT

COMMISSIONER WOLF MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCALEER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:30 P.M. ALL WERE IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.