

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE  
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**January 25, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 4:00 PM., at Cumberland County Administration Building Bridgeton, New Jersey.

**Present:** Penny Watson           Yogesh Thakur  
              Marianne Lods       Roy Kaneshiki  
              John Garrison       Maria Cerda-Moreno  
              Suzanne Merighi     Ella Boykin  
              Freeholder Sparacio

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director  
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

**Guest:** Kimberly Gauntt, Cumberland County Recreation & Tourism  
          Barbara Taylor-Holmes, Cumberland County Black Hall of Fame

**Approval of Minutes – December 21, 2017**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from December 21, 2017 by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously.

**Welcome to Freeholder Joseph Sparacio**

Mr. Pisarski commented that Freeholder Sparacio requested the meetings to be moved to 4pm so he could attend. Everyone introduced themselves to Freeholder Sparacio. Freeholder Sparacio apologized for being late and his lack of attendance. Freeholder Sparacio passed out his card if anyone needs to contact him.

**Winter Eagle Festival – Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Everyone had a flyer in their packet about the festival. Clay College will be at the festival to help with the clay table and the bird tiles.

**Special Request – Cumberland County Black Hall of Fame**

In 2016 the Black Hall of Fame asked for a special request to help with the Teen Show Case, in 2017 they applied as a re-grantee. They did not apply in 2018 so they are requesting \$1,000 in special request funding. Mr. Pisarski reached out to Jackie Sandro with Clay College regarding \$150 that is available; Ms. Sandro said she would like to use that funding in February or March. Mr. Pisarski suggested that Ms. Sandro and Black Hall of Fame could work together since art work is part of the showcase. Ms. Taylor-Holmes apologized for not applying for a 2018 regrant. The Black Hall Fame provides scholarships to African American graduating seniors. Mr. Pisarski asked if there has been an increase in participation due to the Commission's support. Ms. Taylor-Holmes commented that they do see an increase each year from student's participation. Mr. Pisarski asked if she reached out to the Levoy Theater to collaborate with the Teen Arts Festival. Ms. Taylor-Holmes has not reached out to the Teen Arts Committee. Ms. Taylor-

Holmes informed the Commission that the Black Hall of Fame Committee will attend the regrant workshop so everyone gets an understanding on how the whole process works. Schools will receive information on the showcase in February. Mr. Pisarski said the Commission will discuss possible funding and Ms. Taylor-Holmes will receive an email with the Commission's response.

Mr. Kaneshiki questioned what Ms. Sandro's connection to the event would be. Mr. Pisarski said Ms. Sandro asked for contacts within the community so Mr. Pisarski suggested she work with the Teen Showcase because Clay College could be a venue to display the art work from the showcase. Mr. Pisarski said that Teen Arts and the Teen Showcase are both taking place in April and he would like to see collaboration. Ms. Watson asked how much special request funding is available; Mr. Pisarski said \$2,500 is available. Ms. Lods suggested contributing \$750. Mr. Thakur questioned how much special funding was awarded last year, Mr. Pisarski said it ranges from \$1,000 - \$2,500 depending on the quality of the request made. A motion was made to award \$850 to the Black Hall of Fame by Mr. Thakur. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garrison and passed unanimously. Ms. Boykin abstained.

#### **Preservation NJ – Preservation Workshop (Patterned brick architecture/grassroots advocacy) – Landis Theater, Vineland**

Mr. Pisarski explained to the Commission that there was \$1,400 remaining in Promo of the Arts for 2017 with an open purchase order to Preservation New Jersey. Mr. Pisarski reached out to them regarding programming in Cumberland County. It was suggested to hold the event at Landis Theater in Vineland and the topics could be State Historic Tax Credit or the new registry for patterned brick houses. Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission are they ok with the idea and what do they want to cover at the event. Ms. Watson commented that it is a great idea. Mr. Pisarski said the event would have a reception, a lecture and other topics important topics in the preservation community in South Jersey. Ms. Merighi asked how many patterned buildings are in South Jersey, Ms. Watson commented that 400 have been found in New Jersey but all are not still standing. Ms. Merighi asked who would typically attend such an event, Mr. Pisarski said it would get promoted through the historical societies, AIA and a press release would be done. Ms. Boykin asked when the event would take place; Mr. Pisarski said it would probably take place in May or June.

#### **Wheaton Arts/Atlantic/Cumberland Creative Community Connections Project – Near and Far: Arts and Cultures of East Asia**

Ms. Pirgova with Wheaton Arts contacted Mr. Pisarski regarding a new exhibition at Wheaton Arts called Near and Far: Arts and Cultures of East Asia. The project will address the history and cultural heritage of the East Asian communities. Mr. Pisarski reached out to Kim Brown with Atlantic County Cultural & Heritage. The project would be a two year venture. Wheaton Arts is requesting \$11,000 from State Council on the Arts. Mr. Pisarski is looking for contact information for East Asian artists in the area. The Commission would contribute to the costs associated with the programming, but the exact figure is yet to be determined.

#### **Cumberland County Teen Arts Festival – Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**

Commission members received a flyer in their packet for the Teen Arts Festival. Mr. Pisarski said Bogarts has been added this year for spoken word. Ms. Lods said every school will be participating this year. Mr. Pisarski thanked the Teen Arts Committee for stepping up and taking over the event.

**Update on West Jersey Time Traveler Signage**

Mr. Pisarski said the face plates have been removed and Metro signs will be picking them up. Mr. Pisarski will send everyone a pdf of the redesign. There are four podcasts that still need to be done. Ms. Moreno asked about the podcast being done in Spanish, Mr. Pisarski commented that they will work on it after the podcasts are back up and operational.

**Liaison Reports**

Ms. Lods asked for contacts to be emailed to her, Mr. Pisarski will email everyone their regrant contacts.

Ms. Watson said NJ.com had an article about 18 places to visit in New Jersey and Bayshore Center and Millville Army Air Field made the list.

Mr. Garrison said Off Broad Street Players will be doing Oklahoma at the Levoy.

Ms. Lods commented that Cumberland Players heater broke so she set up a GoFundMe page and she raised over \$9,000. Ms. Merighi said they have six programs lined up.

Ms. Boykin attended the Dr. Martin Luther King celebration. Ms. Boykin showed everyone the Commissions ad that was put in the advertisement book.

**Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt**

Ms. Gauntt said the tourism council will be on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Gauntt invited Ms. Lods to the next meeting to discuss Southern Shore regrant funds. A billboard will be done at the Motorsports Park and the calendar of events is currently being put together. Mr. Thakur asked about getting events published.

**Other Old/New Business**

Ms. Boykin has been named the County Historian.

**Correspondence****Adjourn**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garrison and passed unanimously.