

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES****June 25, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 4:00 PM., via teleconference.

Present: Penny Watson Marianne Lods
Michael Cagno Sharon Yoshida
Robert Dragotta Suzanne Merighi
Freeholder Barber

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Guest: Kim Gauntt, Cumberland County Recreation & Tourism
Omarey Williams, Shared Services Coordinator
Lisa Garrison
Jocovi Lindsey, Project Inspiration
Al Thomas, Project Inspiration

Approval of Minutes – January 29, 2020

A motion was made to approve the January minutes by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cagno and passed unanimously. Ms. Lods and Ms. Watson abstained.

Ms. Watson commented that Roy Kaneshiki passed away since the Commission's last meeting. An online memorial service was held for Mr. Kaneshiki.

Welcome Olive Doss**Project Inspiration Special Request – Jocovi Lindsey**

Mr. Lindsey is requesting funds to purchase software equipment. Project Inspiration helps children develop their full creative potential through audio, visual, technological and cultural arts. With the purchase of the software, Project Inspiration will be able to education the youth of Cumberland County. Once the youth gets the knowledge and views on their YouTube channel they will be going to New York and will have full access to the YouTube studio for the day. Ms. Watson inquired how the organization is currently funded. Mr. Lindsey said they receive private donations, their own money and several partnerships. Mr. Cagno questioned the budget, Mr. Pisarski said they are asking for \$1,000. Ms. Merighi asked how many children participate in the program, they will be working with 40 kids which is an increase from last year. Mr. Lindsey will forward an example of what the children did last year. Mr. Pisarski said Mr. Lindsey was not aware of the regrant program but will become a regrantee next year. Mr. Pisarski informed Mr. Lindsey that the Commission will review their request and Mr. Pisarski will send him an email with the Commission's decision.

Mr. Dragotta asked for clarification on what Project Inspiration is and what they are doing, Mr. Pisarski said they are a certified nonprofit. Mr. Pisarski recommends approving the \$1,000 request. Mr. Cagno will reach out to them and build a relationship. A motion was made to approve \$1,000 to Project Inspiration by Mr. Dragotta. The motion was seconded by Ms. Watson and passed unanimously.

Network to Freedom Project – Lisa Stewart Garrison

Ms. Garrison submitted a copy of the Ambury Hill application to Diane Miller, Ms. Miller runs the Network to Freedom in Cambridge, Maryland. Ms. Garrison said she is starting the research work for 663 Ye Greate St. Mr. Pisarski gave an update on the project and payment schedule to Ms. Garrison.

CARES Act Special Re-Grant Funding

Mr. Pisarski said New Jersey State Council on the Arts contacted the Cultural & Heritage organizations in New Jersey and are providing each organization with \$9,400. The funds are to be given to grantees that are in good standing for 2020. Funds can be used for salaries or operating expenses. Commission members received in their packet the budget for the second quarter. Several thousand dollars is not being used due to events being canceled. Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission if they would like to reallocate some funding towards the CARES Act stabilization effort. Ms. Merighi asked if Mr. Pisarski has heard of any of the arts programs being in financial trouble. Mr. Pisarski said the grantees seem to be managing. Larger organizations that do not receive regrant funds are having some financial issues. Ms. Watson suggested reaching out to the grantees and asking them to return the regrant money that they are not using and ask how funds they would need to sustain. Mr. Pisarski said regrant funds that have already been paid out could be reallocated towards operating expenses. Mr. Pisarski commented that an estimated \$27,000 in unused operating funds could be used for special stabilization re-grants. Mr. Pisarski said the mural program would probably be the only program that will take place in 2020. Ms. Lods questioned if each organization that applies will receive the same amount. Mr. Pisarski said he will do a simple application process then decisions can be made on awards. Mr. Cagno asked would the funds be given out all at once or will there be a two-phase process. Mr. Pisarski responded that the funds would be disbursed in a 75/25 fashion similar to the re-grants. Mr. Pisarski asked if the Commission wants him to draft a stabilization grant program and what should the amounts be set at. A motion was made to approve the stabilization program by Mr. Cagno. The motion was seconded by Ms. Yoshida and passed unanimously.

Strategic Plan Update – Omarev Williams

Mr. Williams and Mr. Pisarski had a Zoom meeting with Chris Shrum regarding the long-term plan. The plan is going to focus on COVID-19 and the impact it has on the arts and history organizations. Mr. Shrum will reach out to 10 organizations and discuss the issues they are having and how they plan to move forward.

Mr. Pisarski thanked everyone for their patience. Mr. Pisarski asked if anyone has any questions or concerns regarding the COVID situation and how we are dealing with it. Ms. Merighi commented that in the budget money is allocated for workshops, will the Commission hold any workshops and if so can they be done via Zoom/Microsoft Teams. A workshop will be held in the fall via Microsoft Teams. Moving forward all meetings will be recorded through Microsoft Teams and possibly posted to the Commissions website. Ms. Pisarski said when we get back to

meeting in person Microsoft Teams will still be available as an option for people to use.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Cagno commented that Clay College repurposed their regrant funds to GOS.

Ms. Merighi said libraries are offering curbside pickup. Cumberland Players has canceled their July performance. Mr. Pisarski suggested holding an outdoor performance. Mr. Dragotta said performances are canceled because attendees can social distance but the actors cannot. Freeholder Barber asked if it was possible for an orchestra to play outside, Mr. Dragotta said he would speak to Bay Atlantic Symphony and try to come up with a plan.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Ms. Gauntt said marketing grants are available for non-profits through the end of July. A new marketing campaign for outdoor activities will be taking place. Mr. Pisarski said state data was released, Cumberland County was up in 2019 for income. Projections are saying numbers will not go back up until 2022.

Other Old/New Business

Ms. Watson said the article she wrote on the history of Cumberland County for Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia is now available online.

Correspondence

Mr. Pisarski wrote a letter of support to South Jersey Bayshore Coalition to name the Bayshore Heritage Byway as an All-American Road.

Mr. Rodriguez was sent a letter explaining what special funding he will be receiving and the stipulations that need to be met to receive funding.

Gallery 50 sent in a thank you note for co-sponsoring January's art show.

Preservation New Jersey sent in a thank you for our membership.

Barn Studio sent an email on how they are going to handle programming during COVID.

Adjourn

Mr. Pisarski said moving forward Cultural & Heritage meetings would be held through Microsoft Teams.

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