

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

May 26, 2022

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 3:00p.m., via teleconference and/or in-person at Hands Up Silent Theatre Studio located in Millville, NJ.

Present:	Michael Cagno	Robert Dragotta
	Suzanne Merighi	Marianne Lods
	Yogesh Thakur	Karen Barnett

Commissioner Deputy Director Pearson, Commissioner Liaison

Kristy Whilden, Hands Up Silent Theatre
Hailey Whilden, Hands Up Silent Theatre
Jonathan Cummings, Revive South Jersey
Bill Horin, ART C
Susan Daly, Mural Artist
Mark Wiley, Bridgeton Rotary
Carole Green, Temple Vision Corporation
Jerry Young, Tri City Hope Center
Terry Gould, Tri City Hope Center
Omarey Williams, Shared Services Coordinator
Matt Pisarski, Department Head/Director
Wanda Riviera, Confidential Assistant

Approval of Minutes – April 28, 2022

Michael Cagno indicated, following Roll Call, that a quorum was met and would like to entertain a motion to approve the April 28, 2022 Cultural & Heritage (C&H) Commission meeting minutes. A motion to approve the April 28, 2022 meeting minutes was made by Marianne Lods, seconded by Suzanne Merighi, and passed unanimously by the Commission.

Memorialization of Approval of Minutes from March 24, 2022

Mr. Cagno additionally asked a motion to approve the memorialization of the March meeting minutes. A motion to approve the memorialization of the March 24, 2022 meeting minutes was made by Ms. Lods, seconded by Ms. Merighi, and passed unanimously by the Commission.

Grantee Spotlight – Hands Up Silent Theatre

Mr. Cagno thanked Hands Up Silent Theatre for hosting the Cultural & Heritage Commission. Kristy & Hailey Whilden introduced themselves and thanked the Commission for their generous grant. Ms. Whilden invited those in attendance to the Theatre's upcoming performances of

Beauty & The Beast. Mses. Whilden were both hearing-impaired and decided to start the Theatre to help deaf and hearing-impaired children get involved in performing arts five years ago and had been a nonprofit for one year. Hailey Whilden had prepared a special American Sign language (ASL)-assisted song performance for the Commission and those in attendance. Ms. Whildin explained Beauty & The Beast would open that weekend and Little Shop of Horrors on July 8, 2022 and invited everyone to attend.

ART C Presentation

Mr. Cagno introduced and welcomed guest Bill Horin from ART C into the meeting space. Mr. Horin explained he would send additional assets and promotional materials to Mr. Williams to pass along to the Commission members. Mr. Horin said ART C were planning a local film festival and was asking for support from the Commission. Mr. Horin said the film festival would take place on October 21-22, 2022 and was looking for Gold & Silver sponsorships. Mr. Pisarski asked if ART C was a for-profit or non-profit organization and Mr. Horin said they were a non-profit organization. Following a brief period of questions, Mr. Horin thanked the Commission members for their time and consideration in the upcoming film festival. Both Mr. Cagno & Ms. Lods said they had worked with Mr. Horin in the past and said it yielded great results.

Rotary Mural Update

Guests Mark Wiley from Bridgeton Rotary and Susan “Sue” Daly, mural artist from Northfield, NJ, introduced themselves. They have been working together on a new mural project. Ms. Daly said a wall had already been selected (located at 14 North Pearl Street in Bridgeton) on the side of the CompleteCare building. Ms. Daly said her mural applications were always ultraviolet (UV)-protected, this particular mural was 20’ x 20’, and showed examples of the mural design. Mr. Cagno said a previous mural Ms. Daly had done looked exactly the same between the draft design and actual mural application. Mr. Wiley & Ms. Daly asked if the Commission could pick up the artwork at a cost of \$7,500.00. Following a brief period of discussion amongst the Commission, staff, Ms. Daly & Mr. Wiley, it was asked if both the Commission and State Council logos could be affixed to the bottom corner of the design. It was also mentioned to ask CompleteCare if they would be interested in providing lighting for the mural.

Cumberland County On Canvas – July 15, 2022

Mr. Williams explained he had included the event flyer for Cumberland County On Canvas funded by the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage and Recreation Commissions. He said a gallery opening would be hosted on July 15, 2022 The Riverfront Renaissance Center for The Arts (RRCA.) It was asked how many pieces in total were part of the County art collection and Mr. Pisarski guessed it would be about 40-50 pieces total on display throughout different County facilities. Mr. Williams said there were currently only three pieces that were unspoken for.

Memorialization of Special Requests – Friends of India Society: Kite & Color Festival & Upper Deerfield Township: Upper Deerfield Day

Mr. Williams explained he would like to combine the last two Memorialization of Special Requests for Friends of India Society (Kite & Color Festival) & Upper Deerfield Township

(Upper Deerfield Day) into one single motion. He added Friends of India was \$4,000.00 and Upper Deerfield Day was \$2,000.00. Discussing the Commission's Budget, Mr. Williams said under Special Requests, \$5,000.00 remained with an extra \$2,000.00 left over from the Teen Arts Festival. Mr. Williams said there would likely be a little bit of money left over from additional areas and \$10,922.00 in Contingency. A motion to approve the memorializations of funding requests for Upper Deerfield Day and Kite & Color Festival was made by Mr. Cagno, seconded by Ms. Merighi, and approved unanimously by the Commission.

Mr. Pisarski said, based on previous years, at this point in time with similar budgets, he would not worry about funding additional projects. Mr. Dragotta suggested asking CompleteCare to help fund the mural. But after a brief period of discussion, Mr. Pisarski recommended to rather ask them to supply funding for lighting.

Special Request – Temple Vision Corporation: UNITY Day (September 3, 2022)

Mr. Cagno welcomed Carole Green from Temple Vision Corporation, who was in attendance online. Ms. Green, the President of Temple Vision Corporation, stated her organization was working with other local organizations to re-ignite UNITY Day 2022. It would be held on September 3rd in The Bridgeton City Park and would be a multi-cultural UNITY Day. Temple Vision was looking to hold an essay and logo contest for UNITY Day amongst local students. Ms. Green said Temple Vision was looking for money to help fund prizes and giveaways for the contest, including T-shirts, bookbags, etc. tickets to Six Flags Great Adventure. Ms. Green said she did not have a total budget for UNITY Day, but expected about 1,000+ attendees. Commissioner Donna Pearson was happy to see the re-launch of UNITY Day! Karen Barnett said Bridgeton Area Brothers United (B.A.B.U.) was planning a similar Unity Day event and suggested Temple Vision Corporation partner with them for one big event.

Special Request – Revive South Jersey (September 17, 2022)

Mr. Cagno welcomed Jonathan “Jon” Cummings from Revive South Jersey. Mr. Cummings said his organization had run the Mexican Independence Day celebration for the last four years in Downtown Bridgeton and this year, were expanding the scope to Hispanic Heritage Day. They had averaged 600-700 individuals in attendance even during COVID-19. Mr. Cummings was requesting the Commission participate as a “title” sponsor and this would be additional funding into their re-grant application. Mr. Cummings said they did not fully understand ahead of time and would tie the general/event program funding all together into one application for next year.

Special Request – Tri City Hope & The Boys & Girls Club: Juneteenth (June 18, 2022)

Mr. Cagno, then, welcomed Jerry Young & Terry Gould in attendance on behalf of Tri City Hope & The Boys & Girls Club. Mr. Young, the President of Tri City Hope/Boxing, introduced himself and his friend, Terry Gould. Messrs. Young & Gould had held their first Juneteenth event in the City of Bridgeton in 2015 and had held events every year since (aside from 2020 due to COVID-19.) Mr. Young said they had roughly 700-800 attendees in 2021 and hoped to match that amount of attendees this year; knowing there was another event to be held that same day, a parade for Isiah Pacheco, who had recently signed to the Kansas City Chiefs. Messrs. Young & Gould were asking the Commission to participate as a “banner” sponsor for \$1,200.00. Mr.

Williams thanked all of the guests in attendance, said they were welcome to leave at this point in time, and could be in touch concerning their awards.

Memorialization of C&H Officer Recommendations for The Remainder of 2022

Mr. Williams explained the memorialization of the C&H Officer recommendations was from Marianne Lods being nominated for Secretary and Maria Cerda-Moreno being nominated as Treasurer to fill the open seats from Sharon Yoshida & Olive Doss' absences. A motion to memorialize the C&H Officer recommendations was made by Mr. Dragotta, seconded by Ms. Merighi, and passed unanimously by the Commission. Mr. Williams proposed to the Commission to see if they might want to contribute to helping fund giveaways for staff-attended event booths currently being funded by Recreation & Tourism. Staff recommendation would be an amount of \$1,500-2,000.00. Commissioner Pearson said it would be a great investment for the Commission and members of the community really seemed to enjoy the giveaways.

Mr. Cagno suggested to discuss and approve all of the Special Requests amounts at one time: \$2,000.00 for Departmental giveaways, \$7,500.00 for the Bridgeton Rotary mural design (Commissioner Pearson suggested checking to see if CompleteCare could help fund the mural itself, with the addition of logos into the design,) Temple Vision Corporation's UNITY Day request would be tabled for further discussions, \$2,500.00 for Revive South Jersey with the suggestion they apply into the re-grant program next year, \$1,200.00 for Tri City Hope, and \$2,500.00 for ART C's film festival. Mr. Cagno explained this would add up to a total of \$15,700.00 in funding requests. A motion to approve all of the aforementioned Special Request funding amounts was made by Ms. Lods, seconded by Mr. Dragotta, and passed unanimously by the Commission. Ms. Merighi suggested many of these organizations should be urged to apply within the regular re-grant cycle. Mr. Cagno recommended making some sort of uniform template to help clean up these in-person Special Request presentations/pitches.

C&H Commissioner Reports

Mr. Dragotta said he had spoken with Kristy Whilden at Hands Up Silent Theatre prior to the meeting, who mentioned everything she had shared with the Commission earlier. Ms. Lods said she had spoken with representatives at the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center, who had been busy and would soon be hosting an African-American exhibit. Mr. Dragotta briefly spoke on Helga Merits' currently in-process film on Seabrook, which was coming together wonderfully and interviews were still being actively conducted. Mr. Dragotta said Ms. Merits was still looking for about \$7,000.00 in funding to help finish her independent film. Ms. Merighi said she would be attending a program that evening at Clay College sponsored by the Millville Public Library to help unite the LGBTQIA+ community. Ms. Lods said the Millville Chamber of Commerce Awards ceremony was being held at The Levoy Theatre that evening, as well.

Planning Department Update – Matt Pisarski

Mr. Pisarski said Departmental staff had been very busy lately and some of their upcoming events would include the Millville Chamber Awards, Cinco de Mayo in Bridgeton, Hands Up's upcoming shows that weekend, and Millville's Memorial Day Parade with the bus. He explained most weekends were booking up, as far as events, and some weekends were even double-

booked; one upcoming weekend, in one day, staff would be at both the Kite & Color Festival and the New Jersey Motorsports Park's Food Truck Festival. Mr. Pisarski added he had recently met with a film scout at the County Fairgrounds about potential usage for a short film about a post-COVID-19/alien invasion wedding. Mr. Dragotta said he was involved in a separate Zombie Wedding film that would be shooting within the County soon, as well. Mr. Pisarski said he would provide a film status database at an upcoming Cultural & Heritage Commission meeting.

Other Old/New Business

Mr. Williams quickly explained the Commission meetings' traveling location schedule would now be on-hold until the fall with the exception of July's meeting to be held at Potter's Tavern. All other meetings would be held at the County Administration Building. Mr. Pisarski said the Commission would now only travel once per quarter and all other meetings would be held at the Administration Building, which had somewhat recently re-opened for public access.

Adjourn

Mr. Cagno kindly asked for one final motion: a motion to adjourn the May 26, 2022 Cultural & Heritage Commission meeting was made by Mr. Dragotta, seconded by Ms. Merighi, and passed unanimously by the Commission. Mr. Williams thanked everyone for their attendance and continued involvement. Ms. Whilden invited everyone to attend Hands Up Silent Theatre's upcoming presentations of both Beauty & The Beast and Little Shop of Horrors.