

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE  
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**September 28, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at 3 PM., at Wheaton Arts Millville, New Jersey.

**Present:** Suzanne Merighi Roy Kaneshiki  
Ella Boykin Merle Silver  
Yogesh Thakur

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director  
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

**Guest:** Dr. Iveta Pirgova, Down Jersey Folklife Center

**Approval of Minutes – August 24, 2016**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from August 24, 2016 by Ms. Boykin. The motion was seconded by Ms. Silver and passed unanimously.

**Welcome by Dr. Iveta Pirgova, Down Jersey Folklife Center**

Dr. Iveta welcomed everyone and gave a description of the Caribbean art that was hanging on the walls and its meaning to the different areas of the Caribbean region.

**Cohansey Riverfest Plein Air Competition - Recap**

The Plein Air Competition was another success, 26 artists turned in 33 pieces of art. Sharon Kiefer with Gallery 50 is happy with the collaboration on Plein Air as Gallery 50 holds “Nature in the Landscape” the same month. Mr. Pisarski said the Gallery was busy that day with people dropping off their art work and would like to continue to collaborate with Gallery 50. Mr. Pisarski said attendance was low at the Riverfest, but crab sales were good with people getting their crab platters and leaving.

**Grant Writing Workshops - Recap**

Two workshops were held; arts and history. An increase in funding was given for history so Mr. Pisarski would like to see more history organizations apply for funding. The art workshop had about 40 attendees and the history had about 30. SNJ Today recorded the workshops and clips of the workshops are being played on channel 22. When the final versions are complete they will be added to the Commission YouTube channel.

**Artists’ Day in Mauricetown – Recap**

Artists Day was another success, Jackie Sandro and Mr. Kaneshiki worked on a mosaic to be added to the herb garden. Other organizations commented that they would also like a mosaic done at their “headquarters”. Mauricetown Historical Society would like to make a backyard gardening panel on their handicap ramp describing different backyard birds. Mr. Pisarski suggested doing clay tiles at the Eagle Festival and they can be added to the ramp in the spring. There were 14 artists for the day that received stipends. There are usually two musical acts for

the day but a third was added, Jim Albertson. Artists' Day remained within the budget with the assistance of Caprioni donating the port-o-johns. Mr. Kaneshiki asked about the art that is done on artists' day, Mr. Pisarski commented that it does not get displayed.

The completion of the rehab of the Lighthouse will be done next year, Mr. Pisarski feels the Lighthouse Committee will want to do collaboration with the Commission next year on an event.

### **2017 Budget Subcommittee Appointments**

Mr. Kaneshiki appointed Ms. Watson and Mr. Garrison to the committee with Ms. Silver volunteering to serve on the committee.

Mr. Pisarski went through the budget for the third quarter. Due to helping with the mural for the Division of Youth and Family Services the Commission has used up all of its funds. The funds for the mural will be taken out of several budget lines. The remaining funds available for 2016 are \$557. Stipends for the grants review panel and dinner, ADA subcommittee luncheon and the library exhibit receptions have to be paid for. Mr. Pisarski would like to see an increase in funding from the State and Freeholders when they see all the great projects that the Commission was involved in. The Freeholders enjoy the mural projects so if the commission receives an increase in funding they would like the funds to go to murals. The next two murals are the wall on Levoy Theatre and the wall on Dominion Title in Bridgeton. Ms. Boykin commented that she is happy the murals are being spread throughout the county. Mr. Pisarski said majority of the projects done in 2016 come in under budget but many projects were done.

### **Social Services Building Mural by David Guinn – Budget Discussion**

The cost of the mural is \$22,485, the cost is being split with the Cumberland County Improvement Authority (CCIA). CCIA is paying for 60% of the mural. The mural will be on two floors.

### **2017 Re-grant Application Due – Friday, October 14, 2016**

The applications are due in mid-October. Mr. Pisarski is expecting new applicants.

### **2017 Disability Awareness Day – Friday, October 14, 2016**

Disability Awareness Day will be different this year than past events. It will be held now on a Friday and they did not ask for any funding from the Commission. The Commission will have a table but will not be giving away concert tickets.

### **Liaison Reports**

Ms. Merighi went to Clay College to see their exhibit. Also the Levoy continues to have wonderful shows.

Ms. Boykin attended the Bridgeton and Vineland Haitian art exhibits.

Mr. Kaneshiki went to the opening of the Farmers Market at the Bayshore Center he said it was well attended.

### **Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt**

Postponed until next month.

**Other Old/New Business**

Mr. Pisarski spoke to Laura Van Embden and she has put together a committee to revive Teen Arts. We will be giving them all of the files we have from previous Teen Arts Festivals. Ms. Van Embden said the committee may be coming to the Commission in 2017 to help with funding. Mr. Pisarski does not think they will be a separate 501c3 but they will collaborate with different art organizations. Mr. Pisarski will attend the first few meetings. Dr. Pirgova commented that maybe Wheaton Arts could be involved with the festival.

Commission members received in their packet a Data Arts Report. All cultural organizations are supposed to go online and complete the survey. Response rates from Cumberland County are poor. Mr. Pisarski has sent several reminders to the organizations. With the lack of response it may effect funding for future years. The survey shows that arts play a momentous impact on the economics in the county.

Mr. Thakur apologized for not attending meetings. He commented that with his job it is hard for him to get out of the office on Wednesday's. Mr. Pisarski will look into changing the day of the meetings.

**Correspondence**

Commission members had an article in their packet regarding Cohansey RiverFest.

**Adjourn**

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