

**CULTURAL COUNCIL of VOLUSIA COUNTY  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**



**December 1, 2023**

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**MEETING TIME & PLACE:**

9:00 a.m.

Halifax Historical Museum

252 S. Beach Street

Daytona Beach, FL

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lloyd Bowers

Tom Laputka

Dr. Andrei Ludu

Nancy Maddox

George Pappas

Paul Richardson (arrived at 9:25)

William Sanchez

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Reggie Santilli

**STAFF:**

Robert Redd Cultural Coordinator

Maureen Sikora, Assistant County Attorney

**GUESTS:**

Traci Flumer-Volusia Community Arts

Kay Cooke-Volusia Community Arts

Kathy Berman-Peabody Auditorium Foundation

Craig Uppercue-VCCA

Heather Paternoster-VCCA

Pat Miles-VCCA

Hank Mason-VCCA

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Mr. Pappas called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call was taken, and quorum announced. Heather Files, Executive Director of the Halifax Historical Museum, welcomed the Council and provided background information on the museum and recent changes that have been instituted.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion to approve September 22, 2023, minutes as presented:

Mr. Bowers

Second: Mr. Laputka

Motion to approve passed 6-0

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A) **ECHO Gallery**—Mr. Redd provided the Council with an update on the 2024-2025 ECHO Gallery exhibit. A call to artists has been created by Gallery Committee member Cameron Vinton, of ArtHaus. This document was provided to Council. Ms. Vintson has a couple of small tweaks to make before it goes to the public. Ms. Vintson will be working directly with Volusia County School programs to encourage participation by high

school students. The theme is the O of ECHO: Outdoor Photography.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A) 2024 Meeting Dates and Locations**

Mr. Redd provided the Council with a list of proposed meeting dates for their consideration.

The meeting schedule will be as follows (subject to business needs):

January 26

March 22

May 17

July 19—Grant review only

September 27

November 15

Grant workshops were discussed. Staff was directed to set dates and location. Council members were reminded that attendance is not mandatory. Workshop dates will be publicly noticed should council members wish to attend.

The grant submission date of May 17 was accepted as proposed. No vote required.

### **B) ECHO Gallery Committee Appointment**

Mr. Laputka has served as Cultural Council member on this committee for two years and stated he would be willing to serve again if nominated and approved.

Motion to nominate Mr. Laputka to serve as Cultural Council representative on the ECHO Gallery Committee—Ms. Maddox

Motion seconded by Mr. Bowers

Motion passed 7-0.

### **C) State of the Arts License Plate Grants**

Two applications were submitted for review and approval by the Cultural Council. Both organizations had representatives on hand to discuss and answer questions. Copies of the application were provided to the Council members and were available for those in attendance.

- 1) Peabody Auditorium Foundation—Request for \$5,000 to support elementary school cultural programs.

Kathy Berman, Executive Director spoke on the program and the benefits provided to in-school students. Eighteen elementary schools will be visited with age-appropriate programming.

Mr. Bowers disclosed a possible conflict of interest due to his association with the Peabody Foundation. On the advice of Ms. Sikora, Mr. Bowers recused himself from discussion and voting. Mr. Bowers has completed form 8B, Memorandum of Voting Conflict, and this is included in the minutes.

Ms. Maddox complimented the Peabody Foundation on their goals and the work they accomplish in the community.

Motion to approve the \$5,000 application—Ms. Maddox

Motion seconded by Mr. Laputka

Motion passed 6-0, with Mr. Bowers abstaining.

- 2) Volusia Community Arts—Request for \$5,000 to assist in replacing musical instruments and equipment stolen earlier in 2023.

Tracy Flumer and Kay Cooke were in attendance to present and answer questions. In January 2023, the VCA trailer containing equipment and instruments was stolen from private property. This equipment has not been recovered.

Ms. Flumer outlined VCA efforts at fundraising, including more than \$5,000 in crowdfunding and more than \$15,000 in equipment donations. Ms. Flumer also discussed additional security measures that have been put in place.

Despite this setback, VCA has been able to host several successful events during 2023.

Motion to approve the \$5,000 application—Mr. Richardson

Motion seconded by Mr. Laputka

Motion passed unanimously 7-0

#### **D)Community Cultural Grant Review**

Members were provided with a copy of the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 Funding report. Funding for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is stable at \$611,758.

Mr. Redd asked Council members for any feedback or ideas. If any changes to the application itself are requested, minor changes can be staff/legal approved. Any substantive change must be brought to the County Council which would delay the 2024-2025 grant calendar.

Mr. Bowers provided a brief update on his contacts with County Council members to discuss the grant program.

Dr. Ludu suggested the document be placed on the website in PDF format. Mr. Redd agreed this is a good idea. He will investigate converting the Word file to PDF and then making sure it is Americans with Disabilities Act compliant.

10:15—Ms. Maddox excused herself from the remainder of the meeting due to another obligation.

#### **E) Art in Public Places—Daytona Beach International Airport**

Documents including the APP ordinance and proposed Call to Artists document were provided to Council.

Mr. Redd reminded Council that approximately \$30,000 is still available to DBIA from their remodeling budget. DBIA is requesting a new Call to Artists to acquire a sculptural piece or pieces for locations provided on their Call draft.

DBIA staff wish to create excitement for visitors departing or arriving at the airport. Proposed locations for art are along the main walk entering the terminal or to be placed near the Gallery entrance at the top of the escalator, near the TSA gate.

These pieces will be the first or last thing visitors will see and remember about their visit to Daytona Beach.

Based upon ordinance and the budget available, the Invitational method will be used. This requires the art selection committee to invite a minimum of three artists to submit proposals for public review. This method will require several pieces of input from the Cultural Council.

For the January meeting, Mr. Redd asked Council to consider the following.

- 1) Names for a Visual Arts Professional to serve on the selection committee. This might be a professional artist, instructor, historian, museum professional, or similar. This individual should be local due to local, in-person meetings.

Mr. Redd asked the Council to provide names, biographical information, and website information if possible. This information will be combined and provided to the Cultural Council for their review at the January meeting.

If possible, Council will vote on their preferred order for a Visual Arts Professional.

- 2) The art selection committee will need to identify a minimum of three sculptors to invite to submit proposals. Mr. Redd asked Council to provide names of any artists they may feel appropriate. These names will be provided to the art selection committee, once seated, for consideration. The committee will review and determine their selections.

3) The Cultural Council will provide one member to sit on the art selection committee. This individual should be available to attend public meetings, which will most likely be held at the Daytona Beach International Airport. Mr. Redd asked they be prepared to discuss in January.

This appointment is for the DBIA project only. Should another APP project arise, a different selection committee would be determined.

## **F) Sunshine Law**

Ms. Sikora provided Cultural Council members with information regarding the Florida Sunshine Law, public records, voting conflicts, and how this applies to County Council appointed advisory board members.

Meetings must be open to the public, reasonable notice of meetings must be given, minutes must be taken. A “meeting” occurs when two or more members of the same board gather and discuss any matter that is, or may reasonably come before, their board. This may be a formal or informal gathering. Telephone and electronic communication are included.

Staff members are not members of the board and may be consulted for information.

Ms. Sikora highlighted penalties and sanctions for unintentional and intentional violations, providing examples.

Cultural Council members were encouraged to reach out to staff or Ms. Sikora with questions.



## **Volusia County Cultural Alliance**

Heather Paternoster gave an update on VCCA activities including upcoming advocacy in Tallahassee on behalf of state arts funding, a plaque unveiling during the 1/16 county council meeting, February awards dinner, February Arts Week, and that VCCA will be applying for a license plate mini grant in the near future.

Ms. Paternoster announced that she is leaving from Atlantic Center for the Arts in February and is stepping down as VCCA President. Craig Uppercue has assumed the role of VCCA President for the remainder of her term.

## **MEMBER/STAFF ITEMS:**

Mr. Richardson expressed his apologies for arriving late.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION / ANNOUNCEMENTS:** none

**NEXT MEETING:** The next CCVC meeting will take place on Friday, January 26, 2024, at 9 a.m. at a location to be determined.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business before the Council, Mr. Pappas called to adjourn the meeting.

Motion—Mr. Bowers

Second—Mr. Richardson

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on January 26, 2024, by Robert Redd,  
Cultural Coordinator, County of Volusia.