

**Hamden Arts Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 11th, 2023
7pm
Via Zoom/ Telephonically**

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Minutes

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairwoman Howard called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.
 - a. In Attendance:** Lushonda Howard; Toure Diggs; Siobhan Carter-David; Lisa Morrison; Charles Kortsep; Charlotte Lefland; Marita Gargiulo; Donna Elkin;
 - b. Absent:** Diane Brown; Alex Mickens; George Moore; Margaret Craft; Susan Cutillo
 - c. Also in Attendance:** Karen Bivens, Director of Arts, Culture, Recreation and Wellness; Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk
- 2. Approval of Past Minutes:** December 7th, 2022
 - a.** Chairwoman Howard noted that the spelling of “Kwanzaa” needed to be corrected on the December 7th, 2022 minutes. Ms. Lefland made a motion to approve the amended minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Elkin. All were in favor.
- 3. Report of the Chairwoman**
 - a.** The Silver Bells event took place on December 10th, 2022. Chairman Howard thanked all commissioners involved and asked for any feedback. Several commissioners expressed how surprisingly warm the tents were and praised the variety of crafts/events, and overall turnout. Several did note that the outdoor events seemed to have lower rates of attendance. Ms. Bivens suggested staggering indoor/outdoor event times, so that the activities do not have to compete for participants.
 - b.** Chairwoman Howard was happy to report that the Kwanzaa event on December 29th, 2022, was very well attended and received a lot of positive feedback. She, along with Ms. Karimah Mickens, Town Clerk; and Ms. Karen Bivens, Director of Arts, Culture, Recreation, and Wellness, were interviewed by several local news channels. Several commissioners noted how simple and fun the craft was and how well organized the event was. Ms. Bivens expressed her hope to continue this event every year, and to host other cultural events, such as a Three Kings Day event next year.

- c. Ms. Bivens was happy to report that with the help of a small humanities grant, they were able to bring a theatrical performance to Hamden, called “Death by a Thousand Cuts: A requiem for Black and Brown Men.” The dynamic show will be followed by an interactive talkback. This event will hopefully take place either in April or May.

4. Report of the Treasurer

a. Webster (totals as of December 2022)

- i. Gift Fund: \$53,432.68
- ii. Saturday Series: \$12,732.32
- iii. Ms. Lefland will have the Bankwell totals by the end of the week, and will share at the February meeting.

5. Old Business

i. Saturday Series

- 1. Ms. Morrison suggested a previous performing group, a Japanese drumming band out of NYC, called Talkozia. The band is interested in performing on March 25th. Ms. Morrison requested a motion to approve this performance. Ms. Lefland made a motion to approve the performance nomination, which was seconded by Ms. Elkin. All were in favor.

ii. Sunday Series- N/A

iii. MLK Mural Project

- 1. Ms. Bivens explained that her team is currently in the process of collecting more survey responses to inform the artists which local historical figures can be included in the mural. The community paint days are scheduled to take place in the spring.

iv. Summer Concert Series Planning

- 1. Chairwoman Howard requested that any commissioner’s suggestions be sent to Ms. Lefland by January 25th so she can compile a listening list for the February meeting.

6. New Business

a. AC Logo

- i. Chairwoman Howard was happy to report that Mr. Diggs volunteered to update the logo. She requested a motion to update the commission logo. Ms. Lefland made a motion to update the logo, which was seconded by Ms. Morrison. All were in favor. Mr. Diggs requested any suggestions/ideas to be e-mailed to him, and he will present his drafts at the March meeting.

7. Action Items- N/A

- 8. **Adjournment:** At 8:14pm, Ms. Elkin made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Morrison. All were in favor.

Submitted by: Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk