

Wheeling Arts & Cultural Commission  
Meeting 2/8/22  
Wheeling City Council Chambers

Members in Attendance: Natalie Cline, Matthew Harder, Betsy Sweeny, Jeanne Finstein, Micah Underwood, Jason Birch, Rosemary Ketchum

Sweeny called the meeting to order at 5:09 PM and introduced the minutes. Rosemary moved to approve the minutes; Natalie seconded.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Matt circulated a report. Current account balance is \$3682.01 (1/31/22). Recent expenditures total \$5693.25 (stipends and lodging for the 23<sup>rd</sup> St. mural artists). The 2022 budget request was approved in full but has not yet been distributed. Funds are expected in February and July, a split resulting from offset fiscal years. The commission has a PayPal account, but access is unknown at this time.

### **New Business**

#### *Student Art Project*

Micah shared an update on a project funded through the WV Dept. of Arts, Culture & History/WV Commission on the Arts. This grant will support student-created art on display in downtown Wheeling. Rosemary and Bethany Decker serve on the planning committee, which will meet in the coming weeks. Discussion of the project occurred. Matching funds for the \$1,500 grant are allocated in the budget.

#### *Market Plaza 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays Event Series*

Jason shared an update on the Market Plaza 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday event series planned for the summer. He and Matt are working on a sponsorship proposal for Main Street Bank. The commission will be responsible for securing artist vendors. Concerns about stage needs and power access will be discussed with the city. Nearby restaurants will deliver food to the plaza. The committee will meet at the plaza with a city representative for further planning.

#### *National Endowment for the Arts Wheeling Symphony Project*

Rosemary attended a Zoom call with representative from the City of Wheeling, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Wheeling Symphony to discuss a proposed Black History Month project. The city will pursue a grant to fund this project, which would involve music and a mural, as well as community engagement opportunities. The NEA also has an "Our Town" grant that could fund gateway murals. A committee was formed to manage that project. Committee members include Rosemary, Jeanne, Natalie, and Betsy. An email will be circulated to the rest of the commission with an invitation to join this committee.

#### *Centre Market Mural Opportunity*

Betsy Frohnepfel owns a property in Centre Market with a large side profile facing an empty lot. Rosemary and Betsy will meet with her to discuss using it as an artspace/gateway mural.

**New Members**

Several members have left the commission as a result of relocating or taking on other responsibilities. BJ Delbert is pulling recent applicants for review prior to the next meeting. Interested individuals should send a letter of interest and a resume to BJ.

**Old Business**

Logan Schmitt drafted a press release about the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street mural. An in-person event will be held in March/April to celebrate this project.

Project committee meeting notices should be circulated to the full commission.

Micah moved to adjourn. Rosemary seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:53 PM.