

Columbia City Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2024

I. Call to order

Commission Chair Romano called to order the regular meeting of the Columbia City Arts Commission (CCAC) at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, in the Common Council Chambers of Columbia City Hall, Columbia City, Indiana.

II. Roll call

The following people were present: Doug Egolf (member), Greg Hockemeyer (member), Kay Fleck (member), April Frazier (member), Becky Walter (member), Mike Thomas (member), Jennifer Romano (member), and Chip Hill (staff).

III. Approval of minutes from the last meeting

Kay Fleck moved to approve the meeting minutes of February 6, 2024, as presented, seconded by April Frazier, and approved by voice vote.

IV. Open issues

- IAC Grant (Underserved Youth Project) –
 - Kay Fleck reported that although the deadline for submitting the application to the Indiana Arts Commission for 2025 funding has been extended to March 14, she plans to have the application in by this weekend. She also noted the value of building trust in the population to be served and efforts to further that attribute.
 - The group discussed the value of having at least a nominal cost to participate of \$5, noting that subsidies will be available for those unable to pay.
 - The more modest 2024 event is set for the last week of June with a target of 14 participants.
- Historical Museum Collaboration – Jennifer Romano noted her understanding that the Museum’s first event will be in May 2024 and emphasized that the CCAC is mainly supporting through identifying possible artist participants.
- Third Thursdays – The members briefly discussed assuming duties for administering these events, with a specific suggestion that they could be moved to Sunday afternoons. (*Item remained tabled*).
- First Fridays—Members discussed participating in the May 3, 2024, event, noting a possible booth location and collaboration with the Whitley Arts Partnership. Doug Egolf expressed interest in participating in the rotating canvas event on August 2, 2024.
- Taste of the Arts – The event will be like last year’s event, aimed at offering the public opportunities to dabble in performing and visual arts in conjunction with the Farmers’ Market on the morning of June 8, 2024.
- Review of Mission and Goals – Jennifer Romano and Becky Walter discussed the value of having an event for the Commission to reflect and plan. The membership leans toward a retreat with only Commission members rather than a paid consultant. The tentative date would be a couple of hours on a Saturday morning in October 2024.

V. New business

- Doug Egolf and April Frazier discussed the web availability of the 2023 Artists Studio Tour event video.
- Becky Walter noted that the Whitley Arts Partnership will present the Music Man on the last Friday and Saturday of July 2024. She also noted that the group’s Summer Theater Camp production of Elf, Jr. is slated for June 10th-14th, 2024.
- April Frazier touched upon the status of collecting member biographies for the website.

VI. Adjournment

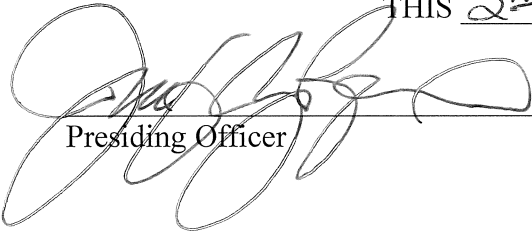
Greg Hockemeyer moved to adjourn, seconded by Becky Walter, and passed by acclimation at 5:42 p.m.

Following adjournment, Jennifer Romano offered written documents “Events Plan for 2024” and “Strategic Plan for Columbia City Arts Commission” to be included in the records of the Commission for this date.

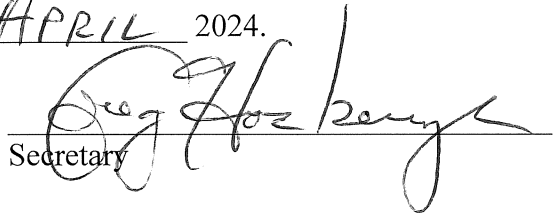
NEXT REGULAR MEETING: APRIL 2, 2024, @ 5:00 P.M.

MARCH 5, 2024, MEETING MINUTES APPROVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP

THIS 2ND DAY OF APRIL 2024.



Presiding Officer



Secretary

Events Plan for 2024

January

- Initial steps toward IAC Grant for Children’s Art Camp in 2025
- Determine date for 2024 Whitley County Studio Art Tour

February

- Determine viability of plans to pursue Whitley County Community Foundation Grant
- Present overview of 2023 Inaugural Year of the Columbia City Arts Commission at the February 13 City Council meeting at 6 p.m.
- Discuss and approve partnership options for 2024

March

- Apply for IAC Grant for Children’s Art Camp (to present in 2025)
- Intensive Workshop for CCAC (Tentative)

April

- Determine viability of plans to pursue Whitley County Community Foundation Grant
- Marketing for First Fridays begins
- Marketing for Taste of the Arts begins

May

- Apply for Community Foundation Grant – May 1
- Partner with First Fridays on “Opening Day” First Friday event (Tentative)
- Partner with Whitley County Historical Society on Art Feature Events (Tentative)
- Art Crawl in downtown Columbia City – Third Thursday (Tentative)

June

- Partner with Columbia City Connect on Third Thursday (Tentative)
- Partner with City of Columbia City on Taste of the Arts at the Whitley County Farmers Market (Tentative)
- Open Registration for Studio Art Tour

July

- Partner with Columbia City Connect on Third Thursday (Tentative)
- Deadline for participation in Studio Art Tour
- Marketing for Studio Art Tour well underway

August

- Final marketing for Studio Art Tour

September

- Partner with First Fridays on arts-oriented First Friday

- Partner with Whitley County Historical Society for Fall Art Showcase (tentative)
- Whitley County Studio Art Tour on Saturday, September 7

October

- Determine viability of plans to pursue Whitley County Community Foundation Grant
- Marketing begins for Winter Arts Market (tentative)
- Registration opens for Winter Arts Market

November

- Marketing for Winter Arts Market continues
- Deadline for artists to register for Winter Arts Market

December

- Apply for Whitley County Community Foundation Grant – December 1
- Winter Arts Market (Tentative)

Strategic Plan for Columbia City Arts Commission

Vision Statement: To foster creativity, enrich lives, and build a vibrant community through the arts.

Mission Statement: Our mission is to support and promote local artists, cultural events, and creative initiatives that engage and inspire our community.

Goals:

1. Promotion of Local Artists:

- Showcase the talents of local artists through exhibitions, performances, and online platforms.
- Collaborate with local businesses to create opportunities for artists to display and sell their work.
- Establish an artist directory to connect artists with potential patrons and collaborators.

2. Cultural Events and Programming:

- Organize regular cultural events such as art fairs, music festivals, and theater productions.
- Offer diverse programming including workshops, classes, and artist talks to encourage community participation and skill development.
- Partner with schools and community centers to integrate arts education into the curriculum and community activities.

3. Community Engagement:

- Foster partnerships with other community organizations, local government, and businesses to amplify the impact of arts initiatives.
- Solicit feedback from community members to ensure that programming meets their needs and interests.
- Encourage volunteerism and participation in arts-related activities to build a sense of ownership and pride in the community's cultural identity.

4. Sustainability and Growth:

- Develop sustainable funding sources through grants, sponsorships, donations, and fundraising events.
- Invest in technology and infrastructure to enhance the accessibility and reach of arts programming.
- Continuously evaluate and adapt strategies to respond to the evolving needs and demographics of the community.

Implementation:

- Form committees or working groups to oversee specific initiatives such as event planning, marketing, fundraising, and community outreach.
- Establish clear timelines, responsibilities, and metrics for monitoring progress towards goals.
- Regularly communicate with stakeholders including artists, volunteers, patrons, and community members to maintain transparency and accountability.
- Seek opportunities for collaboration and knowledge-sharing with other arts organizations and commissions.

Evaluation:

- Conduct regular assessments of program effectiveness, audience engagement, and financial sustainability.
- Solicit feedback from participants, volunteers, and partners to identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement.
- Adjust strategies and priorities based on evaluation findings to ensure alignment with the commission's mission and vision.