

Enfield Culture and Arts Commission Monthly Meeting
April 2, 2024, 6:30pm
Enfield Town Hall, Scitico Room

Roll Call

Donna Hamre, Emily Clifford, Jason Neely, Dan Keating, Nzima Hutchings, Alex Ranniello, Adrian Elliott. Not present: Steph MacGillivray, Joyce Bolanos, Debi Kruzel

Acceptance of Minutes

Dan motion, Donna 2nd to accept minutes, all voted in favor

Special Guests

Adrian Elliott is the Gallery Manager for Gallery 66 in New Britain, CT. The gallery features 6-8 exhibitions per year and is self funded. The gallery features community space, a podcast recording space, open mic nights, Artist talk discussions with topics about copyright, signatures and pricing. Gallery 66 is a non-profit that funds itself by selling works and donations. Over the past 6 years, the gallery commissions electrical box painting jobs throughout the city. They have worked closely with the Mayor and city businesses for support.

Adrian explained the first part of the process is to identify the boxes that weren't State run. Public works had a grid of the numbered boxes and were able to identify the boxes. They then drafted a letter of support and distributed the letters to the business district. They began with 9 boxes on Broad St as part of the redeveloping of the downtown area. The themes for the boxes could be history, sports, theater, anything that did not support their business. They started with a cost of \$300 and allowed the business owner to "Sponsor Art" giving the commissioned artist liberties to check in with the commission and make it into a community project. They invited student involvement. The box outside the Mayor's office was used as a fundraiser where participants could paint a handprint for a donation. A box that was located near a school was painted with a school theme. The group has not had problems with vandalism, Art will prevent graffiti. They had problems with longevity, paint chipping and fading. They found that by paying extra for a coating to prevent this, they charged \$350.

The electrical boxes are owned by the city/town. They worked with Public Works to identify old boxes that would soon be replaced or boxes that are located on hills.

They are now paying artists \$500 to paint the boxes as they now have a funded sponsor. The Artists are sharing paint and materials. Many artists are not New Britain artists, Hartford artists are represented. They learned to keep an open call for artists to submit applications on a rolling basis. They operate on a 30 day deadline to complete the box.

Chairperson's Remarks

ECAC's presentation to the Town Council was well received. Emily and Donna presented and Nzima, Joyce, Dan and Debi were present.

The Enfield High School Lamplighters will be presenting "Mary Poppins" as their Spring Musical on April 26 at 7pm, April 27 at 2pm and 7pm.

The Women's Club Art Show will be at Enfield High School on Friday, April 19 7-9pm (Donna and Nzima will be present), Saturday, April 20 12-5pm (Emily will be present)

Tri-M Concert will take place at EHS Auditorium on Saturday, April 20 at 12:00pm

Pearl St Library Art Exhibit and Reception featuring Daniel Cardona and Maysalee Gray-Khen will be held on May 9th, 5:30-7:30pm, they will possibly have prints for sale. The exhibit is running now through May 10th.

Opera House Players will be presenting the musical "Kinky Boots" at the Enfield Annex weekends May 3-19, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm.

Valley Repertory Company will be presenting 2 Radio Plays "A Sherlock Holmes Radio Mystery" and "The Stache" at CT State Asnuntuck on May 9, 10, 16 & 17.

Open Mic nights at the Enfield Central Library will continue the first Wednesday of each month 6:00-8:00.

Asnuntuck Drum Circle event will be held on April 9th, 6:00pm

Emily went to view the Photography exhibit at Alcorn Social Services. The project was completed with Mike Pertucci, the Digital Photography teacher at Enfield High School. The students were given the theme of 5 words: Respect, Inspiration, Learning, Integrity and Connection.

Treasurer's Report

The current balance is 4800. \$300 was allocated towards the new website, \$300 allocated towards ECAC Swag

Staff Liaison's Remarks

All of the Concert Series contracts have been sent out and acts have been booked, the website will go live by the end of the week. The website will include artist bios, including videos of the artists performing if available. The Sunday Jazz page is in process of being created as the acts get booked.

Dan suggested creating a countdown on the Facebook page to create hype prior to the release.

Jason will email the link and the password for the website to Emily. Artioli will be sponsoring the last concert of the season on August 27th. At the last meeting, QR codes for donations were discussed. Jason is working with Paypal. Council will have to approve the creation of a special account.

TC Liasian's Remarks not present

BOE Liaison's Remarks

Not present

Old Business

We will need to check with the Town Manager for a location of an art installation to be created at the Town Hall.

Dan suggested facilitating a permanent rotating collection of Art to exhibit from Local Artists (commissioned pieces) Alex added that New Britain did a rotating commissioned exhibit using a storefront window. We discussed the mall window display space.

Dan did find the census information including racial breakdowns, residents under 18 yr made up 20%, residents over 65 made up 17%. The current population estimates are not yet filled in.

Alex shared that there is available space for events at the Fairfield Inn. They offer 6 rooms for private events, varying in price from \$100-\$200. They have the opportunity for local movie screenings, art exhibits and offer a summer concert series with tickets available through Eventbrite. They have a NCCCC Partnership.

Jason spoke about the ECAC website and newsletter. We discussed moving the events calendar to squarespace. We will have a page for the mini grant. At next month's meeting we will brainstorm what we want the website to entail while keeping it focused. One idea is to use the website as a hub with links to the different events going on.

We will need to contact Buildings & Grounds and the Beautification committee about setting up the butterflies at Higgins Park.

Emily talked to Steve Belinda, the Assistant Town Manager and is in the process of creating a list of issues with the Annex auditorium, he will work with Alex the AV person to get the issues addressed.

New Business

April is National Poetry Month, commission members are encouraged to share favorite Poems or poets. Nzima will share some challenges to participate in. Emily will inquire if there is a poetry class at the high school.

Nzima will be hosting a Poetry Festival at the Central Library on October 19. Nzima will need to contact the library about reserving the space needed. She is interested in having the Festival using the indoor space in the community room as well as outdoor space on the lawn and

surrounding space around the parking lot. She would like ECAC's support. Vendors will be invited to bring their own tables and tents. She will need microphones. When reserving the space, Nzima will need to know the capacity of the front lawn and community space, she will like to use the corner board for advertisement. Nzima will share her vision for the event at next month's meeting when she attends in person.

Miscellaneous

Emily made a statement about welcoming special guests to attend our meetings with the disclaimer that guests must get our prior permission for use of our name and logo when promoting their events and projects. . We are happy to allow our name and logo to be used if we are sponsoring an event.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Dan, 2nd by Donna, Meeting adjourned

Minutes respectfully submitted by Donna Hamre, ECAC Board secretary