CITY OF YPSILANTI
ARTS COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, January 12, 2023 @ 6:30 PM
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Page

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner McAtee
Commissioner Seagraves
Commissioner Thompson
Commissioner Settles
Commissioner Wolfe

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3 - 4 A. 12-8-22 Arts Commission Minutes

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VI. NEW BUSINESS

5 A. UMS - Community Arts Forum Jan 20
Ypsi-Freighthouse-Flyer-2

VII. OLD BUSINESS

7 - 17 A. Artist Survey Review
Working Document- Action Plan for Community Arts Survey
Artist Survey - Resolution 2023

B. Poet Laureate Discussion

VIII. UPDATES

A. Arts/Events around Ypsilanti

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

X. PROPOSED BUSINESS

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes
CITY OF YPSILANTI
ARTS COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, December 8, 2022 @ 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

I. CALL TO ORDER (7:05pm)
II. ROLL CALL
Present: Seagraves, Settles, McAtee, Thompson, Wolfe
Absent: Settles (excused)
Staff: Elize Jekabson
III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Wolfe moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner McAtee. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Yes - 4; No- 0; Absent- 1;

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Seagraves moved, seconded by Commissioner Wolfe to approve the minutes. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Yes - 4; No- 0; Absent- 1;

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE
Jen Eastridge - Owner of Gallery above Stone & Spoon
Liz Warren- New Director of Riverside Arts Center
Megan Foldenaur- Owner of Ypsi Art Supply, opening April 2023
VI. NEW BUSINESS
A. 2023 Meeting Calendar 2023 Meeting Calendar
Amend to 6:30pm instead of 7pm.

Motion to approve the 2023 Meeting Calendar as amended.
On a voice vote, the motion carried. Yes - 4; No- 0; Absent- 1;

VII. OLD BUSINESS
A. Artist Survey Update
The survey was not updated. Commissioner Seagraves will bring it back next month.
Staff informed the commission that the grant has been recieved by the city.
Commissioner Wolfe discussed translation services for the survey.
B. Poet Laureate Discussion
Commissioner Thompson has had discussions with Ciatta and Molly about the program. They will be attending an upcoming meeting.
The commission discussed the budget overview.
VIII. UPDATES
A. Arts/Events around Ypsilanti B
Craft holiday sales at the Freighthouse, including Krampusmrkt.

First Fridays had a lot of great art exhibitions in December.
Embracing our differences still has a call for artists out.
Bicentennial ball drop on New Years Eve on S. Washington. 7pm for kids ball drop. Midnight ball drop for adults.

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

Jen Eastridge - Offered partnership with Poet Laureate program with planned monthly poetry night at the gallery. Offered to feature the poet laureate for a First Fridays event. Offered a pre-ball drop party at Unicorn Feed and Supply for kids on Dec. 31st. She has an exhibition for Lauren Magda coming up.
Call for artists- Queer show June/July, and minumental show (under 2 inch art)
Liz Warren- Growing Hope has had a lot of translations done, suggests we reach out to them for translation service recommendations. Town Hall at RAC- First three Thursdays of February.
Megan Foldenaur- Ypsi Art Supply will be opening in RAC, April 2023 on First Friday.

X. PROPOSED BUSINESS - budget, year review.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE - January 12, 2023

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:06pm by Commissioner Wolfe, and supported by Commissioner Seagraves. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Yes - 4; No- 0; Absent - 1;

COME DREAM WITH US!

UMS, an arts presenter based in Southeast Michigan, is thrilled to share some news about an upcoming City of Ypsilanti partnership at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse that will include an artistic residency twice each year. **We're looking for your input and ideas to help shape the future of the arts at the Freighthouse!**

Join us for a Community Arts Forum

Fri Jan 20 from 4:30-6 pm

Ypsilanti Freighthouse in Depot Town
100 Market Pl, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

SCAN TO RSVP
Or visit ums.org/dream

Please join us for this free community event.
All are welcome and encouraged to come out for food, music, idea sharing, and discussion.

ums

Community and Artists Survey
Ypsilanti Art Commission
Action Plan
January 3, 2023

The City of Ypsilanti, through the Ypsilanti Art Commission, will organize and solicit a survey of the Ypsilanti community in 2021. The Community and Artists Survey will be open to city residents and local artists. The intent is to collect information from the community about the arts to inform the Commission in its role with the City, share this information with local, state and national arts organizations and provide some insight on the arts in Ypsilanti at this particular time. The Commission expects to open the survey this summer. An award from the Tremaine Foundation has been offered for the implementation of the survey which will go toward outreach and analysis of the results.

The survey will:

- Be open to all city residents
- Encourage responses from local artists & have a second set of questions for them
- Provide a baseline of information about the local arts
- Ask questions related to diversity, equity, inclusion and justice and the local arts

Survey Themes

Below are the main themes that will form the basis of the questionnaire. Draft survey questions are included in the first appendix.

Themes for Community/Residents:

- How they engage with art and entertainment
- Under what circumstances will the community feel safe enough to participate in events (return to normal)
- Ask about diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice in the local arts
- If they feel included in what is already offered
- Count employment and volunteer work in the arts

Themes for Artists/People who work with or Support Artists:

- What will help an artist to thrive moving forward
- How they engage with the community (and how has this changed during the pandemic)
- If they have studio space
- How many has applied to grants

Artist Thrive and Funding

The Artist Thrive resource is used as a component of some of the Community and Artists Survey. The Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation supports the Artist Thrive project. The Foundation agreed to provide funding for the implementation of the Community and Artists Survey. The

funding was offered as a gift to pilot the foundation's increasing network of local arts organizations using the Artist Thrive tool.

Outreach

It will be necessary to staff the survey's outreach to increase the survey participation.That effort would include: social media & online content, targeted networking, help with any printed materials and present at events that can be safely staffed. The Commission would oversee the content of the outreach. An outreach or arts consultant would be necessary to complete this effort. The budget for the outreach performance is outlined below with additional details.

Diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice will be a main theme of the survey. The city's diverse population will be a primary focus of audience participation and will be a prime measure of the survey's success. A main focus of the outreach will be targeting networks to request participation in the survey in an effort to increase the number of respondents that reflect the city's diversity. Outreach to artists, at arts related events and with art organizations, will also be a part of the consultant staff's responsibilities.

Results

Upon the close of the survey, it will be necessary to examine and report on the content of the survey responses. The outreach personnel, or a second consultant, will be needed to complete this work. That effort would include: submit social media content about the results, compile a report, provide written analysis and suggest next steps to follow-up upon. The Commission would oversee the data that results and its dissemination & would provide feedback on the content of the final report. The budget for the outreach performance is outlined below.

Budget

The total budget for the Community and Artists Survey is: $4,000. The City will acquire the funds from the Tremaine Foundation and provide the means of payment for the expenses listed in the budget below. *No other* City funds are requested.

The City will receive the check and allocate the funds to a dedicated line item that only the Arts Commission Chair and the City Manager are authorized to draw from. The Chair shall submit invoices to be paid net 30 days by the City finance department. A budget amendment to City Council will be necessary to deposit the check or spend down the funds.

The costs associated are outlined here:

Community and Artists Survey budget (2021)	$4,000
Subscription to online survey service:	$350
Translation service	$250
Printing:	$200

- for outreach/advertising, option for printed survey for those without a computer

Outreach: $2450

- Consultant/temp hours, to perform:
  - Social media content & updates
  - Targeted outreach to community networks
  - First Friday location
  - “Busking” locations
  - street closure events
- 8 weeks, at $15 per hour, 20 hours per week = $2400
- Supplies = $50

Analysis of the Results: $750

- Consultant/temp hours, to perform:
  - Social media updates
  - Compile a report and provide to the Commission and City Council
  - Provide written notes and takeaway information
  - Suggest next steps
- 3 weeks, at $15 per hour, 15 hours per week = $675
- Supplies = $75

Follow-up

A second phase survey would be planned for late 2022. This second survey would be targeted to local arts organizations. The follow-up survey would refer to the results of the initial Community and Artists Survey and track any direct action or progress that it had made possible.

Appendix One
Survey Questions
DRAFT

Community questions:

1. Are you a resident of:
    - City of Ypsilanti
    - Superior Township
    - Ypsilanti Township
    - Pittsfield Township
    - City of Ann Arbor
    - Ann Arbor Township
    - Wayne County
    - None of the above

2. How long have you been a resident there?
    - Less than two years
    - 2-5 years
    - 5-10 years
    - Over 10 years
    - Over 25 years

3. Please select the statement that best applies to you regarding your average participation in arts programming in the city of Ypsilanti in the past (art, music, theater, festivals or special events).
    - I have frequently participated in arts programming (about monthly or more)
    - I have occasionally participated in arts programming (several times a year)
    - I have participated in any arts programming few times or not at all

4. I had participated in the following, over the past 3 years:
    - Watched live theatre
    - Attended a dance performance
    - Attended a cultural event/performance
    - Attended a reading/poetry event
    - Attended an art gallery or visual art show
    - Went to see live music
    - Shopped at an art sale
    - None

    During this time of social justice, how do the local art, cultural events and activities you have participated in relate to issues of diversity, equality, inclusion and justice? In your opinion, how true are these statements on a scale between one (none) and four (a lot):

5. I feel included and represented in the arts programs and events that are offered.
    - 1 - not included
    - 2 - somewhat included
    - 3 - often included
    - 4 - always included

6. There was capacity in the arts community to learn and talk about matters of race, equity and diversity.
    - 1 - no capacity
    - 2 - fair capacity
    - 3 - good capacity
    - 4 - outstanding capacity

7. There is a level of intention to build culturally relevant and culturally competent programs and offerings.
    - 1 - no level
    - 2 - some level
    - 3 - a good level
    - 4 - a high level

    ** The above questions on equity and social justice are based on the statements in the Artist Thrive survey/rubric.*

8. Which of the following do you believe the City and the Ypsilanti Arts Commission should make as their priority to support the local arts community? Select as many as you'd like:
    - Support to working artists
    - Help build capacity within existing arts organizations
    - Leverage state and national organizations to increase local support
    - Use creative works to enhance the community
    - Increase participation in the arts
    - Equity in access to the arts
    - All of the above
    - Other _____

9. What are the barriers that keep you from participating more in the arts?
    - Price of attendance
    - Childcare
    - Transportation
    - I don't have time
    - No social support; no one to attend with
    - Nothing has interested me
    - Other _____

10. What art and arts programs would you like to see more of in the Ypsilanti community?

- Other _____

11. Are you employed or do you volunteer in the arts sector?
    - I am employed in the arts sector
    - I volunteer within the arts sector
    - No

12. Had you been employed in the arts right before the pandemic, but are not any longer as a result of the pandemic?
    - Yes, No

Artist questions:

13. Are you an artist?
    - Yes, No

14. What form of art is your practice based?
    - Performing Art
    - Dance
    - Musician
    - Visual Arts
    - Actor
    - Writer
    - Sculpture
    - Film
    - Graphic Art
    - Decorative/Craft
    - Other: _____

15. Do you currently have a designated studio space to create your work?
    - Yes, I do have a designated studio space
    - Yes, I have a designated studio space in my home
    - No, I do not have a designated studio space
    - I would like to have a designated space
    - My work does not require a designated studio space

16. If you rent a studio space, what is your monthly rental fee?
    - $0-$250
    - $250-$500
    - $500-$1,000
    - Over $1,000

17. Are you financially dependent on your art?
    - It is less than 10% of my annual salary

- 10-50%
- Over 50%
- All of my salary

18. Do you expect your financial dependency on your art will increase in the next year?
    - Yes, No

19. Have you ever applied for a grant to fund your artistic pursuits?
    - Yes, No
    - If no: Would you ever be interested in applying?

20. How have you engaged in your art with the local community? Select any that apply:
    - Taught lessons or instructed art classes
    - Sold art at shows and/or markets
    - Performances at local venues
    - I don't normally–the majority of my work isn't presented/sold locally
    - Volunteer as a local artist at community organizations
    - Other _____

21. What will help you thrive as an artist? Select three:
    - direct employment/commissions (i.e. Put Creative Workers to Work)
    - funding for arts organizations
    - small grant (i.e. Creative Washtenaw Aid, Artist Relief grant)
    - Change policies/laws to promote public and private sector support for art
    - Improve economic/social policies that disadvantage independently working artists
    - Support more arts based education to increase opportunities as an artist educator
    - Other:_____

22. What would you like to see from the Ypsilanti Art Commission that would help you thrive as an artist?
    - _____

Demographic questions:

What is your age bracket?

0-18, 19-29, 30-44, 45-64, 65+

What is your annual income?

Under $15,000, 15K to 25K, 25K to 40K, 40K to 60K, 60K to 90K, 90K to 150K, over $150K

What is your ethnicity?

- White, non-Hispanic
- Black or African American, non-Hispanic
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Hispanic/Latino
- Native American or Native Alaskan
- Asian
- Other races, including multiracial
- Prefer not to respond

What is your gender identity?

- Male
- Female
- Transgender female
- Transgender male
- Gender non-conforming, Non binary
- I prefer not to answer

Working Notes *** to delete

Other survey References:

Washington Project for the Arts Survey

North Berkshire Artists Survey

Mid-America Arts Alliance Survey

Resolution No. ____
January 12, 2023

RESOLVED BY ARTS COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the Arts Commission desires to cultivate a community culture and environment that embraces and nurtures artistic and creative assets; and

WHEREAS, the Arts Commission desiree to promote and further diversity, equity and inclusion of all of Ypsilanti in the arts; and

WHEREAS, the Arts Commission desires to collect information from the community about the arts to inform the Commission in its role with the City, share this information with local, state and national arts organizations and provide insight on the current state of the arts in Ypsilanti.

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti City Council approved the Community and Artists Survey Ypsilanti Art Commission Action Plan, and the Request for Qualifications for the Community and Artists Survey Outreach Consultant in October of 2021; and

WHEREAS, the grant of $4,000 from the Tremaine Foundation for the implementation of this survey was received by the City of Ypsilanti on November 22, 2022: and

WHEREAS, the Arts Commission identified questions on the approved survey that are no longer relevant or valuable due to the time lapsed between approval and receiving of the funds; and

WHEREAS, the Arts Commission has reviewed updated the Community and Artists Survey questions, included translation services Artists Survey Ypsilanti Art Commission Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Arts Commission wishes to recommend implementation of the Community and Artists Survey Ypsilanti Art Commission Action Plan, and the Request for Qualifications for the Community and Artists Survey Outreach Consultant as amended; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Arts Commission of the City of Ypsilanti, that this resolution by provided to the City Manager and City Council for recommendation.

OFFERED BY:
SUPPORTED BY:

YES: NO: ABSENT: VOTE: