

NASHUA ARTS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NASHUA ARTS COMMISSION

August 13, 2019
City Hall Room 208

Members in attendance: Tracy Hall, Sara Caesar, Judy Carlson, John Egan, Jennifer LaTouche,
Absent: Lindsay Rinaldi, Alison Isaksen, Tina Cassidy, Paul LaFlamme, Rachel Rendina, Marc Thayer
Also present: Amy DeRoche NAC Admin

Called to order: 8:05 am

1. This was an informal meeting as no quorum was present. All planned votes tabled until the September meeting. Meeting was chaired by Tracy Hall
2. Communication: Bill Barry has resigned from the arts commission. (see attached letter)
3. Chair report: None
4. The NAC was asked to nominate James Aponovich for the Lotte Jacobi Living Treasure Award. Judy helped Ginni Lupi with the application. (see the attached narrative).
5. Arts and Culture Plan: (see attached report). The committee needs to schedule a meeting.
6. Old Business: Judy reported that the American for the Arts survey is still in the process of handing out surveys at the farmer's market and that some organizations still need to answer their surveys.

-PAC update – The capital campaign is in its quiet phase and should start soliciting public donations sometime in the fall.
7. Beauty Beyond Borders: Alicia Chouinard came to inform the commission about the upcoming Art Olympics on September 14th. They are looking for a NAC member to help judge the sculptures. If someone is interested they can contact Alicia.
8. New Business:

-Project Ideas – No report

-Policy on Nominations – Tracy would like the NAC to create a policy on how to handle nominations that are requested from the NAC. Along with how last minute nomination requests should be handled. Should the whole commission discuss it first? Or should the chair have the authority to put forward a nomination? Judy has reached out to find out if a vote is allowed via email. If a NAC member has policy ideas they should bring them to the next meeting.

The policy working group needs to schedule a time for a meeting.

-Budget Allocation – John would like the NAC to use its money to market upcoming events in the Telegraph. It was pointed out that it would be cost prohibitive and the Telegraph already prints upcoming Arts events. Organizations are responsible for marketing their own events. The budget allocation is tabled until the September meeting.

*Meeting was adjourned at 9:10am



Lindsay Rinaldi <lindsay.rinaldi@nashuacms.org>

Nashua Arts Commission

Bill Barry <bill@barrylawoffice.com>

Mon, Jul 8, 2019 at 10:37 PM

To: Lindsay Rinaldi <lindsay.rinaldi@nashuacms.org>, "Ulibarri, Cecilia" <UlibarriC@nashuanh.gov>

Lindsay:

I am remiss in not responding to your emails. I apologize as vacation and a work crisis involving an employee's husband has put a monkey wrench into my life. When Mayor Donchess asked me to join the commission, my expectations of duties was far different than where it appears this commission is going. I am not sure that my skill set matches up where it appears this commission is moving to, and that is not a negative thing for the Commission. Also, I am going to be a repeat president for my Nashua Rotary Club in the year 2020-2021. It will coincide with the 100th anniversary of our club, and the club has indicated that it wants a huge celebration for the year. My duties in planning for that year are already becoming all consuming, and I have chosen to get off two other boards that I had been sitting on within the last two weeks. I must focus on that year, and cannot devote the time that will be required of a member of the Commission. As such, I do not believe that it would be honest to seek a re-appointment at this time. Best of luck.

Bill Barry

[Quoted text hidden]

Lotte Jacobi Living Treasure Award Nomination – James Aponovich

Narrative

Visit downtown Nashua and you will encounter many works by renowned artist James Aponovich. Nashua is proud to claim James as a native son. Two of his paintings greet the public in the foyer of City Hall; three adorn a wall in M.T.'s Local restaurant; portraits of the owners of the Mahfuz family-run PRG Rugs hang in their showroom; a large painting is prominently displayed in the main staircase of the Nashua Public Library, and of course, one cannot miss the Yankee Flyer Diner mural across from City Hall, the only outdoor mural of a classic American diner in the United States.

Born in Nashua in 1948, Aponovich grew up in the city and graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a BA in 1971. He decided to become a painter while an undergraduate. From 1973 – 1985 he began showing his work at the annual NH Art Association Currier shows, winning prizes for his drawings. In 1976 he was given his first solo show at New England College in Henniker.

Although he began as a portraitist and figure painter he has been known since the early 1980s for his elaborate still life compositions. Early in his career he received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New Hampshire Council on the Arts, and the Pollock-Krasner Foundation. His first major solo exhibition at the Currier in 1979 and another in 1982 at the Alpha Gallery in Boston launched a wave of critical recognition, and the Currier hosted a more extensive solo exhibition of Aponovich's work in 1985.

His paintings have been exhibited in galleries and museums as well as held in public collections in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, California, Illinois, New Mexico, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Michigan, New Jersey, Arkansas, Arizona, Missouri, Indiana and Washington. The Currier Museum of Art, the Boston Museum of Fine Art, the DeCordova Museum in Lincoln, MA, the Portland (ME) Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Arkansas Arts Center, and the Frye Art Museum in Seattle WA all have his work in their collections. He has had numerous private commissions across the US and in Europe. Aponovich has earned many awards over the years, was honored as New Hampshire's Artist Laureate from 2006 – 2010 and is a Lifetime Fellow of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts.

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Narrative – Page 2

In 2011 Aponovich decided to create 52 paintings in 52 weeks, a project not normally undertaken by artists of his caliber. The year-long effort concluded with the Aponovich 52 exhibition in June of 2012 at Clark Gallery in Lincoln, MA. His most recent exhibition at the Kelly Stelling Gallery in Manchester this year featured a return to his early roots of figurative work as well as selected still life pieces. His vast knowledge of art history, love of exuberant detail, use of light and always fascinating subject matter results in powerful pieces that evoke emotional engagement with viewers.

Aponovich is grounded in New Hampshire. He lived in Nashua until going to college, then he and his wife artist Elizabeth Johansson moved back and lived in Nashua again in 1984 while their daughter went to school here. They moved from Nashua in 2000 when their daughter left for college, to a home in Hancock with acreage for gardening before relocated to Peterborough. They also spend time every year in the Italian town of Panicale in Umbria, which happens to be on the same parallel as Peterborough.

He spent a number of years as artist in residence at New Hampshire Institute of Art where he was both a teacher and mentor. He liked discussing the commercial side of art with the students, giving them advice on how to price their work, how to work with galleries, marketing themselves – areas he felt were often overlooked. In 2012 he collaborated with New Hampshire master cabinetmaker David Lamb on the Lambovitch Collection. Recently he participated in the Currier’s Art Inspires Art project using his work as poetry prompts.

The Yankee Flyer Diner Mural is the perfect example of why James Aponovich deserves the Lotte Jacobi Living Treasure Award. It is a community sponsored public art project conceived by former mayor Robert Wagner in 1996 to memorialize the beloved landmark next to what is now Citizen’s Bank, the former location of the diner. In 1997 he painted the 10 x 28-foot elaborate still-life composition including several figures on seven 10 by 7-foot panels. In 2016 when he was commissioned to restore the mural, he donated his original concept painting of the diner to help raise funds for the restoration. The mural not only documents a piece of local history, but also Aponovich’s use of light and intimate detail of both the place and the people draws viewers into a compelling picture of mid-century life on a beautiful summer day. Art critics say that public murals are outside of fine art. But Aponovich says “When I did the mural, my goal was to do a painting of a mid-century period scene that people can walk up to and look at all the detail. I feel the mural does what art is supposed to do – engage people, whether they like it or not.” It is a New Hampshire art treasure for all to see, learn from, and enjoy created by a true New Hampshire living treasure..

Nashua Art Commission Collaborative Workshop

Input Session: Update to Nashua Arts and Culture Plan

What Is Going Great in the Arts?

City/Community Support:

The attempt of the city to maintain and further develop a vibrant arts community, mayor and BOA support arts, we have Mayor's attention, supportive city government, city support of arts related events, mayor's office exhibit, an awareness that arts is a vital part of a community identity and quality of life, more artist work spaces, two locations for multiple art studios, participation in Americans for the Arts study, supportive community, a community that sees the value in arts, community involvement, multiple youth arts and enrichment program options, downtown more beautiful

Music:

Live music, lots of live music, music all over, lots of various types of music, diversity of classical music – large, small, chamber, choral and concerts, symphony NH growing/new music director/great upcoming season, free music events, music festivals, symphony is rockin!, symphony NH, love Peacock Players and Actorsingers

Art Events:

Lots of great downtown arts events, great downtown, Art Walk energizing, different types of increased arts activities, big downtown events, free events a library, many free arts events, Art Walk participation, library has great events, more community arts events, GAD does great events, fun Art Walk

Performing Arts Center:

PAC moving forward, Performing Arts Center underway, Art Work in old Alec's Shoes, Performing Arts Center, plans for Performing Arts Center now a reality, we are going to have a Performing Arts Center

Public Art:

Public art everywhere, new sculptures, sculptures, love the sculptures and murals, Sculpture Symposium murals, Art Hub open more often, great sculptures

Communicating:

GAD email weekly newsletter, calendar of activities, increase arts activities communicated, some event promotion is good, Facebook sites and activities, easy access to local work for area artists/crafters

Collaboration:

Artists supporting other artists, collaborations, artists supporting each other, arts organizations working together, partnerships, artist membership up

Input to Arts and Culture Plan Update

What Needs Work

City/Community/Funding Support:

No funding for promoting Nashua as a Destination for the Arts, getting more resources for public art programs, a percent for public art ordinance like in Portsmouth, Arts Commission needs bigger budget, need more support from local governments, City upkeep of existing arts facilities – Court Street and Keefe, Court Street needs investment, more entertainment programming at Holman and Keefe, Keefe seems precarious with school moving, City official Artist in Resident, City Poet Laureate, establish an art museum, need at least 1 museum preferably near Main Street, need a museum, fundraising is difficult, we need broader community awareness and support, more arts in school curriculums, more well-appointed outdoor performance venues, Info about City funded Art Commission's to local artists, respect of artists from businesses, more support of arts from Chamber of Commerce, business support for the arts and artists, no understanding that artists are business people and give back to local economy, use school signs for summer arts events, looking forward to Experiencenashuaarts.org being completed, pushing through half completed projects (parkway, garage banners)

Promotion:

Hard to get people into galleries unless a big event, increase turnout in galleries, our ability to attract tourists, local newspaper interest in writing about community arts organizations, education of our audience, need more public interest and support through "art education", mail everyone a print director of arts happenings, have a central information center about all arts available, bring back Kath Palmer, local newspaper coverage of arts events, awareness is low for all that Nashua offers, inclusion of promotion state wide, increase in public awareness, don't reach enough people outside of Nashua, need better and more ways to promote events, not great awareness of arts events and public buy-in, make people more aware of galleries, marketing – lots going on in Nashua but outsiders don't know about it, a quarterly life style magazine focused on Nashua would be nice, better publicity outside of Nashua, difficult to get into the Telegraph and other media, more banners and flags on Main street to publicize events, banners on Broad Street Parkway – missed opportunity, get info out about events

Collaboration:

Synergy between major organizations with performance time/dates, we could have more collaboration between art groups/organizations, not a cohesive vision—groups don't always work together, communication between local arts organizations—we need to work as a team, communication – lots of groups that don't always talk to each other, more participation by ALL arts organizations in collaborative work, coordinate with art organizations in other communities, heads of arts organizations meeting with each other and sharing vision for the community, we need to find a common objective rather than producing numerous unrelated projects, need to use arts calendar of events to help organize them, easy integration of new people into the "arts scene"

Public Art:

A digital public art tour (self-guided) would be nice, need to educate public – value of art in a community, overall respect of public art and the surrounding spaces, need more programs promoting Nashua public art, need public art preservation especially murals, celebrate architecture and monuments – some "lost" forms of art

Input to Arts and Culture Plan Update What Needs Work Cont'd

Performing Arts Center:

A clear vision for what the Performing Arts Center is and what it is not to be, Let's get this PAC done!, we need an Arts Center, Keep the Keefe!, public understanding of the Nashua Performing Arts Center project,

Outreach:

Apprenticeships for all ages, not sufficient high quality, low cost (to users) programs for art therapy, add back arts to Rivier University, providing opportunities for performing arts being for everyone through more community outreach, more diversity in public performances

Events:

Dance hall venues for social dancing (not classes), more karaoke nights, expand events past downtown, place for puppet shows

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Carlson
Nashua Arts Commission
8/13/19

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