

East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission meeting, May 16, 2017, 6:00 p.m., Sears Park – all commissioners present.

Student Art Award Presentation in the William O'Neill Performing Arts Gazebo

Meeting followed in the Sears Park Pavilion

Call to Order

Approval of April 20 Minutes - approved

Public Comment - none

Old Business

Open Studio – Planned for Halloween weekend. One artist has responded so far. Melissa will continue to submit the call to artist announcement to the newspapers and on social media. Perhaps Old Bank would like to host artists who don't have studios to open.

New Business

Budget Cut – our budget may potentially be cut by \$1500. Our town liaison suggested we attend a future budget meeting and present our concerns and information about the programs we support.

Grant Selection/Presentations

250<sup>th</sup> Grant – Shirley Brooks reported that Gary O'Neil, who applied for a grant to support his program on the Wangunk Indians, is upset that he wasn't selected to receive the \$250 grant. Shirley said he has contacted the Chatham Historical Society a couple of times to express his dissatisfaction. The Chatham Historical Society has offered him a case to display his artifacts. The commissioners agreed that the grants were fairly voted on, and that not everyone can win. Melissa contacted KOKO to let them know that their Little Free Library proposal was chosen to receive the \$250. Carol will contact the finance department to learn how we can distribute the funds.

\$500 Grants – Helen Rosenblatt from Blackledge Music presented information about her grant proposal for a mixed chamber music performance featuring a narration of a story about a conceited frog with spoken and/or sung word with multiple instruments. This work would be performed at the East Hampton Public Library. Blackledge has been incorporated since 2002. Another piece of the performance features haiku poetry read aloud with accompanying music. The program would be about an hour long.

The second presenter was Rebecca White who proposed a performance of Heathers the Musical, and bring together YPCCA, EPOCH and Podium theater groups, which generally don't work together. She is connected to Podium and YPCCA and has friends in Epoch. The cost would be about \$850 depending on licensing fees. Auditions would be held in late October and the performance in the January. This proposal is part of a Capstone project Rebecca is putting together for East Hampton High School. The cast numbers can be flexible, at least 15 would be

needed but they would like to have as many as possible, including young children and adults. Student artists would help with the staging and props.

The final presenter was Shelly Collock, the new owner of the Creative Dance Center. She danced at the studio for 15 years, got a college degree in dance and has returned to East Hampton and is now the owner of the business. The grant funds would support the center's annual Christmas performance Santa's Workshop, which for 35 years has benefitted the town's food and fuel bank. The high school provides the stage for free, but there are still costs for the show that must come out of their own pocket. Scenery and props got broken over the years and didn't get replaced, the costumes are old and outdated and frayed. The show has 27 dances, and each dance has different costumes. She'd like to bring back a prop, scenery and one costume each year to build the show back up to its former glory. She is reaching out to the community to make this show more extravagant. The show is also performed at convalescent homes and the local library for children. This Saturday there will be a tag sale at the dance studio 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and all the proceeds will go to the show. They will be performing at a Yard Goats Show and will march in the Old Home Day Parade.

After a group vote, the commission agreed to award the two \$500 grants to Creative Dance and Rebecca White, who proposed the theater project.

Art Purchase Award – the date for the East Hampton Art Association Art Show is June 17 on the Congregational Church of East Hampton Art show. Kevin, Mindy, Phyllis and Carol said they would be interested in serving as judges.

#### Other

Wade Russo still needs to respond to our invitation to give another Theater Chat on this year's Goodspeed performance of Oklahoma.

Melissa read a letter from resident Sheryl Dougherty who is putting together a program for students in town and is asking organizations and businesses to support it through free or reduced classes, services or products. Melissa will contact her and explain what we can do in terms of publicity to help promote the program, but since the commission does not host specific events or activities, we couldn't provide any donations.

Commissioners' Reports and Events – Town-wide tag sale June 17 with applications due June 3; The Historical Society's quilt show group is offering a raffle for a quilt with tickets sold at Old Home Day; the East Hampton Art Association's Art show in the village center on June 17; The art associations' May meeting is a potluck dinner and members will bring a piece and talk about who they are, why they do art and talk about the artwork they brought, May 24 at the library community room; the Village Center Farmer's Market begins May 27 from 8 a.m. to noon and continues all summer; The Joseph N. Goff House concert series begins June 22 with a performance by the high school jazz band and continues each Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. in the village center through the beginning of August except for Old Home Day.

Public Comment – None

Adjournment