



ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, June 9, 2020

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Via GoToMeeting

Special Meeting

Commissioners Present: Ali Levasseur, Nicholas Halder, Susan Riedel, Ryan Decker, Gina Siegert, Tyler Daugherty

Commissioners Excused: Paula Neuhaus

Staff Present: Jennifer Petersen-Brant

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Levasseur at 3:33 PM. following staff assurance of compliance with Iowa Open Meeting Law.

New Business

Message of Solidarity from Commission: Commissioner Levasseur introduced the suggestion for the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission to draft and release a statement of solidarity in response to recent racial tensions surrounding the death of George Floyd. Staff shared sentiments expressed during the June 5, 2020 virtual meeting of Arts & Culture grantees; many organizations are releasing their own but hoped that the Commission would release a collective statement acknowledging the arts and culture community's continued commitment to equity work and racial justice. Motion for Commission to draft and release a statement of solidarity made by Commissioner Siegert, seconded by Commissioner Decker. Commissioners Levasseur, Halder, Riedel, Decker, Siegert, and Daugherty voted to approve motion; Motion passed.

Commissioner Levasseur provided a draft statement. Discussion followed to revise draft, adding Commissioners' names to the statement, and contact information for Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs. Commissioner Daugherty excused from meeting at 4:30PM.

Motion to accept revised statement (see Exhibit A) by Commissioner Decker, seconded by Commissioner Siegert. Commissioners Levasseur, Halder, Riedel, Decker, and Siegert voted to approve motion; Motion passed.

Discussion followed regarding release of statement. Commission requested Staff to:

- Share with Arts & Culture grantees
- Post on City website
- Post to Social Media
- Share via email newsletter to Arts & Culture News subscribers and media
- Transmit to City Council

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Halder, seconded by Commission Siegert. Commissioners Levasseur, Halder, Riedel, Decker, and Siegert voted to approve motion; Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:08 PM.

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 28, 2020

Respectfully submitted:

Jenni Petersen-Brant
Arts & Cultural Affairs Coordinator, City of Dubuque

These minutes were passed and approved on July 23, 2020.

Witnessed By: [Signature] (signature)

Ari Levasseur (printed)

Chair (officer position)

EXHIBIT A

**AS REVISED AND APPROVED by the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission,
during 6/9/2020 Special Meeting**

Statement of Solidarity from the City of Dubuque's Arts and Cultural Affairs
Commission
6/9/20

We are writing to acknowledge the impact of this pivotal moment and to express the commitment of the City of Dubuque's Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission to support and model racial justice and equity.

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission condemn and grieve the violent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and the countless Black people before them who have lost their lives in racist acts. While these tragic events have rightfully ignited calls for change across the world, we know that there are immeasurable other incidents of racism, that are neither witnessed or heard, enacted daily on Black bodies and minds.

Over the past five years, we and Dubuque's arts and cultural organizations have been investing in resources to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion in Dubuque. As the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, we are dedicated to leveraging arts and culture to unite us and bridge cultural divides. We support our cultural organizations to be welcoming places to, and representing the voices of, all in our community.

We know there's work to be done. We can and will use the power of arts and culture to make Dubuque a more connected, just, and inclusive community.

(Names and Contact info added by Staff following the meeting)

Arts and Cultural Affairs Commissioners

Ali Levasseur, Chairperson

Paula Neuhaus, Vice-chairperson

Gina Siegert, Secretary

Tyler Daugherty

Ryan Decker

Nick Halder

Sue Riedel

To contact the Commission: *either email for City Clerk's office or direct to Commission
(need to check if there is one)*