

Middletown Commission on the Arts – special meeting

Minutes, June 17, 2013

Present

Lee Godburn (chair)
Cassandra Day (vice-chair)
Jenny Hawkins Lecce (sec.)
Richard Kamins
Charlotte McCoid (left 7:22)
Franca Biales
Lea Tomaszewski (6:10)

Also Present

Stephan Allison, staff

Absent

Fran Ganguli
Bob Santangelo (council)
Barbara Arafeh

Chelsea Rak (student rep)
Lauren Hodge (student rep)
Linda Salafia
Joyce Kirkpatrick
Hannah Breton (Student

rep)

Call to order

Commission Chair Lee Godburn called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. in room Suite 140, City Arts Office, 100 Riverview Center

Agenda item #1: Approval of purchase for City Art Collection. Richard Kamins made a motion that we approve the purchase the artwork titled “Taking a Break” by Paul Baldassini for \$540.00. Seconded by Cassandra. All approved, carried. Godburn suggests that we host a reception with Paul when the artwork comes to the city, as a thank you for his generosity and to celebrate its inclusion in the City Art Collection. This item will be discussed further in the next regular meeting of the MCA.

Agenda item #2: Fine Art Competition development workshop. In review, the Mayor has asked the commission to consider an art competition wherein the winner (or winners) will be chosen, awarded a monetary or other award and possible purchase and inclusion in the City Art Collection.

Three types of events under discussion: Simple competition, Group Show, Festival.

Common to each event:

1. Visual art: including 2-D, 3-D, mixed media, photography, sculpture.
2. Categories for age and disciplines, perhaps limiting it to 16 and over.
3. Open to those who live, work or attend school in Middletown.

Particular to different types of events:

1. include various venues with a downtown competition featuring Middletown youth and non-professionals and expanding it to include open galleries for our professional resident artists.
2. Including food trucks, local restaurants and some paid entertainers for the downtown portion.
3. Utilizing empty and multi-use buildings on Main Street.

Three templates under consideration:

Simple Competition:

1. single or no venue
2. artists submit work, panel of judges choose winners

3. winners are publicly announced with reception
4. prizes awarded
5. possible inclusion in City Art Collection
6. public sees winning work(s) during the reception

Artist showcase and Open Studio:

1. Specific venue/landmark building like Wadsworth Mansion, Wesleyan, MXCC, downtown building like CHC or the Inn, or Mattabassett Canoe Club, Remington Rand
2. Works up from 1 to 2 days for judges to make the rounds
3. Space to feature well-known resident artists who are or are not competing in the open art competition.
4. The competition open to age 16 and up (younger kid element separate)
5. Public invited to attend select open studios of resident artists
6. Food vendors/entertainment

Festival (Bite into Art):

1. Main Street festival.
2. Restaurant tie-in.
3. Street entertainment for all ages.
4. Featured art from known artists to showcase in downtown venue/gallery and to act as gateway to the Open Studio Tour (possible Chef station in studios).
5. Drop-in En Plein Air paint-in.
6. Inclusion of other Middletown art groups/Guilds
7. Inclusion of other groups which may host younger artists or open art activities
8. Competition to be held site-specific (downtown venue) open to public one day.
9. Competition open to age 16 and older.
10. Appointed Judges and People's Choice cards

Competition Parameters:

1. Open to 16 years and over
2. Visual art: including 2-D, 3-D, mixed media, photography, sculpture.
3. Size: to be determined by location
4. Entrants must live, work or go to school in Middletown
5. Theme: specific or general?
6. Prizes, awards
7. Possible inclusion in the City Art Collection (or other destination)
8. Judges to be appointed by various groups: i.e. Mayors Office, MCA, Art Guild, Wesleyan, MXCC (as per national guidelines)
9. Per ordinance, additions to the City Art Collection to remain under the purview the MCA

Adjournment: Richard Kamins moved to adjourn at 8:06 p.m., seconded by Cassandra Day. Carried. The MCA will next meet for its regular monthly meeting on June 26th, 2013 in Suite 140, City Arts Office, 100 Riverview Center at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Hawkins Lecce