

ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 2:00 PM
Council Chambers

MINUTES

I. Call to Order: Ms. Pomrenke called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Present: Bill Blizard
Kimberly Adele
Joan Collar
Dylan Keith
Jodi Rush
Kristin Thompson
Rob Cushman

Also Present: Brad Belt, Chair
Erin Pomrenke, Communications Director

II. Approval of Minutes:

A. Arts & Cultural Events Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2024

III. Old Business

A. 2024/2025 Arts and Cultural Events Season Calendar and Financial Review

2023/2024 Arts and Cultural Events															
Member	Event	Date Time Location	Artist	Piano/ Tuning	Sound	Backline	Lighting	Venue	Accom.	Food/ Supplies	Misc.	Notes	AC Budget	CEF Budget	Ticket Release
Bill	The Alva Anderson Quartet with Special Guest Mark Sterbank	Wednesday, Sep. 6, 2023 7:30 p.m. The Seabrook Island Club	\$2,580	\$1,780	\$2,200		\$1,000						\$7,560		Tuesday, Aug. 8 Friday, Aug. 11
Joan	Piano Bar: Gary Pecorella	Wednesday, Sep. 20, 2023 5-7 p.m. The Sandcastle	\$350										\$350		
Kristin	HALO Presents: Choose Your Own Operadventure	Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023 5:00 p.m. Turtle Point	\$10,000	\$2,400	\$1,300		\$1,000	\$280		\$54			\$14,934		Tuesday, Aug. 29 Friday, Sep. 1
David	The Small Glories	Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023 7:30 p.m. The Seabrook Island Club	\$5,000		\$1,500		\$1,000		\$1,106	\$100				\$8,706	Friday, Aug. 11
Joan	Piano Bar: The Joy Project	Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023 5-7 p.m. The Sandcastle	\$600										\$600		
Kimberly	Tango Lovers: Volver	Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023 7:30 p.m. West Beach	\$11,500					\$4,302	\$2,000	\$504	\$19,692	Misc. -> PDA, Encore Fee in Venue		\$37,998	Friday, Aug. 18
Joan	Lowcountry Voices	Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023 4:00 p.m. Holy Spirit	\$6,000	\$300										\$6,200	Friday, Sep. 22
Becky	Charleston Symphony Orchestra	Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 5:00 p.m. West Beach	\$40,000				\$1,600	\$273						\$41,873	Friday, Sep. 8
David	Dan Tyminski Band	Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023 7:30 p.m. West Beach	\$13,000		\$2,100		\$1,600	\$3,542	\$2,927	\$250				\$23,419	Friday, Sep. 15
Joan	Piano Bar: Glenn Brown	Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023 5-7 p.m. The Sandcastle	\$350											\$350	
Van	Atrials Chamber Ensemble	Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023 7:30 p.m. COOS	\$2,000						\$629		\$100			\$2,729	Tuesday, Nov. 7 Friday, Nov. 10
Kimberly	GlassDuo	Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023 7:30 p.m. Holy Spirit			\$1,200		\$1,000				\$700	Cancelled due to visa restrictions		\$2,900	Tuesday, Nov. 14 Tuesday, Nov. 17
Joan	Piano Bar: Misha Pekar	Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023 5-7 p.m. The Sandcastle	\$350											\$350	
Joan	Piano Bar: Hunter Feick	Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024 5-7 p.m. The Sandcastle	\$350											\$350	
Judy	Liquid Pleasure	Friday, Jan. 12, 2024 7:30 p.m. West Beach	\$6,000					\$3,542			\$200			\$9,742	Tuesday, Dec. 12 Friday, Dec. 15
Judy	Quentin E. Baxter Presents CC + the Adeltas	Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024 4:00 p.m. The Seabrook Island Club	\$30,000											\$30,000	
Joan	Art Film: Woodstock	Friday, Jan. 26, 2024 3-5 p.m. The Sandcastle	\$265								\$12			\$277	
Jodi	Sean Kennard	Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024 7:30 p.m. COOS	\$5,000	\$200					\$590	\$25				\$5,815	Tuesday, Jan. 9 Friday, Jan. 12
Becky	Chamber Trio Featuring Yury Bekker, Julian Schwarz, & Marika Bournaki	Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024 7:30 p.m. COOS	\$7,500	\$200										\$7,700	Tuesday, Jan. 16 Friday, Jan. 19
Kristin	The Linda Ronstadt Experience with Tristan McIntosh	Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024 7:30 p.m. West Beach	\$9,000		\$2,200		\$2,000	\$3,542	\$1,400	\$400				\$18,542	Friday, Dec. 8
Judy	Quentin E. Baxter Presents Dan Wilson Quartet	Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024 4:00 p.m. The Seabrook Island Club													

- The Council discussed the following:

- Tuba Skinny was held on Monday, Nov. 11. There were 268 tickets sold, a 16.5% no-show rate, and took in \$6,575 at the box office. The performance went well, and the audience seemed to enjoy the band. There was an issue with the artist assuming that we would sell their merchandise, and Mr. Cushman was kind enough to assist with this; there was also an issue with the food buyout. The original agreement listed \$450, but the agency used an older rider, and the new amount was \$300. Since email exchanges agreed to the original amount, a check was issued for the difference.
- Andy and Friends was held on Sunday, Nov. 17. There were 120 tickets sold with a 24.8% no-show rate. Tickets were offered to local college students, but none showed; this may have been because the request was sent so close to the performance. Ms. Rush recommended looking into a more intimate venue for the next Andy and Friends event in February; Ms. Pomrenke will look at the chapel at the Sanctuary or Kiawah River facility.
- The ZORA event was held on Sunday, Nov. 24. There were 117 tickets sold with a 16.3% no-show rate. The stage setup was nice and many remarked that the performance was unique and enjoyable. Ms. Rush mentioned that the sound from the mic was difficult to hear. Mr. Keith mentioned that he did not notice an issue with the sound; he also mentioned that he saw individuals in the audience that weren't marked down on the ticketing system so he thinks the show rate might be higher and that West Beach's staff did a great job with the staging. Mr. Belt mentioned that he didn't notice an issue with the sound at ZORA, but did notice an issue with the Andy and Friends event. Mr. Keith mentioned that the microphone issue could be an issue with the artists' not holding the mic close, etc. since some were heard and some not; he did not think this was an issue with PDA.
- Mr. Blizard recommended a light for performances at the church because it is difficult to see the performer's faces. Mr. Keith mentioned that perhaps the Arts Council should consider sound support for events at the churches. Ms. Rush mentioned that the sound issue could be difficult to solve in the church space, as even church members have mentioned to her that sound is muddled during church services.

IV. New Business

A. 2024-2025 Season Updates

- The next event will be Sunday, Jan. 5 with **Caleb Borick**. The event is sold out. Ms. Rush mentioned that the church is currently under construction and the piano will need to be moved that day. Ms. Adele, Mr. Blizard, Mr. Keith, and Ms. Thompson said they can assist the day of.
- The **Judy Carmichael Trio** will perform on Tuesday, Jan. 7. Mr. Blizard mentioned that Judy is currently traveling, and he will likely get a response from her in mid-December on some event details.
- Liquid Pleasure is almost sold out and will take place on Friday, Jan. 10. Ms. Pomrenke mentioned that she submitted the check request for the food buyout for Kristin.
- OPERA! by Shakespeare is Friday, Jan. 17. Ms. Rush said she and Mr. Wohl met with Harold Meers to review the space; are working with the light tech to mount the two screens for supertitles; and Eddie Brennan will be assisting with publicity. Ms. Pomrenke asked if this would be a good event to offer complimentary student tickets; Ms. Rush agreed that it would be. Mr. Keith mentioned that any events with over 300 tickets could potentially offer student tickets.
- Atlanta Rhythm Section scheduled on Friday, February 7. Ms. Pomrenke mentioned that she spoke to stage manager and he offered to buy out the contract for backline for half the price and also offered that another indie band could provide an open act. Ms. Thompson

mentioned that Arts Council had a disagreement about adding events after the season is approved so she didn't think it was fair to move the money in case there is another event that needs more funds. Mr. Keith said that attendees tend to like 75 minutes maximum and he worries they could leave before the main act. He thinks when there is more diversity in attendees, it could be considered. Mr. Cushman said publicizing events beyond the island to Seabrook, Johns Island, etc. could provide diversity in attendees. Ms. Thompson mentioned that some acts bring their own audience members which can increase diversity. Mr. Keith mentioned that in the past one performer linked to our tickets on their site, so it led to more audience members. Mr. Belt mentioned that part of the reason that audience members might prefer 75 minutes is because of the late start time. He recommended possibly starting events closer to 7 p.m. Members agreed this would be a good consideration for the next season. The Arts Council agreed to not include the additional opening band.

- South Carolina Ballet will be on Friday, February 14. Ms. Collar mentioned that staging costs are still being worked out. Mr. Keith mentioned that the stagehand union is pushing to require 8-hour blocks, which could dramatically increase costs for next season; the smaller events will no longer be 4-hour blocks. He mentioned that the ballet should have checked the pricing prior to ensure the price won't change. Mr. Belt mentioned that he has been presented with three different requests for additional funding beyond the initial contract due to misunderstanding or requests of artists. One exemption was that there was one instance where the contract stated a food buyout amount and communications with an Arts Council member said a different amount. He mentioned that a policy will be necessary to handle unbudgeted items/requests. Mr. Keith and Ms. Adele mentioned that in their experiences working with staging companies. Ms. Adele mentioned that it is important to be clear with the artists/agencies about the planning process and understanding the needs of the artists at the beginning of the process.
- Sinatra will be held on Friday, February 28. Mr. Blizzard mentioned there was some difficulty with how the lighting and sound and this is still being worked through.
- Ms. Collar confirmed that she has all the films for the film series, starting in February.

B. Other

- Ms. Pomrenke mentioned that Arts proposal planning session is approaching and reviewed the timeline. She mentioned that a few artists reached out about being featured and she would send that information for consideration.
- Ms. Pomrenke mentioned that the Arts position had 75 applicants. Ms. Pomrenke, Mr. Cushman, and Mr. Wohl narrowed down to 16 applicants and extended interviews to three applicants; and Mr. Belt is providing final interviews this week. Mr. Cushman mentioned that the applicants were narrowed down to two very strong candidates. Mr. Blizzard asked if the two remaining candidates could meet the Arts Council members. Mr. Belt said that the Town has a process for hiring Town employees; there was a hiring committee which included Arts Council members; and he is a hiring authority. He said it wasn't appropriate to add additional individuals into the process. The primary job of the Arts and Cultural Events Program Manager is to support the Arts Council and program, but the position will also assist with a broader range of programming.
- Mr. Keith mentioned that at Gatsby Orchestra, they brought a camera person who he had to chastise several times because he was in the way of the audience and distracting. He suggested having a policy on this issue. Ms. Pomrenke mentioned that might be a change that needs to be indicated in the contract.

V. Correspondence

None

VI. Chairman's Comments

- Mr. Belt mentioned that all the Town’s standing committees have a council person as the chair as a policy recommendation, but the Arts Council falls outside of this. The Arts Board acts as the parent entity of the Council, which Brad will chair; however, the Arts Council will be chaired by an Arts Council member. He would like David to be the chair of the Arts Council instead of him. Ms. Pomrenke asked if this update would need to be brought before Town Council or if this would be an internal change. Mr. Belt said it would be updated with the charter, which he plans to do early next year. He mentioned that Town Council may remove the requirement to be a Kiawah resident in order to be on a standing committee, but he said that could be a consideration when selecting applicants.

VII. Public Comments

None

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Pomrenke motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kristin Thompson and carried unanimously.

Submitted by

Erin Pomrenke, Communication Director

Date:

Approved by

David Wohl, Vice Chairman

Date

