

ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 2:00 PM
Council Chambers

MINUTES

I. Call to Order: Mr. Wohl called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Present: Bill Blizzard
Kimberly Adele
Dylan Keith
Jodi Rush
Kristin Thompson
Becky Hilstad
Rob Cushman
David Wohl, Vice Chair

Also Present: Brad Belt, Chair
Erin Pomrenke, Communications Director
Guest/Community Member: Lance Spencer

II. Approval of Minutes:

A. Arts & Cultural Events Meeting Minutes of September 5, 2024

III. Old Business

A. Resignation of Arts and Cultural Events Coordinator

- Mr. Wohl stated that there would be further discussion of Ruthie’s resignation later in the meeting; but provided the information that Ruthie’s absence from today’s meeting had been long planned and was not part of the timing of her resignation. He mentioned that job description for the position is under review and that Erin will be assuming Ruthie’s responsibilities until the position is filled. Mr. Wohl hopes that the Arts Council will have some input into the position description and the interview process.
- Mr. Wohl requested that AC members assist Erin so that she might be able to leave scheduled arts events after they begin because of her long drive home. She will still be responsible for arranging sound and light checks and making sure everything is “event-ready.” He also relayed the information that the Operations Manual that Ruthie has created for her job will be very helpful during the transition and into the future. There was general discussion of the work that Ruthie has accomplished during her time in the position and some fear that items relating to upcoming events might slip through the cracks after her departure.

B. 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	\$2,588	\$1,780	\$2,200		\$1,000						\$7,500		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	\$1,200		\$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	\$200										\$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	\$290			\$23,419	Friday, Sep. 15
Joan	Piano Bar: Glenn Brown	Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023 5-7 p.m. The Sandcastle	\$350										\$350	
Van	Atraks Chamber Ensemble	Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023 7:30 p.m. COOS	\$2,000						\$629	\$100			\$2,729	Tuesday, Nov. 7 Friday, Nov. 10
Kimberly	Class Duo	Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023 7:30 p.m. Holy Spirit		\$1,200			\$1,000			\$760	Cancelled due to visa restrictions		\$2,960	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	\$263							\$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 Yurty Bekker, Julian Schwarz, & Marika Bourmaki	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:
 - The first event of the 2024-2025 season was the Bluestone Ramblers on Sunday, September 15. Due to inclement weather, the performance was moved indoors from the grounds of the Town Hall to the Council Chambers. Ms. Thompson reviewed the event, which was well attended, additional seating being added as the event continued and that the acoustics in the chamber are excellent. This was the first musical event held in the Council Chambers and it was a worthwhile opportunity to see that the venue will work well for smaller events (under 150 people).
 - The first Piano Bar was held on September 18. Ms. Collar was unable to connect on Zoom from Vermont to recap, but it was discussed that the second piano bar will be held on October 9 and if Ms. Collar needs more assistance, Ms. Thompson and Mr. Cushman would be available to help.

IV. New Business

A. 2024-2025 Season Updates

- The next event will be Tuesday, October 29 at Seabrook, **The Gatsby Orchestra**, coordinated by Mr. Blizzard and Mr. Keith. Sound, staging and seating have been determined, with seating in a horseshoe and a dance floor. The band is planning to provide a short period for dance lessons and will bring some dancers. Table décor was discussed but ruled out so as to provide good sight lines for the audience.
- Contact information for The Gatsby Orchestra and the Charleston Symphony (and other future events) can be found in the Operations Manual. Ms. Hilsted requested that hard copies of the manual be made available to Arts Council members who need them.
- On November 2, **the Charleston Symphony** will perform at the West Conference Center as part of their annual fundraiser, Tour of Homes. Ms. Hilsted mentioned a past microphone issue; Erin will bring the Arts Council microphone for introductions. PDA will provide a raised stage. Each musician will have their own lighting.
- On November 11, **Tuba Skinny** will perform at West Beach Conference Center. Mr. Wohl is coordinating and didn't report any challenges at this time.
- On November 17, **Andy and Friends: Chamber Trio** will perform at Holy Spirit Church. Ms. Hilsted has the lead on this performance (she is splitting responsibilities for the Andy series with Ms. Rush). Both members would like to add a visual element to their programs, but it is not allowed to place a screen in the altar area. These details are being worked out.

B. Other

- Mr. Wohl pointed out that meeting dates for 2025 are provided in today’s packet. Council members discussed the need for additional funding in the FY 2025 town budget. After discussion, it was agreed that more funds will be requested.
- Mr. Wohl provided an update on the Lowcountry Arts Center. He reported on a meeting that several members for the Lowcountry Arts Center Board had with Marc Camens on September 27. It was reported that Marc Camens was particularly interested in the possible siting of an Arts facility on the grounds of the Town Hall. Mayor Belt reported that the loss of the big tree during the recent storms provides an opportunity to reimagine the use of the space, stating that integration of a future center into the reimagined campus might be a strong possibility. Mr. Wohl reported that the Lowcountry Arts Center Board has developed vision and mission statements and is working on logo choices, a pitch deck, and development of a website. Judith Conlon, Principal of Angel Oaks Elementary School has joined the Board. She has a strong background in the Arts, is a resident of Johns Island, and is excited about the education opportunities that an Arts Center will provide for students.
- Mr. Wohl and Mayor Belt concluded the meeting remarks with a further discussion of what was Ruthie Foster’s job description. The job may be retitled and there was some discussion about the possibility of expanding the job and responsibilities.

V. Correspondence

None

VI. Chairman’s Comments

None

VII. Public Comments

None

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Wohl motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Bill Blizard and carried unanimously.

Submitted by,

Erin Pomrenke

10/10/2024

Erin Pomrenke, Communication Director

Date

Approved by,

David Wohl

12-23-24

David Wohl, Vice Chairman

Date