

Arts Council Meeting Minutes of February 6th, 2025

Present: Bill Blizzard, Kimberly Adele, Joan Collar, Dylan Keith, Jodi Rush, Kristin Thompson, David Wohl, Mayor Brad Belt

I. Call to Order

Chairmen David Wohl called the meeting to order at 2pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

Kristin Thompson moved to approve the Arts Council Meeting Minutes from January 9, 2025. Motion seconded by Jodi Rush. MOTION APPROVED.

III. Old Business

Program Manager Caroline Wall shared that Liquid Pleasure sold 416 tickets and scanned in 363, with a 13% no-show rate presumably due to the poor weather that evening. It brought in \$8,322 in box office revenue. Jodi Rush recapped Opera by Shakespeare! Noting the acoustics of the space worked well with the performance. Caroline shared that 215 tickets were sold with 20 checked in, and made \$4,060 at the box office. Appx. 15 College of Charleston music students were able to attend free of charge.

Joan Collar's first Piano Bar of the season with Gary Pecorella had a turnout of about 78 people and went well.

IV. New Business

A. 2024-2025 Season Updates (Upcoming events: Atlanta Rhythm Section, Andy & Friends, Moranz, Piano Bars, Film Series)

The council discussed details for the Atlanta Rhythm Section on February 7th show. The council discussed how West Beach charges the same amount even if the entire ballroom isn't used, and Caroline also brought up how we incur a fee at West Beach when we make unauthorized, last-minute changes to the set up. Please (in the future) ask Caroline to communicate any new set up needs to the venue to avoid unexpected charges.

Jodi Rush discussed the upcoming Andy C Friends Chamber concert. Joan Collar mentioned that many of our patrons may not be aware of our digital marketing, and we should reconsider a print marketing strategy. Kimberly Adele brought up the fact that Andrew Armstrong performed the same program earlier in the week at Bishop Gadsden, which may have been a factor in the low-ticket sales which prompted the suggestion of potentially adding an exclusivity/radius clause to our TOKI-Artist contracts.

David brought up the potential of using the chapel at The Sanctuary for smaller events. It can seat about 115 people but could not fit a large act.

Joan Collar and Bill Blizzard provided planning updates for their upcoming shows.

B. 2025-2026 Planning Updates

David Wohl shared his letter to the council, to request an 8% budget increase as voted on at our prior meeting. Mayor Brad Belt shared that the Council will be evaluating whether the Arts Council budget comes from restricted or unrestricted funds in the future.

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David Wohl shared that we had 27 proposals this year, an increase from 23 last year. We have also almost doubled our box office revenue from last year.

C. Considerations for next season

Upon direction from Mayor Brad Belt, Caroline Wall raised the potential for earlier start times for next season's later shows beginning at 7:00PM instead of 7:30PM. The Council discussed that we could decide this on a show-by-show basis. Caroline Wall showed the Council a draft of a post-event report to be used by event coordinators after their shows to provide more information on how the shows go.

D. Other

The Council discussed how to go about having more of a collaborative partnership with Freshfields Village.

David Wohl recommends the program manager, Caroline, should create monthly expense reports to keep track of our financials throughout the season. He also brought up that KICA events are a common conflict with ours and would like to make sure they are aware of our events.

B. Correspondence: None

C. Chairman's Comments: None

D. Public Comments: None

E. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM

The meeting was adjourned by Chairmen David Wohl at 3:05PM.

Submitted by:

 3/5/25

Caroline Wall, Arts and Cultural Event Program Manager

Approved by:

 3/5/25

David Wohl, Chairman