

Laurel Arts Council Meeting – June 11, 2025 at 6:30pm (virtual)

Minutes

Preliminaries

1. Take roll: Melissa, Angie, Sandy, Bharati; Bill Bailey & Sam Braden for the city; guests Sophie Smith (sustainability) and Calvin Burns (Master Plan)
2. Quorum: yes
3. VOTE: Approval of May Minutes: approved
Note: extra funds from dev do not expire, unlike annual budget
4. Updates on Membership & New Applicants; Ella Alonso is a new LAC committee member!
Margaret as Laurel Art Guild (LAG) liaison

Agenda

1. Policy discussion

- Criteria for non-attending council members: approved below by assent
 - Suggested: missing 3 meetings in a row unexcused or 5 in a row excused = you may be removed (still eligible to reapply next time there is an opening)
 - Modified: If you miss 3/5 then anyone can make a motion for removal, and it gets put to a discussion and a vote
 - Official removal would have to come from the mayor along with thanks
- **Action:** doodle poll on whether people can better attend Tue or Wed (Sandy will do)
- Orientation for new members (city ordinance of 2017, Facebook page, (google drive), 3 annual reports (last was 2021!), financial plan...)
 - **Ella up for organizing google drive going further**
 - still locked out of our Instagram account, Bill will revisit with city IT
 - The Laurel Arts Council username/id seems to be 'laurelartscouncil' and it looks likely that the official email is 'laurelartscouncil@laurel.md'. I sent a 'reset my password' request, hopefully IT can dig up the Instagram reset link email and reset things for us. If for some reason they deleted that email address, they can just re-create it then re-request the password reset.

2. Updates From City, Bill, Sam

- Main Street Revitalization, part of Master Plan Committee (Sam)
 - under a temporary moratorium on new projects
 - Baltimore Artscape, Sam met aspiring artists
 - rec'd aspiring artists, or community projects, or students as affordable/effective
 - example: artist Miles: put art on Main St walls as part of revitalization, <https://www.mjonthewall.com/>
 - FY26 major project coming to a Main St business lot, business owner presented project, a food hall.
 - we should also look at performance art, not just visual or public art

- Joe's Emporium does a lot of performance art projects (<https://www.joesmovement.org/>)
- Sam will provide us a list of artists who he met
- Bharati: how to approach them for the traffic box wraps?
- Ella: is there somewhere that Calls for Artists are normally posted or advertised? Otherwise people miss the opportunity.
- Bharati: can announce in local Laurel paper or county newspaper?
- Sam: for younger audience, we need to tap into social media (even LinkedIn) Sam says city can help with posting to LinkedIn
- Melissa: for the traffic warps, Kailey had an accumulated list of 20; we also published on FB page and city newsletter, and Laurel Board of Trade also. It's been kind of hit or miss.
- Bill: for getting the Mansion on the wedding circuit, you have to do research to find 'that niche' where artists are looking at (someone in LAC should research?) City website won't suffice.
- Bill: easy project is pick one park a month, invite people to draw/paint on trashcans. Or the bench project (Lowes part, assemble, decorate)
- Melissa: also easy, storefront (see FB) cost under a hundred, Laurel HS students did art and put it into Dropbox, Sign-O-Rama blew them up for the window.
- Melissa: note we are by necessity opportunistic, as a volunteer org. Could use city help (Sam raised hand to volunteer!) -- **Bharati accepts Sam's help with call for artists for traffic box wraps.** (Bill sent an email just now to Public Works for a list of City-owned traffic lights for possible wrap art).
- Ella: centralize information so when people leave they don't take their project knowledge with them (Bharati volunteers for data entry). Melissa: it's centralized on LAC Google drive
- Bill: all projects should ideally have a co-chair to get around volunteer availability problems
- **Ella: think I would be the most help working on a template for Calls for Artists to make sure we're offering opportunities equitably.** Melissa will provide copies of prior LAC calls, which were based in calls from neighboring arts councils (eg Hyattsville)
- City through Clean Living released a sustainability plan for Laurel, including creating sustainable action groups (one on composting, the other 'V3' on city sustainable efforts and finding a volunteer base).
- Their next mtg is on Thursday, action item is reporting on LAC (**Melissa will attend**) at Laurel Armory on 5th & Montgomery 6:30pm-8pm/8:30pm
- Coming up with sample projects, have a brainstorming session
- Sophie: ideas include putting up more free libraries, free toolsheds (build & decorate); environmental-related art show students->local businesses; scavenger hunt promoting local businesses & art projects (Sandy would help with that)
 - Ella note on little libraries: supporting existing which are often short on material (esp. Laurel Town Center's & Women's Club of Laurel)
 - Calvin: writer's club?

3. Project Updates

- ~~Retrospective – what have we completed this FY?~~
- ~~Laurel High School Art at Laurel Town Center (May thru Summer) (Melissa)~~
- Laurel High Poetry Chapbook (Jennifer, Melissa) – **cost \$378 so do it**
- Wraps project and crosswalk project (Bharati)
 - they are around \$1K each.
 - she wants 2
 - but probably can't resolve this in 20 days
 - Sam: no need to print, just paint directly on the box
 - for artists, we need to be transparent but we don't have to do open bid (Bill: just get 3 bids on everything and we're good). **Melissa: concern that use of public money requires competition (as stated in founding ordinance for Arts Council)**
- Bird Mural (L4P) on Main Street (October unveiling celebration?)
- Budget? Current ends June 30th and we have \$4K left – **minus cost of poem chapbook**
 - (next mtg: **we need to schedule a time to talk FY26 budgets**)
 - We are letting a lot of the money expire
 - **Projects that know their supplies, order ASAP before Jun 30 to stock up! (send links for product orders to Bill)**

4. **New Business from Members –**

- Angie: After-hours project for Summer Nights **(July)** with painting etc? **Bill: buy away!**
- ~~Booth for Multicultural Festival in October?~~
- ~~Booth for Pride Festival in October~~

Adjourn

- Next meeting July 9th, in person