

**City of West Chicago
Cultural Arts Commission
Thursday, April 4, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

In attendance: Rosemary Mackey, Sara Phalen, Buddy Plumlee, Lew Achenbach, John Keeney, Mandy Rakow, Heide Morris

1. Meeting called to order 7:07p.m.
2. Approval of March 7, 2013 minutes with one edit (music spelled incorrectly). Motion made by Heide, seconded by Buddy, motion carried, minutes approved.
3. Update on Grants Available for Restoration of Gallery 200 2nd Floor: Sara will start drafting the history information for the smaller grants that would bring in an architect or project manager for the use of the upper floors of 200 Main; issue discussed of what the upper floors would be used for; discussion about exhibition space for exhibits beyond Gallery 200 artists, more like artXposium or even traveling/outside shows that could be displayed to bring in more people; also use upper floors for studio space to generate income, and make the educational component in the basement more accessible through an internal stairs; Sara will bring a draft of the history section to the May meeting and then the concept portion can be developed and a draft can be presented in June.
4. Gallery 200 Update: the COD photography show will open tomorrow night with a reception from 6-9pm; the March District 33 show was very well received and it was a great place for the kids to show their work, Heide reported that this is going to be an annual thing; on April 14th there will be 8 gallery members are taking part in Warrenville's Art Festival, also using this as a place to try to recruit some new members through Warrenville Arts Council, looking to participate more in outside things with the goal of trying to get more Gallery members to sign up
5. Banner Project Update: banners have been designed and sent to be printed; there were 31 submissions from 16 artists (a low number from years past); Anni lined up jurors-Mario Contreras and Diana Gabriel who were very quick with their selections; John asked them to select 8 with 3 alternates and the artists that were asked to participate through invitation were added to them; each year the commission talks about limiting photography, but we keep getting a lot; there will be a total of 11 plus the gateway image, with 13 total banners; there was discussion about how to develop a theme for next year and it was thrown out that it would be nice to take suggestions from the public; John will design the banner brochure in time for it to be placed in the Blooming Fest bags; Heide and Rosemary will figure out where to place the banners.
6. Local Music Night Update: April 19th event is set with Rita Ruby, MT or Matthew Tinnon and Mike Felten; at the end of March we collaborated with Soup & Bread to have music at the Park

District event and got a lot of great feedback so we will be having performers present at their April event as well; we are continuing to work on the Blooming Fest line-up.

7. Gallery Theater Update: Janet was not present at the meeting to give an update.
8. Discussion of the Formation of a West Chicago Arts Not-for-Profit: After discussions about the potential for growth of Gallery 200 and Rosemary has reported back to the City each month about the commission's concerns as to some of the regulations regarding Gallery 200 and the use of the 200 Main Street building, based on this it has been suggested that a non-profit should be formed to allow for more flexibility; if a non-profit is formed there will still be support from the city as it comes to the building, although this would change based on the particular sitting city council; there was a concern expressed that there is a heightened risk when there is not a specific commission that is a city body; the issues was also brought up of what the purpose would be of a separate non-profit and if that would parallel the commission's purpose and mission; another issues that was brought up was how would this work with the already existing West Chicago arts and cultural non-profit People Made Visible?; pros and cons of being a commission were discussed included not holding the members together as much and that there would be less of an influence than the commission has now, however a budget could be proposed to the city as a request for funding and a nonprofit entity could seek outside funding; the majority of the commission came to the conclusion that having a separate city commission was important since that body would be who the city would turn to for cultural advice and guidance, but that perhaps Gallery 200, as the primary user of the 200 Main Street building should look into forming their own entity or joining with People Made Visible; a meeting will be set up in the next week or so by Heide to discuss this with the Gallery leaders.
9. Other Business-no other business.
10. Announcements-no other announcements.
11. Adjournment –meeting adjourned at 9:11pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Phalen