

**City of West Chicago**  
**Cultural Arts Commission**  
**Thursday, April 16, 2013 Special Meeting Minutes**

1. Meeting called to order 6:04p.m. Commission members in attendance: Rosemary Mackey, Sara Phalen, Buddy Plumlee, Lew Achenbach, Mandy Rakow, Heide Morris. Guests: Britta Renwick, Sue Weibler, Lou Jacobson (all Gallery 200 members).
  
2. Discussion of the Possibility of Gallery 200 Members Forming a Not-for-Profit or Merging With Existing Not-for-Profit People Made Visible: Rosemary started the discussion by framing the situation at hand and the reasons why this opportunity is being explored: 1-the growth of the gallery has been wonderful since its inception and perhaps going out beyond the CAC would be a natural growth to the Gallery and beneficial as they could stand alone from the City enabling them to seek additional funding, conduct public and private fundraisers and apply for grants and 2-as a CAC initiative using a city building with no written agreement or lease, there are specific rules that have to be complied with including the waiver policy. Based on prior discussions the Gallery has three options: to comply with city rules and continue its existence under the city and the CAC, to form its own organization or to merge with an existing organization. Buddy highlighted the fact that either by being their own organization or through merging that the Gallery could do so much more in terms of fundraising. Britta raised the question of what additional responsibilities this would entail for Gallery 200 members. The additional insurance expense was discussed, but it was also stated that the organization going forward could apply for specific funding from the city to cover “new” expenses. The issue of funding was also discussed as currently all monies collected by the Gallery go into the general funds of the City, and this new opportunity would allow those funds to stay with the Gallery. A new or existing entity would have a lease agreement with the city whereas for a nominal fee the building could be used, and the city would still take care of maintenance as it acted as landlord per say. Sara explained the options for corporate status/non-profit status. It was reiterated that the City would be supportive and a annual request could be made for an operating budget (use of funds would have to be reported to the city quarterly and annually). A more autonomous Gallery 200 would also allow for a separate website that could offer more information and uses. This new structure would also allow for more opportunities with the possibility of using the upper floors of the 200 Main Street Building. The present Gallery 200 members thought it best to first explore the possible merger with People Made Visible as not to duplicate an art organization that already exists in West Chicago. A motion was made to explore this option and all Gallery 200 members present/Gallery 200 volunteer board were in agreement. Steps towards the process: 1-Gallery 200 members lay out their wishes in a merger; 2-meet with People Made Visible to talk about logistics and how Gallery 200 could fit under the People Made Visible organization 3-write proposal for the merged entity to occupy the building.
  
3. Public Participation: none.

4. Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 7:10p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Phalen