

**ARTS, CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT TRANSITION COMMITTEE  
DO BETTER WITH WHAT WE HAVE SUB-COMMITTEE**

MEETING MINUTES  
ED BALL BUILDING, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR SUITE 114  
July 20, 2023 at 1p.m.  
Co-chairs: Liz McCoy, Josh Taylor

**COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE**

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Liz McCoy   | Tim Stephen   |
| Josh Taylor | Jason Peeples |

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES**

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Amy Palmer                 | Kym Wallace  |
| Maurus Alexander DeSaunett | Myesha Jones |

Welcome/Attendance.

Full Committee attendance was recorded. The minutes from July 14<sup>th</sup> were discussed. Jason moved to accept the minutes, Josh seconded. They were approved unanimously.

Liz read the Charge of the Sub-Committee:

- a. Identify existing City-owned historic and culturally important spaces, dormant programs, or neglected venues.
- b. Meet with leaders in city departments and city-managed venues to understand underutilized assets and paused programs
- c. Propose action items reignite and reimagine assets the city already has, with the arts - those who create it, care for it and share it – as the catalyst.

Liz also read the list of deliverables received at the last full Committee Meeting of Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup> to give context for the discussions today. They are:

- Statement as to the current status of each focus area. Strengths/Challenges/Opportunities. Is there data to include in the statement?
- What are 3-5 core documents/resources/reports/best practices you are using?
- What could be done with the support of the Mayor, to begin to address these issues? What is possible in the short term? What needs longer term attention? Is there any “low hanging fruit”?
- For each actionable item how should we measure success?
- Broadly, what resources are needed to implement? Funding, people, process?
- Please provide 5 organizations/individuals you will be inviting to participate as resources to the Committee. Who will you be intersection with in the City?

The Sub-Committee heard from Myesha Jones, a Jacksonville Event Planner who has worked with the City of Jacksonville and other cities across Florida. She compared her experience in working with COJ Special Events Office with other cities. From her discussion, we came up with the potential recommendations:

- Customer Service Training for COJ Special Events Team
- Dedicated position (s) who are experts in COJ Special Events to give advice to an Event Planner before the application process and during the event planning and execution stage.

- Video about permitting or an interactive automated application, with examples to help permitting
- Flexibility in dealing with events, including flexibility with the 90 day deadline rule, and the ability to scale events based on attendance and the very specific needs of each event.
- List of available spaces, with capacities and rules, should be able to view easily.
- Assistance with Police costs, Emergency Readiness Plans, Alcohol permitting.

The Sub-Committee also heard from Maurus DeSaurnett, a Media Artist who compared Jacksonville permitting process to Atlanta and New York City, particularly with Film and media arts. Potential recommendations from this discussion include:

- Film and Media Arts in Jacksonville needs cultivation. We have great talents, but too few opportunities for programs and education.
- Investigate the current COJ Film Commission to see if any local film professionals should be added.
- Look at the State Film incentives that Audrey Gibson tried to get for Florida and see if COJ can obtain on a local level to encourage Film production
- Although the Film permits are free, make the process easier.
- Highlight Jacksonville's Norman Studios on a local, regional and National level.

The Sub-Committee members let everyone know of their upcoming meetings and investigations:

- Jason to reach out to Suzanne Pickett about The Armory
- Liz printed a list from the DIA of Downtown City Owned Properties but Josh will reach out to City Real Estate Division for list of City owned properties throughout the City.
- Josh will also bring information on the process of White Spacing, a method of creating a flexible space for multiple art mediums.
- Tim will also reach out to the Tax Collectors office for a list of City owned Properties.
- Tim will also look into the economics of how funds are obtained and use for COJ Arts Initiatives.
- Liz has meetings set with ASM, FSCJ Artist Series and Florida Theatre. She has reached out to the Jacksonville Symphony but they have not replied yet.

The next meeting will focus on spaces that the City Owns outside of the urban core that can be utilized for Visual Arts. Visual Artists are encouraged to attend. We'd like to have them view some of these spaces for artistic viability.

The Sub-Committee briefly discussed Grant opportunities, but given the time frame for reporting and the template for deliverables, we will not dive too deeply into the details of them.

#### Upcoming Meeting Schedule for Sub-Committee:

Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 3pm, Jessie Ball duPont Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Room 38

Thursday, Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1pm to 3pm, Jessie Ball duPont Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Room 38

Thursday, Aug 10<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 3pm, Jessie Ball duPont Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Room 38

Thursday, Aug 17<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 3pm, Jessie Ball duPont Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Room 38

Public Comment was accepted throughout the meeting

We adjourned at 3:15pm