**Minutes of 3/07/24 Jersey City Art and Culture Trust Fund Committee Meeting**

**Attendance:** Joe Harkins, Lisa Bellan-Boyer, Melida Rodas, Sandra Martiny, Nobuki Takamen, Mira Prinz-Arey (Councilwoman) arrived 5:51pm, Robinson Holloway Natalie Brathwaite (JC Arts Council rep), Migdalia Pagan Milano (JC Office of Cultural Affairs), Christine Goodman (JC Office of Cultural Affairs)

1. **5:46     Call to order**
2. Sunshine Statement
3. Roll call
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. **Old Business**

Approval of the February 22, 2024 meeting minutes; motion; second; all approve.

**6. New Business**

**Update on Grant Applications from Cultural Affairs**: Applications were closed on Monday. Cultural Affairs is going over applications for eligibility. Reviewers are being trained. Applications up 53% more than last year necessitating 3 additional reviewers. A request was made to allocate $750 dollars to cover the additional panelists. The review stipend is $350 each. Sandy moves to approve, Lisa seconds. All agree. There are 114 applications this year. Last year 72 were approved.

**Update on Fellowship Applications from JC Arts Council:** There are 146 applications this year down from 155 last year. Regardless of the number, the JC Arts Council is very happy with the number and quality of the applications. There are a very diverse group of applicants from all wards. The JC Arts Council review panel will begin work soon.

**Statement Concerning Grant Eligibility:** Elizabeth read the following statement to help clarify questions from the public regarding whether multiple applications by the same entity are allowed.

“The founding members of the Arts and Culture Trust Fund Committee worked together to provide a funding opportunity for all art and cultural organizations/individuals within Jersey City. The goal of this grant program, as stated within our policies and procedures, is to create equitable access to the arts across Jersey City. To this end, one application is permitted per applicant.  Which means if the applicant is in a leadership role of an organization, then that applicant cannot also apply as an individual.  An organization’s leadership cannot directly benefit financially from both this grant award and any additional Arts Trust grant awarded to them as an individual or as the owner of a business.

We have improved our application process each year and we will continue to do so, to continue to serve both the arts and culture community and the residents of Jersey City through this program.”

1. **Public Comment:** Robins Holloway expressed her thanks for making the application easier this year
2. **5:59     Meeting is called to adjourn with all approving.**