



STEVEN M. FULOP  
MAYOR

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CHRISTINE GOODMAN  
DIRECTOR

## Jersey City Arts and Culture Trust Fund Committee

### Minutes of 9/19/2024

1. Call to order 5:49 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Sunshine Statement

Please be advised that in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of the time, date, and place of this meeting of the Arts and Cultural Trust Fund Committee has been sent to the City Clerk for posting on the Bulletin Board outside the Clerk's office in City Hall. The City Clerk's office has also been notified of all scheduled public meetings to be held this year. Notice of this meeting has been posted on the Jersey City Office of Cultural Affairs

Website, [jerseycityculture.org](http://jerseycityculture.org); and sent to all local newspapers on September 14, 2024.

I have proof of this notice here in evidence.

4. 5:53 **Attendance**, Elizabeth Phillips Lorenzo, Lisa Bellan-Boyer, Sandra Martiny, Nobuki Takamen, Mira Prinz-Arey (Councilwoman), Migdalia Pagan Milano (JC Office of Cultural Affairs), Sarah Martinez (JC Office of Cultural Affairs). Melida Rodas, Ann Marley, Amy Elise de Jong, Joe Harkins

5. 5:55 **Approval of Minutes** from meeting of June 6, 2024. Moved, seconded, approved.

5:56 Liz Phillips- Lorenzo entered the room

### 5:56 **New Business:**

6. Memorandum- regarding Disputes & Final Determination read for the record

#### Disputes & Final Determination

The Jersey City Law Department understands that questions have recently arisen regarding what rights or processes, if any, exist for grantees to appeal approvals, denials, or amounts of funding for grants awarded from the from the Jersey City Arts & Culture Trust Fund (the "Trust Fund").

Such awards are made by the Jersey City Arts and Culture Committee ("Committee"), which was established by City Ordinance 21-030, and which acts as Jersey City's local arts council pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.11 et seq. The City takes the position that the ultimate decision on distribution of resources from the Trust Fund is made at the discretion of the Committee, and that the Committee's determination of award is therefore final and not subject to modification by



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the City. Thus, no administrative appeal right, nor any process for appealing from a decision of award by the Committee has been established. Upon review of the aforementioned statute and ordinance, the Jersey City Law Department has concluded that the City's present policy of treating all Committee determinations as final is supported by applicable law.

### Discussion

Suggestion that this language is included in the contract and signed by the grantee.

City Lawyer has suggested this language as part of the application process. That the applicant, in neighborly would read, click and sign a box before they have access to application.

Suggestion that it is included in the contract as well.

### Grants Cycle Updates

Most of the 2024-25 grants have received their first 75 percent of award money. Still contracts outstanding. 90 percent have been paid.

### 2023-24

All operation grantees have received their final payments of 25%.

Still waiting for a few invoices from the other grant categories. 35 % have been paid.

### 2022-2023 Year in Review

The report will be presented at the Caucus meeting on Tuesday October 15<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m. by the executive committee. Ann will be there, Sandy will be there, Elizabeth will be there. The presentation will include reports for Caucus members and the public.

### Announcement of new staff person Erin O'Connor

Review of the **2022 City Arts and Cultural Trust Fund Annual Report**: Migdalia Pagan Milano shared her screen to present the draft report for 2022 City Arts and Cultural Trust Fund Annual Report, which represents the committee's 1<sup>st</sup> round of grants. When complete, the report will be distributed in both digital and printed form. Response from committee was positive and some noted the use of logo around town. Question about where public can find the amounts of



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grantee awards by organization since that information isn't included in the publication. Answer, the amounts relative to grantees are made public at the same time the grants are announced and published each spring. It was also noted that the committee meetings are public, and members discuss the grants and amounts leading up to the award date, and all is announced at the award meeting.

Discussion of Slack- questions or concerns. Ways to use it for information and communication. Schedule a date for slack training meeting.

No members of the public

Old business—none

6:34 call to adjourn, seconded, approved.