



**Planning & Development Department**  
**City Hall Annex**  
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**Web Site: <https://www.rochesterarts.info/>**

**Arts and Culture Commission**

Palana Hunt-Hawkins (Chair)  
Ashley Desrochers (City Council Rep)  
Kris Ebbeson  
Ed Pacht (Poet Laureate)  
Chloe White  
Nicole Lee  
Marie Lejune  
Sarah Rowe  
Olivia Miller

**Minutes**

**ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 6:30 pm**

Rochester Museum of Fine Arts – Rochester Community Center  
150 Wakefield St

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**I. Call to Order**

Palana Hunt- Hawkins called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

**II. Roll Call**

Shanna Saunders conducted silent roll call.

**III. Membership**

**IV. Approval of minutes from February 15, 2023**

*A motion was made by Ashley Desrochers and seconded by Marie Lejune to approve minutes from the Arts and Culture Commission meeting held on February 15, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.*

**V. Historic and Cultural Master Plan**

Ms. Saunders let folks know that the Master Plan survey is live. Ms. Lejune showed everyone the bookmarks the Library had completed for outreach about the project. Ms. Desrochers requested that Ms. Saunders send email her information about the Master Plan and she would forward on to her school groups.

**VI. Discussion about private partnerships for public art installs**

- a. Ms. Saunders explained that she had presented an idea to Planning Board regarding incorporating public art into Charitable Gaming facilities with the potential of a public easement. Ms. Saunders explained Planning Board's hesitation to require public art on the front façade of new developments. Arts and Culture commission

collectively discussed how they really thought this was important and submitting an Letter of Support would be beneficial. Ms. Saunders said she could draft one up.

*A motion was made by Ms. Desrochers and seconded by Ms. Lejune to submit a Letter of Support.*

B. Ms. Saunders explained that the Main Street Group was looking to incorporate public art into a spruce up of Wyandotte Alley. The Commission suggested one of Poet Laureate Ed Pacht's Poems artfully displayed on the pavement. Ms. Lejune suggested the one about Rochester being a City with no Mills.

Mr. Pacht agreed he would give permission for this.

The Commission requested someone from Main Street to attend next Arts and Culture Commission Meeting to discuss graffiti issues. Permission given by Mr. Pacht.

## **VII. Discussion on the Rochester Art Show potential**

The Commission reported that there is no update at this time.

## **VIII. Finalization of the Poet Laureate Book**

Ms. Hunt-Hawkins stated that she was continuing to format the book. Ms. Saunders explained how the book could be sold. Ms. Hunt-Hawkins stated that the selling process is excessive and that it may not be worth it. Lilac Press in Gonic can print 50 books for \$15.00 each at 90 pages. Mr. Pacht said he prefers Lulu Press online which is cheaper and he can print on demand.

Mr. Pacht stated that he currently has his books in an Art Gallery in Hampton.

## **IX. Other Business**

Maple Street Magnet School Art Show is being held at the Rochester Performing Arts Center on March 25, 2023 at 1330-1530.

Rochester Library is currently exhibiting children's art.

Ms. Pacht stated that he spoke with Superintendent regarding speaking on poetry.

New England Placemaking Conference is being held on May 19, 2023; time of event is uncertain. Ms. Saunders asked if there was interest in the event being shown in Council Chambers for multiple Boards to view since it is held virtually. The A&CC was interested.

Mr. Pacht recited poem.

## **IX. Adjournment**

*Ms. Lejune made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 750 PM. Ms. Desrochers seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.*