

**ARTS COMMITTEE REPORT & MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023, 5:30 PM**  
**CITY HALL, SPINDLE CONFERENCE ROOM, 181 S. SOUTH ST, GASTONIA, NC**

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION:</b>	<b>ACTION TAKEN:</b>
<b>ITEM 1: Welcome and Call to Order</b>	Chairman Jennifer Stepp called the Arts Committee meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and introduced new Committee Members Ms. Kathleen Finch and Mr. Ethan Peeler. Chairman Stepp recognized staff for presentations.	
<b>ITEM 2.A: Community Engagement Sub-Committee Report</b>	Ms. Christine Ingle provided an update on various Arts events and fielded various questions from the Committee.  Ms. Ingle requested feedback on planning for a Performing Arts Show in the next fiscal year. After some discussion, the Committee directed staff to continue to work with the sub-committee on this item.	The Committee accepted the presentation for informational purposes only. No action taken.
<b>ITEM 2.B: Public Art Sub- Committee Report</b>	Ms. Juliann Lehman presented information on the Biggers Stretch Art project and requested direction from the Committee and fielded various questions from the Committee.  After some discussion, Ms. Stitt made a motion to approve a budget of \$3,000 and to find and secure a location for the Biggers Stretch Art project by the end of fiscal year 2024. Mr. Epstein seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.	The Committee voted unanimously (7-0) to approve a motion approving a budget of \$3,000 and secure a location for the Biggers Stretch Art project by the end of fiscal year 2024.
<b>ITEM 2.C: Grant Sub- Committee Report</b>	Ms. Amber Bridges presented an update on grant disbursements and fielded various questions from the Committee.  Chairman Stepp stated that Gaston College was not able to spend a portion of their grant in the amount of \$806 due to students not cashing their checks.  Attorney Charles Graham stated that the grant funds would need to be paid back to the City of Gastonia.	The Committee accepted the presentation for informational purposes only. No action taken.
<b>ITEM 3: Other Business</b>	Chairman Stepp presented information on a Community Arts Organization meeting regarding a Belmont Abbey Performing Arts Center project that she attended along with Mr. Epstein.  The Committee set the next meeting date for Monday, February 19, 2024 at 5:30 pm.  No other business was discussed.	The Committee accepted the presentation for informational purposes only. No action taken.

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<b>ITEM 4:</b> <b>Adjournment</b>	Chairman Stepp adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m.	
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Committee Members Attending:

Councilwoman Jennifer Stepp, Chairman  
Mark Epstein  
Cassandra Longeway  
Cynthia Stitt  
Jackie Radford  
Kathleen Finch  
Ethan Peeler

Committee Members Absent:

Councilman Jim Gallagher  
Clara R. Odom

Staff Attending:

Quentin McPhatter, Assistant City Manager  
Charles Graham, Assistant City Attorney  
Juliann Lehman, Keep Gastonia Beautiful Administrator  
Christine Ingle, Event Planner & Resource Manager  
Amber Bridges, Economic Development Specialist  
Candice Owenby, Deputy City Clerk

Guests/Friends of the Committee Attending:

Pamela Underwood  
Dorothy Lodge