

**City of Takoma Park, Maryland  
Arts and Humanities Commission  
Worksession Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, June 23, 2015**

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The City of Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission met on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 in the Hydrangea Room, Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park.

**Members Present:** Eric Gordon, GeylInn Hurt, M. Charlene Porter, Camilla Schaeffer, Marilyn Sklar, and Susan Strasser

**Members Absent:** Elizabeth Mische, Iva Saller

**Staff Present:** Emily Cohen, Arts Coordinator

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**1) Call to Order**

Worksession was called to order by Susan Strasser at 7 p.m.

**2) Presentation of Background Research**

- a. Philanthropic sector – Marilyn Sklar presented a synopsis she wrote on philanthropic agencies. We have many potential resources for funding arts and humanities programs in Takoma Park – national, state and local. The key is to determine our goals in the strategic plan then research which philanthropic agency best matches the program needs.
- b. Cultural history of Takoma Park – Charlene Porter presented her research the cultural history of Takoma Park. Stemming out of this presentation, commissioners decided to hold roundtable discussions in September with community members informed about the history of arts and culture in Takoma Park and the region. These discussions would be moderated by a journalist.
- c. Current Arts & Humanities organizations in Takoma Park – Camilla Schaeffer presented her research compiling a comprehensive list of all the arts and humanities related institutions in Takoma Park.
- d. Crossover with other City Commissions – Eric Gordon presented ideas of potential collaboration with other City commissions, particularly the Board of Elections, the Committee on the Environment, and the Commemorations Commission. Possible collaborations with these commissions could assist both the survey and data collection process for the Cultural Plan as well as promoting arts programming, as well as cross programming and collaboration.

- e. Gelynn Hurt also serves on the Commemoration Commission and the commissioners discussed the idea of commemorating the auditorium, as well as other spaces throughout the City.

### **3) Discussion of Additional Research Needed**

Commissioners discussed the need for roundtable discussions after Labor Day (Date TBD), focus groups, surveys, further outreach for individuals (as opposed to groups/businesses) in the Humanities/Arts. The timeline for the project was shifted with this “phase 2” research occurring in the fall. Commissioners discussed need to include filmmakers in artist outreach component. Over Dropbox, commissioners will add their ideas for potential moderators for these discussions.

### **4) Review of Project Schedule**

Adjusted project timeline as follows:

- September – October: Phase two research
- November – January: Drafting of report
- February: Council presentation of draft report
- April: Final report adopted

### **5) Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Eric Gordon