

## **Amherst Cultural Council**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Via Zoom 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Members present in Zoom: Matt Holloway, Julianne Applegate, Robin Thompson, Arthur Pero, Joy Jarne, Rachel Wang, Christy Anderson, Leah Neuburger, and Cole Graber-Mitchell.

1. Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m. Matt read the Zoom script for tonight's meeting. The meeting is recorded and will be uploaded to Town Website.
2. March 29 minutes approved by roll-call vote.
3. Youssoupha Sidibe reimbursement: Julianne reported that Youssoupha Sidibe has completed an amendment request for his 2021 project. His amended proposal is to complete eight unique broadcasts to be shown through Amherst Media, which is on board. The dates have changed; the events are now performances, not workshops; they are no longer targeted at school-aged students; the reach has expanded through partnership with Amherst Media; and he is still asking for the full \$2,000 for a reduced number of sessions (\$250 per performance, up from \$200 in the original grant). The broadcasts would be completed between May 20 and June 4. Council members noted that this was essentially a new proposal for a project year already passed, but also noted that 2021 was a difficult year for artists and that we have been very flexible with requests from that year. Julianne noted that Sidibe will also need to amend his 2022 request, which did not happen within the time frame that he proposed. After discussing the merits of the request, the Council unanimously approved it with two changes: his fee will be \$200 per performance for a maximum of ten performances, and he will have until July 15 to complete his performances and reimbursement request.
4. The Council had a brief impromptu discussion about the difficulties posed by the direct granting model, which it piloted this year.
5. Accessibility event recap: Matt reported that the accessibility event went well and proposed planning, at a future meeting, an accessibility event next fall.
6. The Council shifted to a discussion about setting a fixed meeting date, which Rachel proposed over email. Rachel also asked if the council needed to meet every month. The Council decided to wait until new members joined in a few months to fix a meeting date, if at all.
7. The Council unanimously approved an amendment request moving the deadline of Maitreyee Chakraborty's grant.

8. Discuss featuring showcase content via Amherst Media: Julianne said she would reach out to Amherst Media about the collaboration.
9. Robin reported that the Council has sent out 56 checks to grantees as part of the pilot of direct granting.
10. Next meeting at 5 p.m. on June 7.
11. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.