

**City of Takoma Park**  
**Arts and Humanities Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 25, 2022**

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The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Committee met on Jan. 25, 2022, via Zoom.

**Members Present:** Lottie Doughty, Dale Ingram, Bethany Karn, Melanie Modlin, Tommy Parlon, Dayrelis Rios, Leslie Sapp, Ramon Sola and John Warren

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith

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### **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 7 pm.

### **Adoption of Minutes**

A motion was made by Parlon and seconded by Modlin to approve the minutes of the Nov. 21, 2021, meeting as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Overview of Takoma Park Arts Events and Upcoming Events**

Smith described the upcoming events calendar. The Jan. 27 immigrant poets reading and the Word Dance group performance had to be postponed because of Covid concerns about holding events at the Community Center. The *Vintage Movie Night: Whitewashing U.S. History* film screening will be moved online with a YouTube premiere on Feb. 10. Smith said he will decide soon about whether the March 3 horror films lecture and the March 18 cabaret will be postponed or canceled. Sola asked how best to promote these events. Smith said promotional posters have been printed, and committee members can promote the events through Facebook or by email with their contacts.

### **Overview of Public Art Projects**

Smith provided an overview of the City's recent public art projects, including a new banner by artist Lillian Blom that was installed in Memorial Park. Karn asked whether more text could be included on the banner to explain the background of the piece. Smith said the website links on the poster for the Arts and Humanities Division and Blom's website provide more info about the project which celebrates the power and diversity of women through portraits of women from the D.C. area.

A new installation titled *Paper or Plastic?* was purchased with public art funds and will be suspended from the ceiling in the atrium at the Community Center. It was made by

artist Jessica Beels from fused newspaper delivery bags and reused straws, and it has an environmental message.

Another upcoming project features vinyl designs that will be installed on the glass panels at five new bus shelters. Some of the designs will promote the *Takoma Park Arts* series and will feature artwork by local artists and images of local performers.

### **Future Calls for Poetry Readings, Film Screenings, and Performances**

Smith said new calls will be issued later this year for new performances, poetry readings, and film screenings in the *Takoma Park Arts* series. Karn asked whether Smith could alert the committee when those calls were going out and he agreed. Poet Laureate Kathleen O'Toole will lead the poetry reading selection and the search committee for a new poet laureate because her term ends on June 30. She'll be joined by some local poets on those committees.

Smith said several events that were delayed due to pandemic restrictions will be rescheduled, and new events may be organized to fill gaps in the schedule.

Sapp asked whether submissions are restricted to Takoma Park residents. Smith said anyone is free to reply to the *Takoma Park Arts* calls, but poet laureate applicants must be local residents.

An upcoming poetry reading will feature poets from Colombia, Ethiopia, and Sri Lanka with some poems in both Spanish and English. Warren asked whether committee members could do introductions at some upcoming events as has been done in the past, and Smith agreed. Warren said a silent movie night, with local musicians supplying the score, might be a fun and family-friendly event.

Smith said submission calls and upcoming events are promoted through multiple outlets, including the City's Facebook page and website, the *Takoma Park Arts* e-newsletter, and local arts and community websites. Committee members also suggested reaching out to local high schools and colleges, including for a possible poetry slam. Busboys and Poets hosts events featuring rap and spoken word. Doughty said Blair High School has a literary magazine with members who may be interested in performing at future poetry readings.

Committee members volunteered to serve on committees to review the submissions from the upcoming calls.

Performances: Lottie Doughty, Tommy Parlon, Leslie Sapp, and John Warren.

Film Screenings: Bethany Karn, Melanie Modlin, and Dayrelis Rios.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Submitted by Secretary Melanie Modlin