

Portage Cultural Arts Committee Meeting Notes March 19, 2025

Attendees: Amy Dunham, Dennis Martin, Kathleen Hoyle, Mary Reed, Jenn Gomes

Absent: Carolyn Fitzmaurice, Satch Huizenga

Guests: Andre' Jones

- 1) Sincere did not have a quorum we held discussions and planning for future events. We welcomed Mary Reed to join the Executive Committee. We accepted a committee resignation email from Cathy Feeman due to time constraints at work. She would be interested in helping with future projects, when available. Amy will check with Carolyn Fitzmaurice to check on her availability for the committee. Dennis offered to email Laura Weiler, Ellie Deleon, Erin Schauer, Mary Kenney Julie Stotz-Ghjosh and Guillermo Sotelo to notify them of our refocus effort and to determine if they had continuing interest in the committee. They will be offered the option of deletion from our database. Scott Paquin has gotten quite busy with work but would help with events. Russ Bronson, Andrea Stork, Rick Freiman, Venn Sandoval and Maribeth (Artisan Representation Kalamazoo) are all interested in working with the committee.
- 2) Dennis suggested that we move the Sculpture/Rebar Trees, Snowflake Challenge and Gallery Walk to Old Business for future consideration and updates. We will keep the Holiday Card Entry on New Business as we want to participate in 2025. Mary has done some additional research on the Pecha Kucha events. We'll ask Andrea Stork to be point person as we pursue this concept. Kathleen believes we do not need a "franchise".
- 3) At the February Special Meeting of the committee it was suggested that we host an Open House, Artists Meeting Artists II, in May. Kathleen is checking if the rooms are available April 16 for a planning meeting and May 16 for the event. We could invite artists to bring a sample of their work, include an open mic for entertainment, do decor, activity and refreshments as before. The event could have a theme related to the anniversary of the tornado.
- 4) Dennis and Mary shared an update on outreach. Dennis attended a meeting of the Kalamazoo County Public Arts Commission and learned about the opportunity to have a presentation at the WMU Student Center - The Corner, to promote our efforts and recruit students. Mary learned how we can submit a news release for events to the Kalamazoo Arts Council and they will distribute it to the database of over 1,000 artists/organizations. Dennis will contact our guest, Andre Jones to share how he can be involved with the committee.
- 5) Amy will prepare a organizational calendar to help with scheduling.