



**Evanston Arts Council Meeting**  
Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 6:30 p.m.  
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, 2402

**AGENDA**

1. **Call to Order and Declaration of a Quorum**
2. **Public Comment**
3. **Approve Meeting Minutes from January 14, 2020**
4. **Consideration**
  - A. Neighborhood Arts Grant
    1. Waa-Mu
5. **Discussion**
  - A. Retreat
  - B. Amusement Tax
6. **Communications**
  - A. Chairs Report
  - B. Public Art Subcommittee Report
  - C. Equity in the Arts Subcommittee Report
  - D. Staff Report
7. **Announcements**
8. **Adjournment**

**Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 10, 2020**

**Order & Agenda Items are subject to change.** Information about the Arts Council is available at: [cityofevanston.org/government/agendas-minutes/arts-council](http://cityofevanston.org/government/agendas-minutes/arts-council)  
Questions can be directed to Paulina Martínez 847-859-7833

*The city is committed to ensuring accessibility for all citizens; If an accommodation is needed to participate in this meeting, please contact this Department 48 hours in advance so that arrangements can be made for the accommodation if possible.*



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**Evanston Arts Council Meeting**  
Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 6:30 p.m.  
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, 2402

**Member Present:** Indira Johnson, Chantal Healey, Dr. Jamal Ahmad, Judith Cohen, Toby Sachs (Vice-chair), William Jones, Gay Riseborough, Maasai Amewa, James Deeb.

**Members Absent:** Beth Adler (Chair), Angela Williams, Lisa Corrin

**Staff Present:** Paulina Martínez (Assistant to the City Manager)

**1. Call to Order and Declaration of a Quorum**

The meeting 6:33 p.m.

**2. Public Comment**

**3. Approve Meeting Minutes from December 10, 2019**

Ms. Riseborough asked to add the following comments under item 4B:

“Mr. Riseborough also objected to losing the non-Arts Council members that currently serve in the Public Arts Subcommittee.”

Mr. Deeb made the following amendments:

“Page 1, Public Comments, second sentence: add the words "with an" between "kicked-off" & "event.”

Page 2, Consideration, first paragraph, second sentence: Initial cap Raman.

Page 2, Consideration, seventh paragraph (in bold): It would probably be more accurate to say "Ms. Johnson abstained.”

Page 3, Discussion, third paragraph, first sentence: change "Hancok" to "Hancock.”

Page 3, Discussion, seventh paragraph, first sentence: add the word "apply" between "tax" & "to.”

**Minutes approved as amended. 8-0-1. Dr. Ahmad abstained.**

**4. Consideration**

A. Cultural Fund Program Guidelines Update

Mr. Sachs reviewed the proposed changes to the guidelines and application:

- Change the “Diversity in the Arts Goals” to:

- 38                   ○ “Equity in the Arts” - The applicant organization must demonstrate  
39 their efforts to realize the Equity in the Arts Goals set by the Arts  
40 Council. The goals are to:  
41                   1. Promote equity and inclusion throughout the arts in  
42 Evanston, regardless of gender, race, ethnic background,  
43 age, ability or sexual orientation.  
44                   2. Ensure that the cultural arts programs the Council supports  
45 reflect the diversity of the Evanston community.  
46                   3. Make the arts accessible to all people, including those with  
47 disabilities.  
48
- 49                   - Change Question #3 in the application to:  
50                   ○ “What steps are you taking to ensure that your programs and  
51 activities are diverse, equitable and inclusive for all community  
52 members? In what way do the activities of your organization  
53 enhance the social and cultural health of Evanston? How do you  
54 collaborate with community partners to reach your goals?”  
55

56 Mr. Sachs also conveyed Ms. Adler’s suggested changes:

- 57  
58                   - p8 Purpose of Cultural Fund

59 ....to make available the extraordinary assets of Evanston's arts community to all  
60 of Evanston's citizens (I would like to add something here about financial access  
61 and non-discrimination, but you get the idea) The current text reads to establish  
62 Evanston "as an arts hub and destination" which speaks to the economic benefit  
63 and I am not sure that is our goal. As I understand it it is for Evanston artists to  
64 develop programs and events that benefit all Evanstonians.  
65

- 66                   - p9 Catagories

67 General Support to Organizations, *not just Grants to Organizations*  
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69 **Mr. Deeb moved to approve the proposed changed. Ms. Johnson**  
70 **seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**  
71

## 72 5. Discussion

### 73 A. Cultural Fund Program Panel – Judges Search

74 Mr. Sachs asked the Arts Council members to volunteer for the Cultural Fund  
75 Grant panel and to reach but to others who might be interested. Those interested  
76 should email Mr. Sachs before the next meeting.  
77

### 78 B. Public Art Vacancies

79 Mr. Sachs invited those interested in joining the Public Art Subcommittee. There  
80 are currently two vacancies.  
81

82 Ms. Riseborough added that those interested should email her directly.

83

84 C. Future Public Art Commissions Assessment

85 This item was tabled for a later meeting.

86

87 **6. Communications**

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A. Chairs Report

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Mr. Sachs discussed the possible dates for the Arts Council retreat. He directed Ms. Martínez to send a Doodle Poll with possible dates starting in mid-April through early May.

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93 B. Public Art Subcommittee Report

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Ms. Riseborough reported the subcommittee did not meet in January because it is waiting on updates of ongoing projects.

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Ms. Riseborough also reported that *Stitch* is still waiting for the materials to arrive and be repaired. *Search & Effect* is being inspected in the coming weeks. The 828 Noyes project continues waiting to hear back from CTA regarding the right of way permit.

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102 C. Equity in the Arts Working Group Report

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Mr. Sachs reported the working group will meet on January 15 in the morning.

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105 D. Staff Report

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No report.

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**7. Announcements**

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Ms. Riseborough will speak at 1100 Florence on January 15, 2020.

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Mr. Amewa is participating in the Foster School play at Mudlark.

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Mr. Jones is working on a new play.

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Ms. Johnson will host a kick-off event for “The Year of Kindness” on January 26.

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**8. Adjournment**

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

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## Memorandum

To: Evanston Arts Council

From: Paulina Martínez, Assistant to the City Manager

Subject: Neighborhood Arts Grant Funding Requests

Date: February 5, 2020

Summary:

Staff received one request for funding through the Neighborhood Arts Grant program, previously known as the Community Support Fund program.

Applicant/Project	Recommended Amount	Project Budget	Item Requested
Waa-Mu	\$ 1,000	\$ 170,550	Marketing
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>	-	-

For FY 2020, \$15,000 was allocated to the Community Support Fund. To date, 0 grants have been awarded, leaving the fund with \$15,000.

Background:

The Neighborhood Arts Grant is a grant awarded by the Evanston Arts Council to support small art projects by organizations and individual artists in Evanston, that do not exceed \$1,000 or 50% of the project, whichever is less. An excerpt from the funding request staff received is below:

Waa-Mu

“The Waa-Mu show is Northwestern University’s oldest theatrical tradition, where over 150 students come together every year to write, produce, and stage an original full-length musical. This year’s show is titled State of the Art and is set in a not-so-distant future metropolis where a covert group of artists are vandalizing world-renowned pieces of street art. When the mayor’s misfit child crosses paths with the vandals, the city elite find themselves caught between their dreams for their city to take its place on the national stage and the truth behind these young citizens’ acts of resistance.”

Attachments:

- Waa-Mu Application (links to supporting documents embedded)

Have you read the Neighborhood Arts Grant Program Guidelines? \*

Yes

Have you received funding from the Neighborhood Arts Grant Program in the last three (3) years? (Previously known as the Community Support Fund) \*

No

If "yes," please list all Neighborhood Arts Grants (previously known as the Community Support Fund) received in the last three (3) years. Include date, amount, and name of project.

Primary Contact Name \*

Amanda Sugiharto

Organization (if applicable)

The Waa-Mu Show (Northwestern University)

Address \*

[REDACTED]  
Evanston, IL 60201  
United States

Email \*

[REDACTED]

Phone Number \*

[REDACTED]

Amount requested (Please note that this program supports up to to 50% of the project's total budget to a maximum of \$1,000; the budget may include in-kind donations) \*

1000

Please upload a complete project budget which details the expenses for the entire project. Indicate where other revenue is coming from and what items this fund will go towards procuring. \*



[waa\\_budget\\_evanston\\_grant.pdf](#) 524.59 KB · PDF

Is this an ongoing program that you will be requesting funding for in subsequent years?

No

Please describe your project. Include details about what disciplines, genres, and subject matters are involved. What do you hope are the outcomes of the project? \*

The Waa-Mu show is Northwestern University's oldest theatrical tradition, where over 150 students come together every year to write, produce, and stage an original full-length musical. This year's show is titled State of the Art and is set in a not-so-distant future metropolis where a covert group of artists are vandalizing

world-renowned pieces of street art. When the mayor's misfit child crosses paths with the vandals, the city elite find themselves caught between their dreams for their city to take its place on the national stage and the truth behind these young citizens' acts of resistance.

While addressing important topics such as gentrification, climate change, and the value of art, the overarching theme of State of the Art will be how community can exist in a world where survival has become a commodity. Through this project, we hope to amplify previously silenced voices using the medium of theatre, as well as give students a voice in the growing issues of today's world. We want our audience to leave the theatre having been not only entertained, but also informed and equipped to think and talk about the issues the show touches on, perhaps even from a perspective they have not previously considered.

**Please provide a timetable for your project/program/event:** Rehearsals: March 31 - April 30 , Show dates: May 1-10

**Please list those who will be involved in the project. (Lead organizer, lead artist, heads of organizations, etc.) Please include a brief 2-3 sentence biography for each of those listed detailing their expertise, relevance to the project, and their relation to the City of Evanston. \***

Amanda Tanguay, Director: Amanda Tanguay is a Chicago-based director, choreographer, actor, and writer. Highlights include: directing and choreographing PINKALICIOUS, THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES, and THE VELVETEEN RABBIT at the Marriott Theatre, choreographing CINDERELLA AFTER THE BALL and PINOCCHIO at the Marriott Theatre and JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH and CHARLOTTE'S WEB at Drury Lane Theatre. Previously at Northwestern, she was also associate director and choreographer for the 2018 and 2019 Waa-Mu Shows.

Emma Griffone, Co-Chair: Emma Griffone is a senior Theatre major and English Literature minor in the Music Theatre Certificate Program residing in Evanston for the past 3 years. Her involvement in Waa-Mu includes writing for BEYOND BELIEF, performing in MANHATTAN MIRACLE and FOR THE RECORD, being on Team Music for all three shows, and being the Company Manager and one of the Accessibility, Inclusivity, and Diversity Co-Directors for the FTR. Emma is also a Performance and Satellite Venues Supervisor at Northwestern.

Leo Scheck, Co-Chair: Leo Jared Scheck grew up visiting Evanston frequently during the summer and is a current senior at Northwestern University. As co-chair and producer of the Waa-Mu show, he directly oversees all marketing strategy and execution, and coordinates with his fellow co-chairs to produce and develop STATE OF THE ART. Previously, Leo produced the regional premiere of DRY LAND in Evanston, production managed NEXT TO NORMAL and Dolly Parton's 9 TO 5, and worked on the Marketing and Communications team for HAMILTON.

Jon Toussaint, Co-Chair: Jon Toussaint is a senior living in Evanston and studying Theatre, Musical Theatre, French, and Psychology. His journey with Waa-Mu began freshman year as a member of Waa-2, and since then he couldn't stay away, joining the casts of BEYOND BELIEF, MANHATTAN MIRACLE, and FOR THE RECORD, as well as co-directing Waa-2 his sophomore year and working on Events and Community Programming his junior year. Outside of theatre, he is a food-lover and avid meditator, and helps facilitate art classes for social and emotional learning in local preschools through Open Studio Project.

Olivia Worley, Co-Chair: Originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, Olivia now lives in Evanston, where she studies theatre and business at Northwestern University. A current senior, Olivia has performed at the Wirtz Center and in The Waa-Mu Show, and she has also served as a Co-Producer of student performances of

STEP ON A CRACK and INTO THE WOODS. As the Co-Chair leading the finance, development, and alumni relations teams, Olivia could not be more excited to be involved with Waa-Mu for a fourth year.

While the above five people are leaders of this year's Waa-Mu Show, our project also includes a writing team of 29 students led by 4 student Writing Coordinators, an executive board of 37 students, a music team of 15 students and growing, and a cast of 30 students.

**How will this project be available to the Evanston community? How will you promote the event to the community? What do you project to be the size of the audience? How many Evanston residents will benefit? \***

The Waa-Mu Show will be staged in Cahn Auditorium on the campus of Northwestern University in Evanston. It is open to the public and attracts about 5,200 audience members each year. Approximately 85% of our audiences are non-students, mostly from the Chicagoland area. For promoting the event, our executive board has a full student marketing team, who works with the Wirtz Center for Performing Arts, to ensure that our show reaches audiences both within and outside of the Northwestern community. Additionally, Waa-Mu offers a program called Wee-Mu, which is an educational workshop about musical theatre for Evanston children and their families. Waa-Mu also hopes to partner with local schools to organize group tickets, so our show can reach Evanston middle and high school aged students as well.

**What are your plans to make this project inclusive, diverse, and equitable? \***

In past years, Waa-Mu as an organization has implemented many valuable programs to ensure accessibility: for example, adding an Accessibility, Inclusion, and Diversity team to our executive board, as well as open-captioned performances with touch tours before the show. We plan to continue these efforts this year. Additionally, Cahn Auditorium, where the performance will be held, complies with ADA accessibility regulations. We also hope to move forward with new initiatives, such as hiring ushers with basic sign language knowledge and hosting panel discussions about our show's themes and other important topics, including representation and identity in theatre.

**Is there a fee to access this event/program/project?** Yes

**If yes, how much?** 25

**I agree to all the terms and conditions of the Neighborhood Arts Grant Program.** Yes

**Digital signature. I attest that the above information is true.** Amanda Sugiharto