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Ridgefield Arts Council
Meeting Minutes April 5, 2021

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RIDGEFIELD CT
AmCarty, Host.

RAC Members in attendance: Jennifer DiLaura, Hilary Aronow, Raje Kaur, Amy Casey, Andrew Okrongly, Jennifer Dineen, Pamme Jones, Joe Collin

Excused: Tracey Bryggman, Danielle Roth, Josh Fischer

Guest: Colleen Cash

MINUTES

Raje made a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting, Pamme seconded it, and all approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

We've included the \$230 renewal of the website which comes out of town budget. We have around \$900 left in our town budget for the fiscal year, which will be going towards MMD and Behind the Scenes. We are waiting to hear on a \$750 MMD day grant and the budget request from the town of Ridgefield

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Our Artists, Our Schools-Dani & Tracey have an event that is scheduled in collaboration with the RSO doing a strings workshop for 4th & 5th grade students in the district. They are reaching out to 3rd grade teachers about a creative writing workshop, and possibly an event with other elementary kids with author/illustrator Joe Belisle. Raje is in discussions with the RARE organization who has suggested readings on anti-racism. Raje has been in touch with Tina Malhotra from the BOE to address the gap in our curriculum and how the arts can be a great way to introduce diversity into our schools.
2. Banners-This month the Aldrich has all 20 banners. We need to reach out to Compassionate Ridgefield to see if they are having the event for the signing the Charter of Compassion (a worldwide initiative). Raje will follow up. ACT and RCD banners go up in May.
3. Marketing-There will be a town-wide marketing initiative called "Summer of Song" which is a marketing campaign that is incorporating the efforts of the local arts organizations, restaurants and venues, in partnership with the ECDC and the Chamber. It will help amplify the marketing and messaging to grow economic activity by promoting concerts in Ballard Park, MMD, the Playhouse, Keeler Tavern and live music at restaurants. We need to secure funding for banners, postcards, stipends for performing artists, etc.
4. Grants-No update on the status of the State of CT or NEA grants.
5. Scholarship-So far there have been no applications submitted-the deadline 4/15. Hilary will do another Facebook post reminding students to submit applications.
6. Behind the Scenes-We need to purchase awards (the largest component of the budget outside of food & drinks). We have enough awards for this year, but we need to order for next year's event. Pamme made a motion to approve this proposal, Jennifer Dineen seconded all approved. We are adding Barb Jennes, the newly announced Poet Laureate to the event. A nominee was selected and approved by all for the Nancy award.

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7. Make Music Day-The website is now up and running and the initial press release is ready to go- Hilary will send it out to media outlets.
8. Survey-Arts organizations said they would like more social media support, collaboration communication beyond EDR and an increase in media support. Jennifer Dineen will reach out to Dani & Tracey about setting up a marketing/social media meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be 5/10/20201

Minutes taken by Hilary Aronow