

**CITY OF NORWALK  
ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - JANUARY 6, 2026  
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

**ATTENDEES** : Brian Kaspr (Chair), Steven Rust, Marc Alan, Robert Abriola, Melissa Matuska, Nori Grudin, Kevin Huffman (Ex-Officio).

**STAFF:** Sabrina Godeski (Host/Staff)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Arts and Cultural Commission was called to order by Mr. Kaspr at 6:00 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Mr. Kaspr conducted roll call and a quorum was established.

**III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**A. Regular Meeting: December 2, 2025**

**\*\* MR. ALAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2025 REGULAR MEETING AS PRESENTED.**

**\*\* MR. ABRIOLA SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\*THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION (MS. MATUSKA ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE BECAUSE SHE WAS ABSENT FROM THE DECEMBER 2, 2025 MEETING.**

The minutes of the December 2, 2025 regular meeting were approved as presented and there were no omissions, deletions, or corrections.

**IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present or signed up to speak during the public participation period.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Authorize the sponsorship of the Norwalk Film Festival - CT TV Fest in the amount of \$1,000.**

Acct: 01-1450-5623

Mr. Huffman provided an overview of the proposed CT TV Fest, described as Connecticut's first television and creator festival. The event is a collaboration between the Norwalk Film Festival, Bridgeport Film Fest, and Launchpad. It will be a one-day event held at Space 67 and Lot 48 on

Wall Street in Norwalk, featuring daytime workshops (including a production assistant workshop with Netflix representatives, a 60-second storytelling workshop, and a YouTube workshop) followed by an evening awards ceremony recognizing Connecticut-based television and creator production work across various roles.

Mr. Huffman reported that the event has secured sponsorships and in-kind contributions from Connecticut TV and Digital Media, the Connecticut Film Office, Stamford Studios, Channel 12, Connecticut Public Television, and others. Expected attendance is 200–250 people from across the state. Total expenses are approximately \$15,000, with roughly \$12,000 already raised. The request is for a \$1,000 sponsorship from the City of Norwalk to support promotion and to lend the event the City's endorsement.

Mr. Alan expressed strong support, citing the economic benefits seen from past productions such as Netflix's *The Good Nurse* filmed in Norwalk, which boosted local businesses and attracted new residents.

Mr. Rust inquired about how Norwalk and Connecticut compare to other film-friendly locations; Mr. Huffman noted challenges including union rules affecting crew costs beyond a certain distance from New York, but emphasized Norwalk's growing creative community and the potential for the event to highlight the city as a production hub.

Ms. Matuska suggested exploring ways to promote existing City incentives (such as low-rent opportunities) to attract smaller production groups. Mr. Huffman agreed and mentioned the value of providing filming location resources to attendees.

**\*\* MR. ALAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE  
NORWALK FILM FESTIVAL - CT TV FEST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000.  
\*\* MR. ABRIOLA SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\*THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

No items were presented under New Business.

## **VII. DISCUSSION**

The Commission discussed planning for an upcoming introductory event titled "Get to Know the Norwalk Arts Commission." Ms. Godeski reported that Ms. Sylvester and Mr. Abriola are leading the effort, with brainstorming underway for locations. Potential venues mentioned included the Mansion at St. Phillips.

Mr. Alan suggested coordinating with SPAG artists for open studios or related activities if held at the Mansion. Ms. Godeski indicated a target date in mid-February, likely around February 19. Mr. Alan volunteered to assist with the event.

Additional brief discussion occurred regarding Commission member terms and interest from Mr. Huffman in joining the Commission when a seat becomes available.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* MS. MATUSKA MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
- \*\* MR. RUST SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\*THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:24 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Courtney Baldwin,  
Recording Secretary**