

**Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** May 5, 2020 – 5:15pm  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom / Dial in by phone: (646)558-8656,  
Meeting ID: 925 5778 8033  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chairman James Delaune  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Jay Mahler, Nettie Tomshaw  
**PRESENT:** Deputy Chair Thomas Corcoran, Legislators Peter Criswell, David  
Donaldson, John Parete, Mary Wawro  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Eve Walter, Marc Rider, County Executive, Mark Cozzupoli, Dir. Veterans' Services, Jamie Capuano, VP for Administrative Services, SUNY Ulster Jerry Sheehan, Asst to VPs for Academic Affairs & Enrollment Mgt SUNY Ulster / Recorder  
Public Comments from: Adrielle Farr [City of Kingston Dir. of Arts & Cultural Affairs], Linda Marston-Reid [Exec. Dir., Arts Mid-Hudson], Christopher Silva [Exec. Dir., Bardavon/UPAC], Richard Frumess [Founder, R&F Handmade Paints], Lynn Woods [Kingston Arts Commission]

Chairman Delaune called the meeting to order at 5:20pm

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**SUNY Ulster Update :**      **Jamie Capuano, VP for Administrative Services, SUNY Ulster**  
  
Refer to annexed transcript

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**Resolutions for May 19, 2020 Session:**

**Resolution No. 140** – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With Imagine Better, Inc. D/B/A Don't Be A Monster For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution pertains to an agreement for \$5000 for use in producing antibullying campaigns in area schools.

**Discussion:** Refer to annexed transcript

**Motion By:** Legislator Criswell  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Wawro

**Voting in Favor:** Legislators Delaune, Criswell, Corcoran, Donaldson, Parete, Wawro  
**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 6  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Resolution adopted

**Motion No. 1**                      **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 140**

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**Resolution No. 143** – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Ulster Performing Arts Center For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution pertains to an agreement to pay \$25,000 in funding to the Ulster Performing Arts Center.

**Discussion:** Refer to annexed transcript

**Motion By:** Legislator Donaldson  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislators Criswell

**Voting in Favor:** Legislators Delaune, Criswell, Corcoran, Donaldson, Wawro  
**Voting Against:** Legislator Parete  
**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 1  
**Disposition:** Resolution adopted

**Motion No. 2**                      **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 143**

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**Resolution No. 181** – Authorizing additional funding for capital project number 528: Veterans' Cemetery to meet the environmental and permitting requirements. Veteran Service Agency.

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution pertains to additional capital project funding for Veterans' Cemetery to meet environmental and permitting requirements.

**Discussion:** Refer to annexed transcript

**Motion By:** Legislator Donaldson  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Criswell

**Voting in Favor:** Legislators Delaune, Criswell, Corcoran, Donaldson, Parete, Wawro  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 6  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Resolution adopted

**Motion No. 3**                      **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 181**

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### **New Business**

None

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Chairman Delaune asked if there was any old business, and hearing none;

### **Adjournment**

**Motion By:** Legislator Parete  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Donaldson

**Voting in Favor:** Legislators Delaune, Criswell, Corcoran, Donaldson, Parete, Wawro

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 6

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Motion approved

**Motion No. 4**                      **Moved to Adjourn**

Adjourned: 5:50pm

Respectfully submitted: Jerry Sheehan, Assistant to VP for Academic Affairs & VP for Enrollment Management, SUNY Ulster

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Transcript**

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**PRESENT:** Deputy Chair Thomas Corcoran, Legislators Peter Criswell, David  
Donaldson, John Parete, Mary Wawro  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Eve Walter, Marc Rider, County Executive, Mark Cozzupoli, Dir. Veterans' Services, Jamie Capuano, VP for Administrative Services, SUNY Ulster  
Jerry Sheehan, Asst to VPs for Academic Affairs & Enrollment Mgt SUNY Ulster / Recorder  
Public Comments from: Adrielle Farr [City of Kingston Dir. of Arts & Cultural Affairs], Linda Marston-Reid [Exec. Dir., Arts Mid-Hudson], Christopher Silva [Exec. Dir., Bardavon/UPAC], Richard Frumess [Founder, R&F Handmade Paints], Lynn Woods [Kingston Arts Commission]

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**Delaune:** It's 5:20 and I'd like to call this meeting to order. Jerry, would you please do the roll call.

**Sheehan:** Chairman Delaune.

**Delaune:** Here.

**Sheehan:** Deputy Chair Corcoran.

**Corcoran:** Here.

**Sheehan:** Legislator Criswell.

**Criswell:** Here.

**Sheehan:** Legislator Parete.

**Parete:** Here.

**Sheehan:** Legislator Wawro.

**Wawro:** Here.

**Sheehan:** Legislator Donaldson.

**Donaldson:** Here.

**Delaune:** All right. Well, thank you all for being here. Jamie, if you'd like to give us an update on SUNY Ulster.

**Capuano:** Absolutely. So, we're still tracking all the state aid reductions across the board, figure out exactly what for us. Our budget is going to go to our board this month and then it'll be up to the county next month for review. In other counties, they are in the same situation to try to figure out exactly what the state aid cuts are going to look like. We're all keeping our eyes tuned to do it in a budget were released within the next probably week or so, for the fourth quarter payment adjustments, so we're all keeping a close eye on that to see what that will mean. And where we're tracking kind of for current year end. I will say, we've been controlling spending across the board throughout the entire campus anticipating a reduction on that fourth quarter. But I think we are in good shape given a potential cut again, we don't know the magnitude of the cuts. So we're looking at something in excess of, you know, 30 to 50% of a cut on a fourth quarter payment; we're gonna have to have some serious talks on campus about what we're looking to do. But I think at this point, we really reduced our spending. Everybody's been really helping to try to do anything they can to say, "can we put off expenses that we don't need right now to move to next year?". So we're really tracking all that closely. And budget wise, like I said, we're in the final kind of review process to make sure we get it to a balanced budget within the next couple weeks. So, it's been difficult. It's definitely a difficult budget season for everybody. But we're gonna get through it and I think as far as the county, we are really well put in terms of our um, we've got strong fund balance, we have a really strong academic side of the house. So, we're really looking to make improvements and figure out what...what we can do to really position ourselves for the next, next 10 to 20 years.

**Delaune:** Well, thank you. That's appreciated.

**Capuano:** Absolutely.

**Delaune:** Are there any questions of Jamie?

**Donaldson:** Yes. Jim, may I ask a question?

**Delaune:** See you next month?

**Capuano:** He has a question.

**Donaldson:** Yeah. I have a question.

**Delaune:** Yes.

**Donaldson:** Right now, what have been the, you know, registration for the Fall.

**Capuano:** Our fall numbers right now are down in terms of budget we're projecting and overall about five to 10% reduction. Our summer numbers actually came up a lot. So, we're actually over our last year summer projections. So, what we think is happening, a lot of students who maybe did some online coursework this past semester are now looking to say, "Hey, I think I can actually do this.". So our summer enrollment numbers have rebounded and are actually above what we were at for last year at this point. Fall is still lagging. We are still tracking a reduction on Fall. Budgetarily, though we think we're going to come in about 5%. And we think it's going to be a shift from full time to part time. I think we're going to have a higher part time enrollment cohort, then typical for our Fall semester.

**Donaldson:** All right, thank you, Jamie

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**Capuano:** Absolutely.

**Delaune:** So Jamie, since there are so many unknowns right now, are you considering extending the registration period for Fall?

**Capuano:** Yes. We are reevaluating everything we're doing really ramping up all of our Summer enrollment initiatives, all of our, everything that we can do to get more students in-house, ready to register. So we're looking at everything to see what can be done to provide the most flexibility to the students. We think a lot of students are frankly just waiting to see what's going to happen. You know, if you look at the four years with the dorms and even the two years, I think a lot of people who typically would go that direction are going to be looking for other alternatives. We're absolutely trying everything we can to really capture those people who might be thinking, let me let me stay home a little bit longer.

**Delaune:** Great. Alright.

**Donaldson:** Yeah, one other....the nursing program. Is that um, is that reduced in numbers that applied for the Fall?

**Capuano:** So, we haven't seen a big drop off in our nursing program. Our nursing program is always a top-notch program. We always have a lot of people trying to get into that program. So we're really looking at that program. It's going to be I think next year we might have over enrollment again in that program.

**Delaune:** Great.

**Donaldson:** OK. Thank you, Jamie.

**Capuano:** Thank you.

**Delaune:** Thanks David. Are there any other questions?

**Sheehan:** Legislator Criswell is waving his hand? I don't know if you can see that.

**Criswell:** I just had a quick question Jamie about current online programs. How are they going?

**Capuano:** So the current online programs have been relatively strong. I think what we've done this semester is taken our in-class programming and really pushed it to an online module. I don't want people to confuse that with your full online coursework. And we're really taking all of our courses that have already been developed as an online course, really ramping that up in case we get into a Fall situation where we cannot be face-to-face, so that we have more opportunities for more online course offerings. And we've taken all the work that our faculty who have really done an amazing job this semester in pushing to an online module, taking all of that work and saying, "What can we now build upon from there to make a full online program or online coursework?". So, we're absolutely expanding that and we're running, frankly, all of the scenarios. So, we need to be able to be prepared. If we can't come back in a fall the face-to-face if we're in a situation where we have to do more hybrid or blended coursework, where students are in class for sometimes, online for the other components, and what we can do to make sure that we're still, if we have to still be socially distancing, that we're adhering to all those requirements.

**Criswell:** That's great. Thank you so much.

**Capuano:** Absolutely.

**Delaune:** All right. Thank you, Jamie.

**Capuano:** Thank you, everybody.

**Delaune:** OK. We don't normally allow for public comment. But tonight, we have, I believe it's five individuals that are going to make two minute presentations. And so, Jay, I'll ask that you begin that process. Again, this is a working group. This is a committee, work group. It's not a legislative session. It's not a back and forth, but we'll certainly listen to the following comments. So, Jay.

**Mahler:** So first up, I see Miss Farr. Let me just unmute you unless you are quicker than me. You were.

**Farr:** Hi everyone. Sorry, I'm having a little lag here. I'm sorry. So I just just wanted to say thank you to everybody for letting me have a moment to speak today. I just wanted to.....sorry....take a moment just to, to say thank you for all the work that you've been doing to provide Ulster County with strong leadership as we're all dealing with the COVID-19 crisis.

Thank you for doing that. I did just want to come today to reiterate and emphasize the importance of continued support for [inaudible] programming in Ulster County. We all know that many industries are going to be facing unprecedented challenges as they move forward. But the industry of our culture, education and community programming has been dealt some really shattering blows in the past few months. And now more than ever, we need to create hope for the future. Cultural organizations provide a community with important resources and they're also a cornerstone of what makes our county strong. And we need to foster the development of our creative communities and you can do so working to protect programming. I know there are a lot of tough choices that are going to be coming up. But I do think that it's very important for us to defend what we know our community cannot stand to lose. I hope that we come out on the other side of this pandemic, this crisis, this incredible moment in history with our cherished community organizations, and we continue to have the services they provide. They're critical, they're vital and we need them to be able to continue to move forward. Thank you.

**Delaune:** Thank you.

**Mahler:** And if we could have next, Miss Marston-Reid.

**Marston-Reid:** Hi, everybody. This is Linda Marston-Reid. I just want to thank you again, which it's an unbelievable time and I think that we're all aware of the critical issues that are hitting Ulster County during this pandemic. But I really feel strongly that we have to guard the arts and cultural scene that we've all been building together over the years. And I know and anybody who has been in Kingston has seen the traffic jam on Broadway when UPAC as one of their sold out shows. So this is you know, everybody knows about UPAC is a major Ulster County attraction and it brings in cultural tourism that benefits residents as well as local businesses. I know sometimes I hear that UPAC you know, I hear people talk about UPAC has a large budget. And they can do without funding. But I think everybody needs to consider the expense of operating such an enterprise such as this. The ticket prices only paid for a portion of the cost of running the theater, which provides good jobs for more than 20 local residents. The presence of UPAC also is, it benefits local businesses in the Midtown area that are small, and it also acts more importantly, I think as an anchor incubator. It encourages people to make an investment when they come and they see that theater. But it's not all about people that come from external areas to Kingston to enjoy UPAC. UPAC also presents, they present, they allow their students, our students here to do a little annual performance of The Nutcracker. And this is really important because it allows those kids to perform next to professional dancers. So that doesn't often happen. It also provides these cultural programs for youth such as Black Violin, which is a hip hop version of classical instruments, encouraging local youth to explore music, or Step Africa is another program for dance and perform. Many of these performances are offered free to youth in low income families, and the tickets are distributed throughout multiple area nonprofits. And these are the kind of things that make make our local community happy and grateful and loving living in Kingston. So I really hope that we can think about this venerable and treasured place of culture, learning, inspiration, and connection and look towards better days coming ahead. Thank you again for allowing me to speak.



**Mahler:** Thank you. Mr. Silva. Would you like to go next, please?

**Silva:** Yeah, sure. Thanks. Hi, everybody. I actually usually come to this meeting once a year. So, so I guess this is that time. I want to thank you for inviting me. I do absolutely recognize the struggle the County, and everyone in the world is going through to make ends meet. I want to thank Peter Criswell for his support and for getting me the recording of your last meeting. Let me give you a little history in '06, the Bardavon was approached by the UPAC board about taking over the building because it was going bankrupt. We did a very complete study of the building. It was a mess when we took it over. But we recognized the potential huge benefit it had for the community, the City of Kingston, and for the Bardavon. So, despite the challenges we took over, we raised over \$10 million restored preserved UPAC for future generations to come. We increase attendance at the venue from under 10,000 people a year to over 60,000. 10,000 of those are children, mostly from low income families. But UPAC actually serves everyone city folks, rural families, tourists. After listening to many of the misstatements made about UPAC at your last meeting, I just need to clarify: we are not a rich organization or a luxury item. We are an anchor and economic engine for Ulster County. We do not have 300 employees. We have 21 full time people. 15 of them are currently furloughed working one or two days a week to maintain their health insurance premiums. I do not make \$120,000 a year. I wish I did. I make under 100. Our \$3.6 million annual budget is 50% box office earned. 50% from very hard to find annual donations. That means 1.8 million we have to raise every year. We receive 200,000 a year from 1,800 member households but that accounts for less than 10% of our donations. Unlike some odd comparison that was made to the MAC Gym membership, we actually directly benefit the community we serve. Our annual impact in Ulster County, nearly \$3 million and that doesn't include our payroll, artists fees or box office. That's millions of dollars being spent on every restaurant in Kingston 50 times a year, hotel stays, gas stations, bars, etc.. 10 years ago we co founded the Midtown Arts District which is actively helping to transform the perception of reality of Midtown Kingston. We collaborate and have for years with the City, the School District, the library, Radio Kingston, Woodstock Film Festival, Ulster BOCES, Kingston Kids, Harambe Kingston, Center for Creative Education, O+. Then, last year we began an intern program with the Restorative Justice Center, which has been stopped dead by the COVID. We annually admit thousands of low income families to, for free, to all of our events and we also put great artists into schools, as Linda mentioned. As a result of COVID, we've been closed since March 13. We project a one and a half million dollar budgets revenue shortfall in 2020. Another million or more in 2021. The \$25,000 annual grant at the County's request is always gone towards helping to pay the \$50,000 annual UPAC utility expense, gas and electric. That annual utility expense continues despite the COVID closing of UPAC. The 25,000 is the second largest direct grant to UPAC that it receives. So cutting, cutting cutting county support for UPAC puts us in danger along with all the people we collaborate with that I just mentioned, and all who benefit economically educationally artistically from our work. We do not have a reserve fund. I urge you to make your cuts with a scalpel. Not a chainsaw. Because when the county finally does reopen, as the previous speakers have mentioned, we want to have UPAC and a lot of other arts organizations there, strong and ready to continue to serve the community. Thanks so much.

**Mahler:** Great, thank you. I'm gonna just call you, Richard, because I don't want to butcher butcher your last name. If you don't mind saying it for us, oh, that'd be great.

**Frumess:** Well, I hope I'm the Richard that you're referring to.

**Mahler:** It's you.

**Frumess:** I want to thank the committee for allowing us to speak even though it's not normally done. But this is an incredibly important time. And, and, and in these incredibly challenging times, we we we try to assess the community. The community's most pressing needs. Survival, of course, is first. Food, medical care, secure housing and our jobs are uppermost in our minds. And you know we it's like we're hunkered down in bomb shelters almost a surreal war with a virus. We're reduced to approach, approximating our, our old lives with virtual substitutes, and we missed the open human contact and the fullness of our cultural lives. Surely we wonder what what the world will be like when we emerge and begin to rebuild our lives and our economy. So much of what is familiar to us, is in danger of not being there anymore. Factories, stores, services, goods, restaurants, theaters, galleries, and most sadly, friends and family members. How will we celebrate life if the fruits of our vibrant culture have dried up? If there are no longer venues like UPAC and [inaudible] and organizations like MAD and O+, that bring music, comedy, drama, dance, poetry, painting, pottery, and community arts education. The standard funding from foundations is on hold. government support is now more important than ever. We need we need to depend on each other, just to keep these organizations alive. We appeal to the County Legislature to continue funding for the art arts organizations to ensure that and venues to ensure that we have something to look forward to when we come out with this, this war. Every dollar counts in these this desperate in these desperate times to ensure to ensure we have a vibrant county to come back to. Thank you. Thank you for your consideration.

**Mahler:** Thank you. And, then last on our list of speakers is Miss Lynn Woods. I think you just came on. Oh, sorry. I think we were in a muting battle. That's my fault.

**Woods:** Okay, can you hear me now?

**Mahler:** Yep, you're all set.

**Woods:** Okay. In 2007 Newsweek listed Kingston as one of the top 10 cities that are the best places for artists in the US. The only small municipality to make the list, which included such large metro areas as New York City and L.A.. Since then, Kingston and surrounding communities in Ulster County have only increased their appeal for artists of all types. Barry has an abundance of arts related businesses, institutions, festivals and events. Last for living and working in educational program. In fact, the arts comprise an entire ecosystem and are woven into the economic lifeblood of the region. Essential not only to the quality of life and tourism but also business. Kingston alone has more than 90 small businesses that employ artists either visual designers, fabricators, musicians, film producers, artisans, etc. Many local businesses hire trained artists providing jobs to local youth. Former high school art students in the County have

found jobs at companies such as Timely Signs, Workshop Art Fabrication, R&F Handmade Paint, Bailey Pottery and many many others. Kingston's Midtown Arts District, which was founded by several arts related business owners working with city officials not only support educational initiatives such as DRAW in which professional artists are paid to host local workshops, and PUGG, which provides arts related internships to high school students but also strengthens the community. Last year's Celebration of the Arts Expo held at the SUNY satellite campus in Midtown Kingston brought together people of all colors and ages to make musical instruments, create collages or learn to engage in some other arts activity. The youth turnout at that event was a tribute to the success at leveraging the arts to bring people together and experience more joy in their community. The County's art institutions such as the Dorsky Museum and Womens' Studio Workshop are also an important part of the economic and cultural fabric of the region, providing employment, raising cultural awareness and attracting visitors. The arts were the center of Kingston first African American festivals held us August and the arts are central as well to the City's O+ festival which brings thousands to the City and were a very visible symbol of sensuality the arts to the city's prosperity. In the 2014 study by the Center for Research Regional Education Outreach at SUNY New Paltz found that the arts accounted for \$468 million in revenue in the eight counties of the Hudson Valley. The study found that the arts accounted for nearly 5000 jobs. Indeed, the arts are essential to the health of the entire state, which ranks second in the US in the amount of arts and cultural value added to the economy. According to a 2016 study by the US Bureau of Economic Analysis and National Endowment for the Arts, statewide the cultural sector accounts for nearly 8% of the value added to the state economy which is greater than that contributed by the retail, construction and transportation sectors. The value of the arts however, can't be measured in mere dollars, learning about art, how to be an artist, looking at art, thinking about art, talking about art, also teaches people how to think creatively which now more than ever is critical to solving the nation's problems. Thank you.

**Mahler:** Thank you. Chairman Delaune, that was everyone you had signed up for public comment.

**Delaune:** Resolutions. Resolution Number 140, authorizing the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into agreement with Imagine Better, Inc. dba Don't Be A Monster. The 2020 appropriation. Motion?

**Criswell:** I'll move.

**Wawro:** Second.

**Delaune:** All in favor?

**Delaune, Donaldson, Corcoran, Criswell, Parete, Wawro:** Aye. (6-0)

**Delaune:** Any opposed? [None] All right. That passes. Thank you. Resolution Number 143, authorizing the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute an agreement with Ulster Performing Arts Center for the 2020 appropriation. Do I have a motion?

**Donaldson:** I'll move it.

**Criswell:** Second

**Delaune:** All right. All in favor?

**Parete:** I have some comments if I might.

**Delaune:** Absolutely.

**Parete:** I mean, I heard all the wonderful comments. Um. But they're closed and not open. Maybe not for the foreseeable future. We're donating money to them. To me, it'd be like buying tickets to the Yankee game and they're not playing. It's wonderful, but they're not open. I'm interested in funding real human services contracts. You know, what about what Family of Woodstock? What about the hug center? What about the Barnstead Shelter? What about real people suffering out here? Yeah, I get it, you know many businesses like I am are closed, they're not running to the County to give them a stipend so they can survive. They there's something inherently wrong and actually, it's like an unmitigated gall to come in when the County could be in serious financial problem, the State maybe. You're not open and to say, give me 20 or \$25,000, just because we're wonderful and we're good. Times change. And I find it startling that we don't seem to have the ability to focus on that simple fact. They're not open. They furloughed their employees. It's not like they're they're they're running through their payroll. It's not like we're saying they're going out of business. They're wonderful. And all I'm going to say in comment is anybody really cares, read the IRS 990 form. You'll find a different picture sometimes of the money that's coming in and how much the leadership is getting paid. I'm a no.

**Delaune:** Thank you. Okay. All in favor of this resolution?

**Delaune:** Aye

**Donaldson:** Aye

**Criswell:** Aye

**Corcoran:** Aye

**Parete:** No

**Wawro:** Aye

(5-1) Parete

**Delaune:** All right. Thank you. Resolution 181 authorizing additional funding for capital project number 528: Veterans' Cemetery to meet the environmental and permitting requirements. Veteran Service Agency. Do I have a motion?

**Donaldson:** I'll move it.

**Delaune:** Alright. Second?

**Criswell:** Second.

**Delaune:** All right. Thank you. All in favor?

**Delaune, Donaldson, Corcoran, Criswell, Parete, Wawro:** Aye. (6-0)

**Delaune:** Any opposed? Being none, that resolution passes. All right. Any new business? There being none. Any old business?

**Parete:** Move to adjourn.

**Delaune:** Thank you. Second?

**Donaldson:** I'll second it.

**Delaune:** All right. Well, thank you all for being here. And, we'll see you soon. Thanks.

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End [5:50pm]



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May 5, 2020

To the Ulster County Legislature:

Today I respectfully submit a letter to urge the Ulster Legislature to support continued funding for UPAC.

While we are all aware of the critical issues that have come to Ulster County during this pandemic, we must guard the arts and cultural scene that we have built together over the years. UPAC is an anchor institution that we are fortunate to have in Ulster County and especially in mid-town Kingston. Who hasn't seen the traffic on Broadway when UPAC has one of their sold-out shows? The draw as a major Ulster County attraction cannot be denied, bringing in cultural tourism that benefits residents and local businesses.

While some may feel that UPAC has a large budget and can do without the funding, we must consider the expense of operating such an enterprise. Ticket prices pay only a portion of the costs of running the theatre, which provides good jobs to more than 20 local residents, as well as a place to learn and advance within an organization. The presence of UPAC also economically benefits surrounding small businesses in the mid-town Kingston area and acts as an anchor incubator; encouraging more investment along our developing mid-town area.

While UPAC presents well-known performers, their stage is also the showcase for the Catskill Ballet Theatre's annual performance of the Nutcracker. This performance features our local students performing alongside professional dancers, such as Yinet Fernandez from Dance Theatre of Harlem and Jose Carlos Losada from National Ballet of Cuba.

UPAC also offers cultural programs of interest to youth, such as Black Violin; a hip-hop version of a classical instrument to encourage our local youth to explore music, or Step Africa for dance and performance. Many of these performances are offered free to youth from low-middle income families and tickets are distributed through multiple area nonprofits. These types of educational performances bring in our local audiences and also provide entertainment and education.

For all the reasons briefly stated, we must find a way to ensure our local community continues to have this venerable and treasured place of culture, learning, inspiration, and connection when better days return.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Reid", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Linda Marston-Reid  
*Executive Director*

Outlook

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New message

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✎ Drafts 6

➤ Sent Items

🗑 Deleted Items 16

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Economic Deve...

Office Group

New group

Discover groups

Manage groups

Tuesday committee meeting

CS

Chris Silva <csilva@bardavon.org>  
Tue 5/5/2020 5:41 PM  
Jay Mahler; Victoria Ann Fabella; Nettie Tomshaw ✓

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⋮

[EXTERNAL SENDER]  
**Thanks Jay. Victoria & Nettie, see below:**

To the Ulster County Legislature:

Thank you for inviting me to join this meeting and I recognize the struggle the county and everyone in the world is going thru to make ends meet. I thank Peter Criswell for his support and for getting me the recording of your last meeting.

In 2006 Bardavon was approached by the UPAC board about taking over the building because UPAC was going bankrupt. We did a complete engineering study of the building and though we recognized that it needed millions in repair and renovation, we also saw the benefit to the community to having a working theatre in midtown. So despite the challenges, we took over and since then we've raised over \$10 million dollars restoring and preserving UPAC for generations to come with not one dime coming from the county for those renovations. We increased attendance at the venue from under 10,000 people per year to over 60,000, including 10,000 children, mostly from low income families. But UPAC serves everyone; city folks, rural families and tourists too.

After listening to the many miss-statements made about UPAC at your last meeting I need to clarify: We are not a rich organization or a luxury item. We are an anchor and an economic engine for Ulster County. We do not have 300 employees. We have 21 full time people, 15 of whom are currently furloughed and working 1-2 days a week to maintain our operations and their health insurance premiums. I do not make \$120k a year, I make under \$100k. Our \$3.6 million annual budget is comprised of 50% box office earned revenue and 50% from very hard to find annual donations. We receive \$200k a year from 1800 member households, but that accounts for less than 10% of our annual donations and unlike the odd comparison to Mac Gym memberships, we actually directly benefit the communities we serve. Our annual economic impact on Ulster County is nearly \$3 million, and that does not include artist fees, staff payroll or box office income. That \$3 million is a result of filling every restaurant in Kingston 50 times a year, plus hotel stays, plus trips to gas stations, bars, etc. UPAC Co-founded the Midtown Arts District (MAD) which is actively helping to transform the perception and reality of midtown Kingston. UPAC has ongoing collaborations with the City of Kingston, Kingston School District, Kingston Library, Radio Kingston, Woodstock Film Festival, Ulster BOCES, Kingston Kids, Harambe Kingston, Center for Creative Education, O Positive Festival, and last year we began an intern program with the Restorative Justice Center. We annually admit thousands of low income families for free to all of our events and we also send artists from all genres into schools for powerful and empowering residencies that are transformative for those children.

As a result of COVID we have been closed since March 13 and we project a nearly 1.5 million dollar budget revenue shortfall in 2020 and another million or more in 2021. At the counties request, the \$25k annual grant (which is not pork) has always gone towards helping to pay the \$50k annual UPAC utility expense (gas and electric). That annual utility expense continues despite the COVID closing of UPAC. That \$25k is the second largest direct grant to UPAC that we receive. Cutting county support for UPAC puts us in danger along with all of our collaborators and all who benefit economically, educationally and artistically from our work. We do not have a reserve fund. I urge you to make your cuts with a scalpel, not a chain saw, because when the county finally reopens we want to have UPAC there, strong and ready to continue to serve this community.

Thank you,

Chris Silva, Executive Director  
Bardavon 1869 Opera House  
35 Market Street  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
Adm: 845-473-5288 #101  
Fax: 845-473-4259  
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[www.bardavon.org](http://www.bardavon.org)

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Jay Mahler

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## Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee Meeting



Jay Mahler

Tue 5/5/2020 4:30 PM

Richard Frumess &lt;richard@rfpaints.com&gt;; Victoria Ann Fabella; Nettie Tomshaw



Good afternoon,

Thank you for reaching out and providing your contact information. While public comment is not generally provided for during regular committee meetings, Committee Chairman Delaune has decided to allow those who have contacted us 2 minutes to offer comments at tonight's meeting.

It is his expectation that all Resolutions on this evening's agenda will be adopted and forwarded to the Ways & Means Committee for further discussion next week. With that in mind, Chairman Delaune asks that you also provide your comments in writing to the Clerk of the Legislature at [vfab@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:vfab@co.ulster.ny.us), so that they may be shared with the members of the Ways & Means Committee as well as the full Legislative body.

Kindest regards,

Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature

**From:** Richard Frumess <richard@rfpaints.com>**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 3:15 PM**To:** Jay Mahler <jmah@co.ulster.ny.us>**Subject:** Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee Meeting

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Dear Jay,

I would like to speak at this evening's meeting. My phone number is 845-594-2080.

Thank you.

Best,  
Richard

--

Richard Frumess  
R&F Handmade Paints, Inc.  
84 Ten Broeck Ave.  
Kingston, NY 12401  
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845-331-3112  
800-206-8088  
Fax 845-331-3242



APR 29 2020

April 29, 2020

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Dear Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee Members,

We understand that the choices you are being asked to make right now are more difficult than we can imagine, and the effort you are putting into supporting our community is arduous. Knowing these struggles, we want you to know that the 21 libraries of Ulster County are well positioned to provide support and assistance to residents both now, while New York State is on PAUSE, and after we have ended our shelter-in-place. We invite members of the Ulster County Legislature to include information about their libraries in communications to their constituents.

As residents have become more technically proficient, they've looked to their libraries to provide resources to match their needs and interests that are accessible from anywhere they can be online. For more than ten years, Ulster County Libraries have evolved along with our communities and have developed these services to better meet their changing needs. Now, these services are more desired and necessary than ever.

The reason we are able to support local residents so well during this time of pandemic is because the Ulster County Legislature had the foresight to fund the Ulster County Library Association's initiative to develop a broad range of online resources for residents of all ages. Because of this longtime investment, Ulster County residents have access to one of the strongest digital collections in the region collected under the umbrella of the Ulster County [InfoPortal](#). No single library, regardless of size, could provide this wide range of educational and recreational material independently. This funding is indispensable to the collaborative efforts of the 21 Ulster County Libraries as we support the unique needs of our residents during these extraordinary times.

This future oriented shift on the part of your libraries is placing these services in an ideal position to support not just the continuing education and entertainment needs of residents, but will also help our neighbors to manage some of the more challenging realities of our current situation. [Infoportal](#) resources include eBooks and audio books as well as streaming video and music to provide much needed entertainment and distraction. They also include TumbleBooks and TumbleMath, a collection of books, quizzes and lesson plans for parents who suddenly find themselves providing ancillary education as their children's instruction moves online. In addition, the InfoPortal provides online education for people who find themselves needing to learn new skills to perform their jobs in unexpected ways as well as resume building and resources for folks seeking employment after being furloughed or laid off.

While local libraries are providing this vast array of digital resources, we are also keenly aware of the digital divide that exists within our service populations. Libraries have long served as tech hubs, providing a safety net for those who cannot obtain internet connectivity either because of finances or geography. To ensure we're still serving as many in our communities as we can during this pandemic, Ulster County libraries are leaving their WiFi up and running 24/7,

allowing patrons to access the internet from nearby spaces such as sidewalks, library lawns, and parking lots.

The libraries of Ulster County are strong partners in the network of assets available to residents of Ulster County during this crisis. The members of the Ulster County Legislature can be proud of the support they've provided to their libraries as they include this information in their public communications to their constituents.

When New York State is no longer on PAUSE, we'll be standing ready to serve our community then too. Our friends and neighbors will be looking to reconnect to their communities in both familiar and new ways. The tools public libraries have to offer empower citizens to create the communities that they want to live in, raise the next generation in, and support themselves in ways they find valuable.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Ulster County Libraries and the many services we provide to our communities.

Sincerely,  
Amber Billey  
President of the Board of Trustees  
Rosendale Public Library

39 Lake Hill Rd  
Kingston, NY 12401  
[amberbilley@gmail.com](mailto:amberbilley@gmail.com)

Statement by Lynn Woods, member of Kingston Arts Commission  
for the meeting of the Ulster County Legislative Programs Committee on May 5, 2020

In 2007, BusinessWeek listed Kingston as one of the top ten cities that are the best places for artists in the U.S., the only small municipality to make the list, which included such large metro areas as New York City and LA. Since then, Kingston and the surrounding communities in Ulster County have only increased their appeal for artists. The area has an abundance of artist-related businesses, institutions, festivals and events, lofts for living and working and educational programs. In fact the arts comprise an entire ecosystem and are woven into the economic lifeblood of the region, essential not only to the quality of life and tourism, but also business: Kingston alone has more than 90 small businesses that employ artists, be they visual designers, fabricators, musicians, film producers, artisans, etc.

Business like Timely Signs, Workshop Art Fabrication, R&F Handmade Paints, and Bailey Pottery hire trained artists, providing jobs to local youth: former high school art students in the county have found jobs at these companies as well as other local businesses. Kingston's Midtown Arts District, which was founded by several arts-related business owners working with city officials, not only supports educational initiatives such as the DRAW, in which professional artists are paid to host local workshops, and PUGG, which provides arts-related internships to high school students, but also strengthens the community: last year's Celebration of the Arts expo, held at the SUNY State campus in Midtown Kingston, brought together people of all colors and ages to make musical instruments, create collages or learn or engage in some other arts activity. The huge turnout at that event was a tribute to MAD's success at leveraging the arts to bring people together and experience more joy in their community. The county's arts institutions, such as the Dorsky Museum and Women's Studio Workshop, are also part of the economic and cultural fabric of the region, providing employment, raising cultural awareness and attracting visitors, as are the county's libraries, UPAC, Radio Kingston and many more.

The arts were the center of the Kingston's first African American Festival, held last August, and the arts are central as well to the city's Oyster Festival, which brings thousands to the city and whose murals are a very visible symbol of the centrality of the arts to the city's prosperity. Indeed, the 2014 study by the Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach at SUNY New Paltz found that the arts accounted for \$468 million in revenues in the eight counties of the Hudson Valley. The study found that the arts accounted for nearly 5,000 jobs. Indeed, the arts are essential to the health of the entire state, which ranks second in the U.S. in the amount of arts and cultural value added to the economy, according to a 2017 study by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and National Endowment for the Arts. Statewide, the cultural sector accounts for nearly 8 percent of the value added to the state economy, which is greater than that contributed by the retail, construction and transportation sectors.

The value of the arts, however, can't be measured in mere dollars: learning about art and how to be an artist, talking about art, engaging with art teaches people how to think creatively, which now more than ever is critical to solving the nation's problems.

Lynn Woods  
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