

**Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning & Transit
Committee Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: September 3, 2019 – 6:00 PM
LOCATION: K.L. Binder Library
PRESIDING OFFICER: Legislator Brian Woltman
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Mary Beichert, Senior Legislative Employee
PRESENT: Legislators Archer, Delaune, Maio, Litts (arrived at 6:39 pm)
Maloney (Joseph), Rodriguez & Woltman
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Dennis Doyle, Department of Planning, Kathy Nolan, Legislator, Sajaa Ahmed, Deputy Director of UCAT, Marc Rider, Deputy Director, Linda Martson-Reid, Director of Arts Mid-Hudson, John Grossbohl, City of Kingston, Ralph Durham, FOCMRT, O&W Rail Trail, Chris White, Deputy Director of Planning, Andrew Zinc, ECEDA, Amanda La Valle, Ulster County Environment, Kevin Smith, Woodstock Land Conservancy.

Legislator Woltman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Linda Martson-Reid Executive Director Arts Mid-Hudson

Arts Mid-Hudson has been serving Ulster County as the Arts Council since 2008. Arts Mid-Hudson is non-for-profit and has been in business since 1964. Arts Mid-Hudson administers over \$100K in arts funding from the New York State Council of the arts. Proudly administering \$51K across Ulster County.

Shadowlands Theater is a great example of theater contributing to town growth. Restaurants are reservations only on theater evenings.

In Kingston events such as the O Positive Festival and Art Walk Kingston are coming up in the next few weeks. These events bring people to Ulster County restaurants and hotels. Research shows the arts and culture are one of three sectors along with science and technology and business management that drive regional economic development and play a critical role in our economy.

Motion No. 1: **Moved to Approve the Minutes of August 6, 2019**

Motion Made By: Legislator Rodriguez

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion:

None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Delaune, Maloney, Maio, Rodriguez & Woltman

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Resolutions for the September 17, 2019 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 392: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Intermunicipal Agreement With The New York State Energy Research And Development Authority (NYSERDA) – Department Of The Environment

Resolution Summary: This resolution allows the Legislature to authorize an execute an agreement and any related NYSERDA to fund Ulster County Transit Fleet Electrification Feasibility Study.

Motion No: 2: **Motion to Adopt Resolution 392**

Motion By: Legislator Delaune

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Rodriguez

Discussion:

Amanda LaValle stated this resolution is to enter into a grant agreement to accept grant money from NYSERDA to do a transit electrification study for the UCAT fleet. The organization funded this application because they felt Ulster County was a good combination of rural and city transportation.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Delaune, Maloney, Maio, Rodriguez & Woltman

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution Adopted

Resolution No. 393: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – BAE Systems Controls Inc. – UCAT

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract in the amount of \$154,620.00 for extended warranty plan for Orion buses.

Motion No. 3: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 393**
Motion By: Legislator Rodriguez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion:
Sajaa Ahmed stated this a renewal warranty contract for the fleet of hybrid buses. These buses are older and the warranty covers the cost of servicing these buses.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Delaune, Maio, Maloney, Rodriguez & Woltman
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution Adopted

Motion No. 4: **Motion to Block Resolutions 389, 390 & 391**
Motion By: Legislator Rodriguez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Resolution No. 389: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Grant Agreement With The Community Foundations Of The Hudson Valley For The Ulster County Midtown Linear Park Project – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: This resolution executes a grant agreement and related amendments with Community Foundations for grant funding.

Resolution No. 390: Amending Capital Project No. 479 To Provide For Additional Engineering And Right-of-Way Incidental Services For The Ulster County Midtown Linear Park (PIN 8761.82) – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the amended amount for Engineering Services.

Resolution No. 391: Adopting And Issuing A Negative Declaration Under 6 NYCRR Part 617 State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) By The Ulster County Legislature For The Construction Of The Ulster County Midtown Linear Park (PIN 8761.82) – Capital Project No. 479 – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: This resolution adopts the Negative Declaration and will constitute the SEQRA decision of approval for the construction of Ulster County Midtown Linear Park Project.

Motion No. 5: **Motion to Amend Resolutions 390**
Motion By: Legislator Rodriguez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion:

Chris White stated there is an increase of \$178.00 to Resolution 390. A slight increase was necessary due to environmental complications and performing more work on the old rail yard.

Resolution 389 to sign a grant agreement with Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley.

Resolution 391 to get design approval the county needs to get a SEQRA determination.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Delaune, Maio, Maloney, Rodriguez & Woltman
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution 390 Adopted as Amended

Motion No. 6: **Motion to Adopt Resolutions 389, 390, 391**
Motion By: Legislator Rodriguez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Delaune, Maio, Maloney, Rodriguez & Woltman
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolutions 389, 390 & 391 Adopted

Resolution No. 394: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Cambridge Systematics, Inc. – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract in the amount of \$92,829.00 for the creation of comprehensive Transportation Safety Action Plan (TSAP) and the primary focus is to provide the Ulster County Transportation Council (UCTC) and other decision-makers with sufficient information to understand and prioritize the transportation safety needs throughout the UCTC planning area.

Motion No. 7: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 394**
Motion By: Legislator Archer
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion:

Dennis Doyle stated this contract approves the transportation council to do a road safety analysis. Once done the planning department will review the locations that have the most accident frequency. For ten of those locations a design of solutions will be created. Discussion ensued.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Delaune, Maio, Maloney, Rodriguez & Woltman
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution Adopted

Resolution No. 378: Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 3 Of 2018, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter, (Local Law No. 2 Of 2006), And Amending The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster, (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008), To Establish The Department Of Economic Development

Resolution Summary: This resolution adopts Local Law No. 3 of 2018 to establish the Department of Economic Development.

Motion No. 8: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 378**
Motion By: Legislator Rodriguez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion:

Legislator Archer asked the sponsor, Hector Rodriguez if the effective date could be moved to January 1st. Discussion ensued.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Delaune, Litts, Maloney, Maio, Rodriguez & Woltman
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution Adopted

Resolution No. 382: Requesting The New York State Legislature Introduce Legislation Removing The Ulster County Industrial Development Agency From Article 18-A Of New York's General Municipal Law

Resolution Summary: This resolution adopts legislation to remove the Ulster County Industrial Development Agency from article 18-A of New York's General Municipal Law and the administrative upkeep would be maintained by the Office of the Ulster County Legislature.

Motion No. 9: **Motion to Postpone Resolution No. 382**
Motion By: Legislator Rodriguez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion:

Legislator Maloney stated the resolution is based on previous discussions regarding the length of pilots, the types of businesses that have received funds, the lack of verification and the overall approach. Legislator Maloney stated the original state legislation went into effect 50 years ago. Legislator Maloney has complete respect for the current IDA board and all of their hard work. Discussion ensued.

Legislator Rodriguez understands Legislator Maloney's point but does not agree with the methodology. Discussion ensued.

Legislator Rodriguez would like to offer a postponement to re-work the resolution. Discussion ensued.

Voting In Favor:	Legislators Archer, Delaune, Maio, Maloney, Rodriguez & Woltman
Voting Against:	None
Votes in Favor:	7
Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Resolution Postponed

Old Business:

Time: 7:02 PM

Respectfully submitted: Mary Beichert, Senior Legislative Employee

Minutes Approved: October 1, 2019

A Brief report on the Economic Impact of the Arts

September 3, 2019

Brief report on the Economic Impact of the Arts

Linda Marston-Reid, *Executive Director, Arts Mid-Hudson*

Background about Arts Mid-Hudson:

This organization was founded in Dutchess County in 1964, and for over 55 years has worked across the region as the arts-service organization with a mission to support thriving and diverse arts in the mid-Hudson Valley. We administer over \$100,000 in arts funding from the New York State Council on the Arts that is distributed across Dutchess, Ulster, and Orange Counties, \$83,000 in arts funding from Dutchess County, and are proud to be administering the Ulster County Cultural Promotion Fund since 2008, distributing \$51,000 in arts funding provided by the Ulster Legislature. Besides grants and funding programs, our programs include programming and exhibition opportunities for artists, networking events in all three counties, folk arts programming and experiential and educational arts and culture workshops.

Why the arts are vital for the economy:

It is often said that the arts feed the soul. But the arts also directly fuel the economy: The arts contribute more than \$800 billion a year to U.S. economic output, amounting to more than 4 percent of GDP.

That figure is based on detailed data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (part of the Department of Commerce) and the National Endowment for the Arts, summarized in a report released in March earlier this year. (2019)

The contribution of the arts to America's economy is equivalent to nearly half of Canada's total GDP, and bigger than the economic output of Sweden or Switzerland. We know that the arts account for more of U.S. GDP than industries such as construction, transportation, and agriculture. And the arts have been growing much faster than the economy as a whole. Over the three-year period between 2014 through 2016, the average annual growth rate was 4.2 percent, compared to a 2.2 percent growth rate for the entire American economy.

The powerful arts-and-culture industry is also export-based. In 2016, the United States ran a \$25 billion trade surplus for artistic and cultural goods and services, driven by its exports of movies, television programs, video games, and more. That is more than 10 times the amount from a decade earlier in 2006 when the trade surplus in the arts was just \$2 billion.

A Brief report on the Economic Impact of the Arts

More than 5 million Americans work in the arts-and-culture economy. After sliding during the Great Recession, employment in the sector rebounded alongside the larger recovery, and it produced more than 200,000 new jobs between 2009 and 2016. In 2016, arts-and-culture employment generated nearly \$400 billion in wages.

Also, consumer spending on the arts is up, both in real terms and as a percent of all consumer spending over the past couple of decades. The arts are not just an amenity—a form of intellectual enjoyment or spiritual enrichment—but, as the report demonstrates, a key source of investment in today’s economy. Historically, economic investment was defined in terms of “physical capital” - that is, tangible things like factories and equipment. But in recent years, the Bureau of Economic Analysis has expanded its definition to include so-called intangible assets (such as software). In 2013, the Bureau also added investment in arts and cultural goods in the form of “entertainment originals,” including movies, TV programs, music, photography, and more. Investment in entertainment originals grew by more than 10 percent per year between 2014 and 2016.

We are fortunate that the arts-and-culture economy is geographically concentrated in the New York State and the Hudson River Valley’s proximity to the NYC metro area positions us to benefit from this economic engine. We can look at Ulster County and recognize the work of the Hudson Valley Film Commission located in Woodstock: they refer local crew, cast, locations, vendors, post production facilities. Since 2000, they have supported and worked on over 500 productions creating thousands of jobs and over \$200-million in regional economic development especially in Ulster, Dutchess, and Orange Counties.

Local arts-based Ulster County businesses include PaperHouse Productions, that creates planning books, stickers, and other paper items designed by local artists. In Kingston, Bailey Pottery Equipment sells their products worldwide and employs over 29 workers; and R&F Encaustic paints also sells their artist paints globally and employs over 20 people. A multiplier effect that has been noted lately is that the R&F workshops bring in artists from across the nation who stay in Kingston to attend the workshop. Several of these artists have relocated to this region because of the close proximity of these manufacturers, but also because of the local artist community, beauty of the area, and real estate that is available and affordable.

Tiny Ellenville comes to life when Shadowlands Theater is running a play: but you’d better make dinner reservations if you’d like to have dinner before the play opens. The local restaurants have thrived and grown due to Shadowlands theater productions. Local events, such as O+ Festival and Art Walk Kingston bring a multiplier effect for economic development: locals and visitors attending these events will dine in local eateries, buy gas, shop in retail stores, and visitors will stay in local lodging. Participating artists can make sales, create new connections that enable them to make a living through their work.

These are only a few events of many in Ulster County that contribute \$15 Million in direct expenditures to our county economy, and an additional \$8.5 million that indirectly creates jobs in other sectors. Future plans for the exciting development of Stockade Works here in Kingston will provide training a diverse, local workforce,

A Brief report on the Economic Impact of the Arts

providing access to entertainment and technology jobs, and produce film, TV, digital products, platforms, and events, Ulster County has a great future as the next great destination for art production and technology.

The study indicated one troubling finding: there has been a substantial decline in the level of government funding for arts-based education programs for the past couple of decades. Data shows the fall-off in value of arts-based education since 2012, which seems to have leveled off in 2016. Arts-education programs have fueled the development of leading arts-and-culture industries in other countries: For example, Sweden's investment in music education for its kids is widely credited with propelling its songwriters and producers to the top of popular music.

In fact, according to the report, arts and culture together make up about half of the creative economy, which it defines as encompassing "copyright-intensive" industries. Research shows that arts and culture are one of three key sectors, with science and technology and business management, that drive regional economic development. Today's economy is not just knowledge- or tech-based, but a broadly creative economy in which the arts and culture play a critical role.

In the modern corporate world, the lines between social value and business value can blur. Companies often seek to maximize one through the other. This is apparent in companies' responses about the effects supporting the arts can have on achieving a company's objectives. The largest percentages of companies believe that the arts can help to improve the quality of life in the community (79 percent) and contribute to the economy of the community (63 percent). Clearly, these objectives bring a societal benefit, but the accompanying business benefits, like helping to attract and retain employees and building a thriving economy in which to operate, are equally compelling for companies.

I'll leave you with a quote from Andy Warhol, a visionary artist, who said:

"Being good in business is the most fascinating kind of art.

Making money is art and working is art and good business is the best art."

Data is derived from the report on the Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account (ACPSA), which is produced jointly by the NEA's Office of Research & Analysis and the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Commerce Department, published this past March, 2019.

Among other data, the ACPSA reveals the size of the arts and cultural sector and its contributions to the U.S. economy, the number of workers employed by those industries and their compensation figures, consumer expenditures on arts and culture, and import/export activity.