

**Franklin Cultural Council**  
**Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, September 20th, 2022; 7:30-9PM**  
**3rd Floor Training Room, Franklin Municipal Building**

**ATTENDEES**

- Sarah Cronin, Brianna Cummings, Kaye Kelly, Addison Hardt, Patrick Kinner, Pushpa Jangreddi, Venus Senjam

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Kaye shared with Board members that the **Halloween Contest** was officially passed on to the **Franklin Lions** for this year, and future years
  - Sarah gave all of the Google Drive information on the event to the Lions, with the understanding that the FCC will still be able to assist in sharing the event on social media
- Kaye shared that the FCC would now have storage space in the Franklin Municipal Building to keep all materials for future festivals in one place

**VOTING ON MINUTES**

- **August** meeting minutes were voted on
  - All Board members voted “yea” to approve the minutes

**MCC GRANT UPDATES & DISCUSSION**

- Kaye shared that the deadline to apply for grants this year is **October 17th, 2022**
  - This information started being shared in August via Facebook, Instagram, as well as in the newspaper
  - Currently there is one advertisement circulating, there is potential to create variations of that to be shared in different locations
    - Board members were asked to consider whether there was an alternative way to spread word about this application
- Kaye, Sarah, and Lauren to watch online tutorials on how the MCC grant allocation process will work this year, so that in October, the Board can discuss together what to do with grant money
  - This year, the FCC received more funding from the state of Massachusetts than in previous years (an additional **\$4,000**)
- Kaye introduced the idea that all Board members consider how to remind organizations such as elementary and middle schools that they are able to apply for grants for FY23
  - With “post”-pandemic turnover in many organizations and institutions, it could be helpful to share advertisements with application details again in these locations across Franklin
- Kaye proposed a program collaboration with **The Black Box** as a way to allocate some additional grant money for FY23

**Franklin Cultural Council**  
**Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, September 20th, 2022; 7:30-9PM**  
**3rd Floor Training Room, Franklin Municipal Building**

- The FCC is able to use **20% of their budget from the state** for a cause of their choosing
  - Could be used for a number of different town organizations - one possibly being support of community programming at The Black Box
    - The goal of doing so would be in an effort to make the programming at The Black Box more **community based and focused** as well as **more accessible to the people of Franklin**
      - Ideas for this were a Children's day, or a cultural night (possibly Bollywood themed); more to be discussed during October meeting

**FRANKLIN CULTURAL FESTIVAL DISCUSSION**

- Board members agreed the event was largely successful - based on anecdotal feedback from vendors, food truck owners, and members of the community, the attendance was higher than in 2021
  - High school volunteers helped the event run smoothly because of their help, the crowd was steady from the beginning of the Festival until the end
  - Kaye had feedback from **La Cantina** that the beer and wine garden was successful
  - Venus shared feedback from one of the **Artisan Vendors** that their business was much higher than anticipated
- Kaye shared that public feedback on the event via social media looked different this year than in 2021
  - Patrick and Sarah added that this could have been because:
    - Last year, the event was completely new and one of the first to occur following the pandemic
    - 9/11 observations occurring the day after the Festival this year
- **FOOD TRUCKS: Patrick**
  - 9 food trucks in total at the event, all of which had lines throughout, but because of their positioning people were able to continue milling about and observe performances while they waited. Picnic tables near the food trucks were a great addition, as they allowed community members to spend more time in the food truck/performance area comfortably
  - Feedback for Next Year:
    - having one-way traffic where food trucks are loading in, and eventually leaving
    - Beginning road closure earlier in the day, so that it is closed prior to food truck arrival
  - Positive feedback from all 9 food trucks

**Franklin Cultural Council**  
**Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, September 20th, 2022; 7:30-9PM**  
**3rd Floor Training Room, Franklin Municipal Building**

- **Mint** sold out of their food, continued selling an extremely popular pineapple drink - indicated excitement to return in 2023
- **Doglio** had a big day of business, and were busy for the duration of the event - indicated excitement to return in 2023
- **Cannoli Tent** said the event was very well organized and sold out before 6PM - indicated excitement to return in 2023
- **Caribbean Press** mentioned bringing a second truck in 2023 due to their success this year
- **Taco Truck** sold 2 days worth of tacos - indicated excitement to return in 2023, and to bring their other BBQ truck also as a second truck
- **Yai's** said they had a great sale
- **Ben & Jerry's** had only 5 servings left at the end of the event
- **Joe's Wings** reported increased sales from 2021
- **Mirchi** had more organization this year
- **All 9 food trucks have committed to the tentative date for the 2023 Franklin Cultural Festival; trucks have already put this date on their calendars**
- **VENDORS**
  - Board members discussed how to handle "entrance fees" for Vendors in 2023
    - This is a matter that will be discussed in subsequent meetings, once there is more information on what the financial state of the FCC is for FY23
    - **Venus** brought up the idea of working on obtaining sponsorships earlier, and obtaining more of them
    - **Sarah** proposed thinking about how individuals can donate without having to purchase a physical good - potentially similar to a Go Fund Me
  - **Kaye** to follow up with individual Vendors for feedback
- **COMMUNITY CULTURAL LANE: Kaye**
  - These booths appeared to be well attended throughout the day, with community members approaching booth owners
    - Board members discussed that this might have been due to the fact that these booths had no associated cost for event-goers
  - **Patrick** mentioned that he spent a fair amount of time at the **Pride Booth** where there were consistently community members present
- **MELA BOOTH: Venus**
  - For 2023, including more signage at the actual booth so that community members were aware of how to navigate the different features
  - Materials from the booth are to be saved for subsequent years
    - Donating these booth materials temporarily to the **Charter School** for a Diwali celebration in October

**Franklin Cultural Council**  
**Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, September 20th, 2022; 7:30-9PM**  
**3rd Floor Training Room, Franklin Municipal Building**

**BUDGET UPDATES**

- **Sarah** shared that over **60%** of expenses for the Festival had been paid the day of the event, should have the rest completed by end of September
- **Sarah** outlined a summary of town and state accounts
- **Sarah** detailed the account from the town of Franklin, as it pertained to Festival expenses
  - More money was spent on the 2022 Festival (**\$54,000 altogether as opposed to 2021's nearly \$30,000**)
    - This additional funding went to tents, tables, police/fire/DPW detail, face painters, the children's storyteller, and the living statues

**FCC RESIGNATIONS**

- **Shelley Green** and **Venus Senjam** will be resigning from their positions on the FCC as of the end of September

**ADJOURN.**