



**COLUMBIA ARTS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION & PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The Columbia Arts, Historic Preservation and Philanthropy Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at City Hall (Mayor’s Conference Room), Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable William Brennan, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
Will Brennan	Chair	Present	
Edward H. McDowell	Member	Absent	
Tina N. Herbert	Member	Present	

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Upon a motion made by Ms. Herbert and seconded by Mr. Brennan, committee members voted unanimously to amend the agenda to add a presentation from Mr. Mark Rapp, Executive Director for the ColaJazz Foundation.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. Columbia Peace Pole Public Art Project - Mr. Skot Garrick, Strategic Initiative Administrator

Mr. Skot Garrick, Strategic Initiative Administrator introduced Elaine Frick who represents the Columbia Peace Pole Committee. In January 2022, there was a new Peace Pole structure unveiled by Mayor Rickenmann in front of the USC Alumni Center. Ms. Frick is here today to detail the plans and designs behind the Peace Pole, as well as some ideas of where it can be installed once completed.

Ms. Elaine Frick, Columbia Peace Pole Committee proposed that the newest Peace Pole be placed on city of Columbia property. She said there are 34 Peace Poles in the city at more than 20 locations. Through PowerPoint, she showed photos of other Peace Poles locally and from across the globe. All funds have been raised for the next project. Several city parks have been considered. The committee’s desire is for a large location that has access to parking and space to host educational events. We are still taking donations. Our fiduciary agent is now the Central Carolina Community Foundation and donations can be made through them.

Councilor Brennan asked about next steps.



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Mr. Skot Garrick, Strategic Initiative Administrator said the Columbia Peace Police Committee has ideas about temporary installations at city of Columbia parks and then the artist will finish it for permanent display. An essential part of the fundraising effort is the start of a continual maintenance fund for the Peace Pole Project.

There was consensus of the committee to ask staff to bring back recommendations in terms of Peace Pole art selection and art placement.

2. Review of 2003 Art Task Force Report - Mr. John Whitehead, Columbia Music Festival Association

Mr. John Whitehead, Executive Director of the Columbia Musical Festival Association reviewed the 2003 Art Task Force Report. He said the central element of the Art Task Force was to study the feasibility for an artist driven revitalization of the North Main Corridor. It was desired by every neighborhood but never implemented. The major component was the auditorium and theatres that Columbia needed which still includes a 1,500 seat municipal auditorium, a 400 seat black box, and a 500 seat performance space. The auditoriums and theatres that were already in use were difficult to rent, too large, or too expensive.

There was a discussion about determining the need of demand, calibrating the strength of the arts community in Columbia versus surrounding communities, updating outreach in collaboration with USC and the Arts Commission, programming, and checking the status of projects that have or have not come into fruition.

Councilor Brennan requested that Mr. Whitehead connect with USC and the Arts Commission to determine what can be done to increase the core supporters of the arts.

3. Cola Jazz Update - Mr. Mark Kapp, Executive Director

Mr. Mark Rapp, Executive Director of ColaJazz presented an update on the mission, history, and past and current projects for Cola Jazz. Our mission is to grow, support, and promote jazz in the Midlands through events, education, recordings, resources, and advocacy to create a thriving culturally rich community. Columbia is ready to lead the way when it comes to the arts. Since 2015, ColaJazz has worked tirelessly to establish Columbia as a premier jazz destination. Our “Live in the Lobby” series with the Koger Center for the Arts presents our local and regional musicians while supporting world-renowned guest artists from around the globe. Last year, we presented “Take the A-Train to Soda City” and featured top NYC jazz artists. This season is



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called “NOLA to COLA”, featuring artists from New Orleans. Our next concert is on November 21, 2023 and features Don Vappie, a 2021 recipient of the Steve Martin Banjo Prize. The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis returns to the Koger Center on November 28, 2023. Other programs include the “Loft Lessons” and “ColaJazz Presents” in partnership with SCETV. In 2022, ColaJazz impacted thousands of students through diverse education programs. The annual ColaJazz Fest began in 2017. It provides a platform for artists, musicians, and enthusiasts to connect, share their passion, and celebrate a shared cultural heritage. The ColaJazz Fest boosts our local economy attracting tourists and generating revenue for businesses, event staff and musicians.

Ms. Mary-Kate Korpita, Member of the ColaJazz Board of Directors said the ColaJazz Fest becomes part of our city’s identity positively impacting its image and attractiveness on a far broader scale. There’s a massive opportunity in the arts and culture sector and a massive opportunity for our city to host a marquee ColaJazz Fest event. Let our city be a stage for innovation, creativity, and the exploration and presentation of the BEST in the arts.

There was a discussion about the differences between the marquee Greenville JazzFest and ColaJazz, the future of the festival, and funding mechanisms for the current ColaJazz concerts.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC  
City Clerk