

**Anika Kwinana, Chair, Arlington Commission for the Arts**  
**REPORT**  
**July 29, 2020**

- Welcome back, thrilled to be with everyone and to support the arts community and lead this work with all of our voices/perspectives/skills/passions/concerns in mind.
- We are in a season of shifts
  - COVID-19
  - Equity
  - The arts are severely impacted and the arts have an ongoing opportunity to impact; inherently creative which is needed in this time
  - Give space, be kind, breathe, rest, engage self and engage others
  - Welcome to Lynn, stood in for County Manager's meeting, she will share about that here
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- Where are our opportunities?
  - Build, re-build, new leadership
  - Enriching Lives
    - It has been adopted. What does that mean?
    - How do we use this moment to begin to operationalize Enriching Lives?
    - Equity is a core component of this strategy
  - How can we begin to work towards an action plan with the long-term goal of creating an Arlington County Cultural Plan? How does Enriching Lives help?
  - Who are the stakeholders that we need to build relationships with to ensure a comprehensive and equitable approach to the work?
    - Cultural Affairs/AED staff
    - County Board
    - What other county departments, commissions, committees can we learn from/grow with/support?
    - Who are the non-profits and for-profits that we should build relationships with over time, through a variety of platforms?
  - How can we start to dig deeper into our collective relationships with artists and arts organizations? What are our lessons learned from listening sessions, from liaison duties, and how can we begin to build standards through best practices, to speak with a unified voice? Build a practice of connecting with the arts community quarterly, grow to a convening, etc.

- Who are we as an arts commission? How do we message that? We have three positions open? What are our gaps and how do we strategically fill them? (Hint: arts/health (e.g. veterans community), education, private sector/SME)
- Upcoming press release \*need bios/headshots
- How can the grants program be our opportunity to speak to the moment and the ongoing strategies in Arlington to be equitable and anti-racist?
  - \*Mark's comment
  - Samia Byrd, new Race and Equity Officer
- Leadership style
  - Consensus building
  - Transparency
  - Weaknesses: missing nuances
  - Vice Chair Appointment: Terri Baumann
  - GOAL: Building leadership throughout the commission
- Process
  - Check-ins with Terri
  - Check-ins with Sharon (monthly and as needed) - Terri joins
  - Check-ins with Michelle (after commission meetings)
  - Check-ins with Katie Kristol (quarterly)
  - Check-ins with Commissioners
    - Open dialogue, reach out to me anytime
    - Goal is to have one-on-ones with each commissioner every 2-3 months