

ATTENDING: Martina Celerin, Peter Jacobi, Scott Jones, Jean Kautt, Lynn Schwartzberg, Craig Widen, Alain Barker (arrived late), Jan Grant (arrived late), Paul Sturm (arrived late), Patricia Pizzo (arrived late)  
ABSENT: Sandy Clothier  
EX OFFICIO: Miah Michaelsen (City staff liaison); Susan Sandberg (City Council liaison; arrived late)

Scott Jones called the meeting to order at 5:05pm

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES from October 19, 2011**

Motion to accept: Martina; second: Craig; passed unanimously

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES from November 16, 2011**

Motion to accept: Peter; second: Martina; passed unanimously

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES from December 21, 2011**

Motion to accept: Craig; second: Peter; passed unanimously

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Municipal Arts Fund (account 402) balance = \$66,638.52

Arts Commission Operating Fund (account 403) balance = \$11,477.48

BAC has granted \$15K in 2011; BAC has \$20K to grant in 2012 (grants awarded twice annually)

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Guest Speaker from the community:

- Miah introduced Andrea Chwee, her new Arts Administration intern
- Marci Neiditz (mneiditz@comcast.net) & Sarah Pearce (sarahp812@gmail.com; www.sarahpearce.com) talked about their new Bloomington artist “Open Studio Tour” to be modeled after very popular Nashville, IN artist studio tours. Plans are to launch the Tour in time for ArtsWeek in first week of April, 2012. The hope is to not only highlight artists who are working in Bloomington, but also to let attendees see and learn about the work of artists (process, space, materials, tools, etc).
- Commissioners Pizzo, Kautt, Jacobi all voiced support for the idea
- Alain suggested they plan to coordinate with IU Festival of the Arts
- Peter asked about funding
- Lynn reminded them of the BAC grant program
- Jan reminded them to consider that the Brains Project will be erected and on display
- Jan reminded them to ask local businesses if they have available space to show artist work, which could build more collaboration
- Neiditz & Pearce addressed BAC comments and said they also plan to interact with Gallery Walk

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Public Arts Master Planning Report**

- Scott mentioned that interviews have begun, and that the responses have been great
- Miah mentioned that City staff have gotten back to her and they have greatly enjoyed the interviews; they find the BAC interviews/meetings interesting and fun

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**Individual Artist Grants Committee Report**

- Miah reported that Martina & Paul met with Miah to discuss pros, cons, issues, ideas related to BAC grants to individual artists
  - Andrea Chwee (Miah's new Arts Admin intern) will research:
    - A) among cities <100K pop.... 1)What individual artist grant pgms exist? \$\$ avail? Criteria?
    - B) other individual artist funding sources? Kickstarter models
  - Andrea also putting together tentative individual artist survey
  - Scott suggested we get a breakdown on % of BAC grants (by # and by \$) that have gone to each genre of arts (visual art, music, theater, etc)
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### **Switchyard Park Steering Committee Report**

- Scott reported that the Switchyard Park Steering Committee has not yet met, but the space is huge and it will be an exciting project; desire to advocate for a performance space and a sculpture park in large Switchyard Park
- Miah mentioned much needs to be determined (by COB) in terms of how land use needs to be managed, especially vis-à-vis land contamination issues; current interest by COB in having passive and active arts participation spaces
- Scott encouraged all BAC members to attend the open meeting if they wish; it should be interesting; Noon on Jan.18 in City Council Chambers

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### **Bloomington Arts Alliance “Art After Hours” reception on Jan.17 @ 5:30pm**

- Scott reported that he’s prepared a few words to talk about BAC and the various projects we’re working on; Arts Alliance has been promoting the reception; Scott encouraged all BAC members to attend; it will be very informal, lots of networking
- Miah agreed with everything Scott said, and reiterated his encouragement for all BAC members to attend
- Craig noted that we should very much attend because what we suffer from is a lack of visibility; so anything that can help connect BACommissioners with the public will help them better understand us, and help us better represent their interests

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Public Art as Fundraiser**

- Craig talked about the “bear town bears” public art fundraising program that was implemented by New Bern, NC; that city created 300 large fiberglass bears that were artistically decorated by area artists and then auctioned/sold to sponsors who paid \$1K for each bear (see [www.beartownbears.com](http://www.beartownbears.com) for more info). They also created a calendar using photos of all 300 art bears.
  - From Wikipedia: New Bern, NC was settled in 1710 as a Swiss immigrant settlement. The city is named after Bern, Switzerland. The “Swiss bear” is the official city animal, as the bear has been the heraldic animal of the seal & coat of arms of Bern, Switzerland since the 1220s.
  - Lynn noted that Chicago did cows, West Lafayette did pigs, Bloomington is planning to do brains..... will local citizens be able to get excited about yet another object project that’s scattered about town?
  - Miah said she plans to have another one of her interns do some research to give us a better picture of policy constraints, opportunities related to programs like this
  - Scott likes it when public art projects like this use art to create revenue
- Craig also suggested everyone go visit the Miller House & Garden in Columbus (a branch site of the Indianapolis Museum of Art); 1953-built home of J. Irwin & Xenia Simons Miller (“America’s most significant modernist house” -Travel+Leisure); Miller family gave \$5M to maintain the house, and IMA/Miller House is going thru those funds very quickly

### **STAFF REPORTS**

1. Miah: lots of good arts activity happening
  - Working with Marci and Sarah on “Open Studio Project”
  - Two public art projects are underway (“Garage Market” sculpture, 4th Street Gateway sculpture)
  - B-Line redesign underway
  - First peek at A4TA data hopefully on Friday; very preliminary peek
  - Upcoming Fundraising Workshop to be led by IU Center on Philanthropy; sold 5-6 seats; 13 left
  - Working with Ivy Tech & Community Foundation on their IAC Community Partner grant
  - Prepping to meet with Elaine Fisher who will help with firehouse renovation
2. Miah concerned that Bloomington Arts Alliance is losing steam; asked BAC to support and attend Arts Alliance annual meeting on Monday, Jan.23 @ 7pm; annual meeting also will include Arts Alliance election of officers

**BLOOMINGTON ARTS COMMISSION (BAC)**

January 11, 2012 meeting, McCloskey Conference Room

- Commissioners were generally receptive to Miah's request, but also generally agreed with sentiments summarized by Alain: if Bloomington Arts Alliance is meant to survive, it will; any extra effort to keep it going in the face of declining member interest & participation will only represent artificial – and fleeting – support for the organization
- 3. Miah is meeting with Brains people tomorrow
- 4. Miah reminder: BAC has set Feb 27 for Public Art Master Plan public comment meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Martina; second: Alain; meeting adjourned by Scott at 6:30pm.

**Next meetings:**

Tue, Jan.17	5:30pm-7:30pm	Bloomington Arts Alliance "Artists After Hours" @ Bloomington Playwrights Project (BPP), 107 West 9th Street
Wed, Jan.18	8:30am-9:30am	Individual Artist Grant Subcommittee meeting @ ESD Conference Table
Fri, Jan.20		deadline for interview notes from commissioners
Mon, Jan.23	5:30pm-6:30pm	Public Arts Master Plan Committee meeting @ McCloskey Conf. Room
Fri, Feb.3	8:30am-9:30am	Individual Artist Grant Subcommittee meeting @ ESD Conference Table
Wed, Feb.8	5pm-6:30pm	BAC monthly meeting @ McCloskey Conf. Room
Mon, Feb.27	7pm	Public Arts Master Plan public comment meeting @ City Hall (?)
Wed, Mar.14	5pm-6pm	BAC monthly meeting @ McCloskey Conf. Room

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Respectfully submitted by Paul Sturm, with assistance from Craig Widen