

## **BLOOMINGTON ARTS COMMISSION (BAC)**

February 8, 2012 meeting, McCloskey Conference Room

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ATTENDING: Alain Barker (arrived late), Martina Celerin, Sandy Clothier, Jan Grant, Peter Jacobi, Scott Jones, Jean Kautt, Patricia Pizzo, Lynn Schwartzberg, Paul Sturm (arrived late), Craig Widen

EX OFFICIO: Miah Michaelsen (City staff liaison)

VISITING: Andrea Chwee & Emily Hellmuth (BEAD Arts Administration Graduate Assistants)

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES from January 11, 2011**

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

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

Arts Commission Operating Fund (account 403) balance = \$11,503.48

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

none

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Miah introduced Andrea Chwee and Emily Hellmuth, coupled with their internal and external responsibilities

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Public Arts Master Planning (PAMP) Report**

- Scott spent time reviewing the reports of the interviews, and their associated activities. The current reports are provided as individual and separate attachments
- City interviews update and still outstanding:
  - Jean met with councilman Andy Rapp (AL)
  - Alain still needs to meet with councilman Steve Volan (D6)
  - Scott still needs to meet with Daniel Grundmann (HR)
  - Jean still needs to meet with Rick Dietz (ITS)
  - Lynn still needs to meet with councilmen Dorothy Granger (D2), Dave Rollo (D4), Darryl Neher (D5), and Pete Giordano (CFS), Roger Kerr (Fire Chief)
- Scott: expanded interviews (COB commissions, Monroe County officials, area schools, Indiana University officials, arts organizations, artists, businesses) are next; Scott expressed specific interest in interviewing IU President McRobbie
- Next round of interviews to be conducted:
  - COUNTY
    - Jean will meet with Rick Dietz (ITS – double-duty w COB)
    - Marty Hawk, Vic Kelson, Ryan Langley, Geoff McKim, Julie Thomas all still need a BACommissioner assigned to interview them
  - SCHOOLS
    - Scott & Alain will meet with Michael McRobbie (IU)
    - Lynn will meet with Judith DeMuth (MCCSC)
    - John Whikehart (Ivy Tech) still needs a BACommissioner assigned to interview him
- Miah advised BAC that non-COB interviews should clearly be about seeking input, and not suggesting future obligation
- Alain warned against “mission creep” in expanding our information gathering efforts; we should not imply that we are developing a regional/area public arts plan, but specifically a COB public arts plan
- Miah: info we gather on area (versus City) arts needs will be interesting, and can be compiled in an appendix, but will be documented apart from specific COB public arts plan feedback, needs, ideas
- more Miah: County, school, & IU interviews will be face-to-face; COB commission interviews will be via email questionnaire (thru City assigned staff); arts organization & artist interviews will be web-based survey

- Timeline: interview results analyzed by May 1; public input gathered by June 15; PAMP drafted by August 15
- Interview questions for next round of expanded interviews were edited/updated by BAC
- Next mtg of PAMP committee = Monday Feb. 27 at 5:30pm in Miah's office

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**Individual Artist Grants Committee Report**

- Martina reported on committee meetings:
  - 1) Committee recognized need for survey to determine artist interest in individual grants, and artist need for individual grants; SurveyMonkey survey created by Andrea resulted in good feedback; survey results/feedback were shared with BAC
  - 2) Andrea also compiled BAC granting history to determine giving trends, which revealed that grants for performing arts projects far outnumber grants for visual arts and multi-genre arts projects
  - 3) Committee agreed that BAC mission and current arts organization grant guidelines needed to be adhered to as strictly as possible in development of an individual artist granting program
  - 4) proposed Individual Artist Grant guidelines and application are ready to share with BAC for review, feedback, and discussion
  - 5) committee recommends one annual grant disbursement for individuals, timed between organizational grant cycles, so proposed Individual Artist Grant application deadline would be Feb. 1
- Alain: not certain that Individual Artist Grant is warranted since grant writing skill was the need mentioned most often in the survey results, and training can be addressed apart from BAC grants
- Peter: grants to individual artists also are more likely to stir controversy, which is one of the reasons the Indiana Arts Commission had moved away from grants to individuals
- Miah reported to BAC that this committee is suggesting a possible start date & initial application deadline no sooner than February 2013, so BAC has full year (or more if desired) before an Individual Artist Grant initiative will be implemented
- Martina reiterated that the committee is simply making its recommendation to the BAC, and that review and feedback is the next step before anything is implemented
- Jean: can see where a program like this would serve a need not currently being addressed
- Jan: survey results indicate individual artists often don't know what they don't know, which is common in town for organizations as well; but Jan appreciates that the committee is still recommending that it's the responsibility of prospective applicants to learn about the process
- Paul: our committee agreed that individuals interested in seeking public funding need to carry & uphold same responsibilities that fund-seeking organizations are held to, including: following grant application protocols, meeting fiscal requirements – including matching funding, and providing a public art or public benefit component
- Miah: we can take this info [the desire for more grant writing skills training] to Ivy Tech-Bloomington to help them identify skill-building needs & training opportunities that they can address as the Indiana Arts Commission Region 8 partner; Miah will contact Steve Bryant at Ivy Tech (Gayle & Bill Cook Center for Entrepreneurship) to chat about "chicken-&-egg" question of artist workshops vs. grant opportunities
- Miah will email results of Andrea's and committee's work to BACommissioners for personal review

**NEW BUSINESS****External Communications Strategy**

- Scott reported that Susan Sandberg suggested that someone from BAC come to City Council meeting to talk about BAC and public art; Scott believes this can be accomplished by a more thorough external communications campaign where every week/every other week we arrange for some person of note from the Bloomington community to attend a Council meeting and make a short statement on "this is what public art means to me"; we could have representatives from Boys & Girls Club, other service organizations not overtly connect to the arts speaking in support of public art
- Alain: concerned that something this frequent and consistent may make the council feel as though they are being hounded; perhaps we need to do something more thoughtful and less frequent
- Craig: likes the idea of having someone from the Boys & Girls Club or other organization to come and speak on behalf of public art

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- Jan: partnerships are a powerful way to communicate the true support within the community for public arts, and testimonials from various community members will demonstrate the broad community desire & interest in public art
- Miah: how about Andrea and I put together an external communications strategy? Perhaps an annual arts census that we could report on annually as a state of arts of the city

**March Grant Workshop**

Wednesday, March 21; Hooker Conference Room: 4pm pre-meeting grant support and Q&A meeting; 5pm BAC meeting

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Lynn: Michael Simmons (COB Parks & Recreation Dept.) contacted her about Lifelong Learning Week in fall 2012, and the topic will be the arts

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Craig; second: Jean; meeting adjourned by Scott at 6:40pm.

**Next meetings:**

Mon, Feb.27	5:30pm	Public Arts Master Plan Committee meeting @ ESD Conference Table
Wed, Mar.21	4pm-5pm	BAC pre-meeting grant support Q&A session @ Hooker Conf. Room
Wed, Mar.21	5pm-6:30pm	BAC monthly meeting @ Hooker Conf. Room
Wed, Apr.11	5pm-6:30pm	BAC monthly meeting @ McCloskey Conf. Room
Wed, May 9	5pm-6:30pm	BAC monthly meeting @ McCloskey Conf. Room
Wed, June 13	5pm-6:30pm	BAC monthly meeting @ McCloskey Conf. Room
Wed, July 11	5pm-6:30pm	BAC monthly meeting @ McCloskey Conf. Room
Wed, Aug.8	5pm-6:30pm	BAC monthly meeting @ McCloskey Conf. Room
Wed, Sep.12	5pm-6:30pm	BAC monthly meeting @ McCloskey Conf. Room
Wed, Oct.10	5pm-6:30pm	BAC monthly meeting @ McCloskey Conf. Room
Wed, Nov.14	5pm-6:30pm	BAC monthly meeting @ McCloskey Conf. Room
Wed, Dec.12	5pm-6:30pm	BAC monthly meeting @ McCloskey Conf. Room

Respectfully submitted by Paul Sturm, with assistance from Craig Widen