

BLOOMINGTON COMMUNITY ARTS COMMISSION MEETING – JANUARY 19, 2011.

Present: Lynn Schwartzberg, Craig Widen, Scott Jones, Peter Jacobi, Patti Pizzo, Alain Barker. Ex Officio: Miah Michaelsen and Susan Sandberg

Minutes for December and November, 2010 – approved

Scott Jones: Treasurer's Report:

The additional funds in the accounts are for the IAC Regional Partnership, which amounts to roughly \$77,000 total for the year. Roughly \$55,000 is presently in the account (additional funds are held back until the final report has been submitted). Around \$2,500 in the account is from postcard competition project.

New Business:

- Lynn Schwartzberg: Request for funds to support the formation of the Arts Alliance of Greater Bloomington.
 - o Patti Pizzo: Does this new organization compete with our mission?
 - Alain and Lynn discussed the mission and purpose of the alliance – essentially an organization that represents artists and arts organizations in Bloomington. The BCAC's mission does not overlap substantially with the new organization. Where it does, there is the hope that the new organization will enhance and support the activities of the BCAC.
 - o Miah Michaelsen: A suggestion that the Alliance write a proposal outlining the needs, with information about other supporting partners, outcomes, budget, etc.
 - o Craig Widen: What has the larger group within the alliance been asked to bring to the table in terms of financial support? Bloomington needs to recognize the need to pay for things. Lynn mentioned that the alliance Steering Team felt that it was more important to seek funds for this initial stage from supporting sources in Bloomington. There is the expectation that the alliance will fund from within once it's up and running.
 - o Miah Michaelsen: We do have discretionary funds that can be used, if the BCAC determines that there is a need worth supporting.
 - o Alain Barker: Would it be possible to have the committee vote on a proposal via e-mail? The consensus was that this would not be a good idea.
 - o Lynn Schwartzberg: Perhaps a proposal can be submitted a week before the next meeting. She also mentioned that the visual arts guild has met and there were around 40 in attendance.

Scott Jones: The MCCSC is deep in discussions about how to use funds from the recent referendum. My wife, Jen Jones, is involved in the North Marching Band – and is concerned that not enough funds will be used to support arts programs. There is a sense that the school board will focus most of the money on math and science, leading away from the arts areas. As a result, arts jobs will most likely not be replaced. More cuts are likely. How can the BCAC get involved to alert the MCCSC board on the value of maintaining the arts programs in the schools?

- Miah Michaelsen: Would it make sense to have Sue Wanzer (MCCSC Board member) attend our next meeting? All agreed – and Miah indicated that she would be invited.

Arts Eats update from Lynn Schwartzberg:

- Event is on February 27 12-2pm? - focused on education.
- Miah Michaelsen: Suggestion that we create a 'MCCSC portfolio' to be handed to new superintendent - a wish-list for the future, including teacher samples. Harness ideas for the future of arts in the MCCSC. This could be an arts project during ArtsEats, with some of the projects – actively played at the tables. The portfolio should include a statement of principles and recommendations about the future of arts education.
- Craig Widen: Would it make sense to include Joe Lamantia in these efforts?
- Scott Jones: This would be good to add to the IU STEM initiative, see: <http://stem.iub.edu/> The arts area of the MCCSC is advocating for a name change to STEAM (including A for arts – as well as science, technology, engineering, mathematics)

Strategic Plan Discussion

- It was agreed that the Statement of Purpose 2.12.020 will be included as a preamble to the finalized Strategic Plan

Les Coyne: Announced his resignation, following three years of being on the BCAC. The committee thanked Les for his substantial leadership on the BCAC, especially during a time of transition when Miah first began her tenure in the city administration.

Miah Michaelsen: update on new commission members:

Given the lack of activities in the BAAC, it's possible that the council may not reappoint anyone to the BCAC. The legislation has to change before the BAAC appointees can be replaced.

Miah Michaelsen: BEAD Update:

- Downtown event banner program will be announced very soon on the Web site.
- There will be a news conference to announce a number of new financial programs
- IAC funds will be used for a board training/retooling program, April 15 and 16. Flashpoint Consulting in Indy has been hired to do this.
 - o Craig Widen: lots of folks want to be in charge of operations, rather than fundraising. We need to educate ourselves in board development. Giving organizations the tools to be more successful. Recommend the BCAC officers attend this Friday/Saturday training for sure.

-- Respectfully submitted by Alain Barker.

Present: Peter Jacobi, Patricia Pizzo, Craig Widen, Alain Barker, Scott Jones, Lynn Schwartzberg. Ex-Officio: Miah Michaelsen and Susan Sandberg

NEW BUSINESS from Miah Michaelsen:

Enabling Legislation Update will be read through by the city council tonight.

STRATEGIC PLAN – 2011 to 2015

- Two interns are available this summer. Perhaps one would be available to the commission for summer projects.
- It would be useful to open discussions with city departments about common goals, interests, and strategies.
- Month of May will be used to discuss the scope of an intra-city arts development plan. The goal is to produce a project scope document, which will include goals for the plan.
- The result would be a roadmap for City support of community arts
- Then we'd be able to move into project mode

Scott Jones: Where are we with the percentage for the arts program?

Miah: Changes will be made. The city administration will need to know what our objectives might be. Then the administration can shape the conversation. For instance, the types of projects we believe to be worthwhile. Should we consider private involvement? Tax abatements? Zoning changes? The objective is strengthening the legislation so that it works.

Miah will write up a concept document for how we move forward with the strategic plan.

Respectfully submitted by Alain Barker

BLOOMINGTON ARTS COMMISSION

JUNE 15, 2011

PRESENT: Peter Jacobi, Patricia Pizzo, Craig Widen, Jan Grant, Jean Kautt, Sandy Clothier, Alain Barker, Scott Jones, Lynn Schwartzberg, Paul Sturm. Ex-Officio: Miah Michaelsen and Susan Sandberg. Regrets: Martina Celerin.

The commission members introduced themselves and welcomed new members Jan Grant, Jean Kautt, Sandy Clothier, and Paul Sturm.

Lynn Schwartzberg update:

- The commission has completed the most recent cycle of grants and was able to sponsor 50% more in funding than previous grant cycles, thanks to the increase in funding from the city budget.
- Nine projects were supported.
- Awards were substantial and meaningful in ways the commission has not been able to act in the past.
- The Strategic Plan is now complete, following more than a year in development.
- Election of Officers: The commission is looking for a two-person team to figure out a new slate of officers, which will be voted on at next month's meeting.
- The President acts as chair of all commission meetings, presents reports to the City Council, and represents the commission at events. The president, in collaboration with Miah Michaelsen, sets the agenda for commission meetings.
- The Treasurer discusses finances with Miah, receives a monthly updated budget sheet, and presents the numbers to the commissioners. The budget over the past few years has remained very stable.
- The Secretary writes minutes and keeps track of who's at meeting.

Approval of Minutes – March 30. Alain Barker will send these to the committee.

Treasurer's Report: Scott Jones

In addition to circulating the printed report, Scott mentioned that the commission had resisted the impulse to spend much money in the last year, while it considered a new strategic plan.

Miah Michaelsen

Percentage for the Arts program: 1% of eligible public works projects by the City of Bloomington should be used on art projects. The city is looking to the commission to redesign the ordinance. Based on the direction the commission wants to go in, the ordinance can be changed. Right now, there are enough loopholes in the ordinance for all departments to keep clear of the 1% commitment. We generally enjoy arts support from city departments. However, with budgets getting tighter, it's been difficult to keep the commitment going. Federal and State-funded building projects do now qualify for the program.

Susan Sandberg: Tax abatements might be a good way to leverage funds into support of the arts.

Lynn: Also, if there is city support for projects in general, there might be a way to include support of the arts as well.

Miah: Funding explained:

- The commission's funding comes from her department requests within the City of Bloomington budget
- The \$11,000 line is an account that was originally established for the postcard project.
- Accumulations do not go back to the city at the end of the year.
- The account is used as a pass-through account (IAC grant program, for instance). Around \$2,400 is still there from the postcard competition. Any new funds that we raise would go into that fund.
- Another fund that impacts the work. Public Arts Maintenance fund is used for upkeep of public art, For instance, broken sculptures, repair funds, etc. The funds in this account revert back to the City at the end of the fiscal year.

Craig Widen:

Something to think of: we can raise funds for projects ourselves, which would be in addition to what we have access to.

OLD BUSINESS: 2011 Work Plan

Grants work plan committee

- Scott will chair the committee and will lead the discussions next month
- Peter Jacobi and Paul Sturm will join the committee
- Scott: How do we handle our appropriation? We're looking for ideas for changing the granting process, creating partners, etc. This would be good to brainstorm next month with the full committee.

Lynn: September arts event will be an introduction to the season.

- Taking place on or near the B-Line Trail
- Includes information booths, live performance
- The committee: Lynn, Alain, Jan, Paul, Miah
- The Mayor is interested to support
- Alain will talk with Valerie Pena about the project.
- Early September weekend will include the renaming of the SOFA gallery. Welcome Back weekend for students is the prior weekend. Culture-fest is Friday, September 9.
- A way to celebrating the Season. ArtsStart!

Miah: Two interns will be involved in her office during the summer. They are Ann Fields and Allejandra Lance. They can be used for this project.

Miah: A press conference is planned for June 21.

- BEAD Press conference 10 a.m. on Tuesday. BEAD will roll out several new initiatives, grants, loan opportunities, things that the commission might want to promote. The initiatives are designed to help the commission assist artists, arts organizations. The commission members are encouraged to attend and are always invited to BEAD advisory committee meetings. BEAD meetings include an opportunity for networking, updates, discussions about current issues and events, what's happening, etc. It's the only regular general arts meeting in Bloomington. The meeting usually includes a report from this commission.
- BEAD Update
Discussion at the next council meeting: BCT loan-fund grant application from the Bloomington Investment Fund amounts to \$25,000 for renovations, etc. Bloomington Playwrights Project received a grant that was used for lobby refurbishing. FEAST received a loan recently as well.

Lynn: it's time for the commission to design and implement its own work plan now!

Miah: At the next meeting, I will bring a plan to help initiate the work plan.

Alain: Can Miah present an overview of what happens City-wide in the arts – in all departments?

Craig: We can become advocates and stimulate interest in the arts, broadly.

Susan: Think of the switchyard project. This commission can be at the table for this.

Respectfully submitted by Alain Barker

BLOOMINGTON ARTS COMMISSION

July 20, 2011 meeting

PRESENT: Alain Barker, Martina Celerin, Sandy Clothier, Scott Jones, Jean Kautt, Patricia Pizzo, Lynn Schwartzberg, Paul Sturm.

Ex-Officio: Miah Michaelsen and Susan Sandberg.

Regrets: Jan Grant, Peter Jacobi, Craig Widen.

Lynn Schwartzberg called meeting to order at 5:09pm

Approval of Minutes from June 15, 2011: motion to accept (Sandy Clothier); second (Scott Jones); passed unanimously

Treasurer's Report by Scott Jones:

\$4K-\$5K left in BAC operating account

~\$20K in IAC pass-thru Arts Commission Operating account

\$66,638.52 balance in Municipal Arts account

New Business: none

Old Business:

Grants Work Group Report & Brainstorming Session

(GWG: Peter Jacobi, Scott Jones, Paul Sturm; with Miah Michaelsen)

1. Goal is to review grant application form before next app cycle (with due date Oct.1)
2. Peter offered lots of text clarifications/corrections
3. "Review Committee" replaced with "Bloomington Arts Commission" since full BAC evaluates
4. Added word-limits on select questions in application form
5. Removed discussion of 501(c)(3) since status is not required of applicants; applicants can simply declare that they're Not-For-Profit; no documentation required; Miah: grant recipients have to provide tax ID #, so applicants are pretty above board with claims
6. Added request of applicants to describe how BAC funds will be used
7. BAC funds can only be up to 50% of overall budget; in-kind cannot be more than 25% of overall budget (or more than half of the minimum 50% match); this also helps measure applicant's organizational capacity
8. Added request for more detail in prior-City-funding info sought from applicants
9. Much of the grant application info will be put in a new Grant Guidelines document, rather than in the actual grant application form; Guidelines doc still needs some tweaking (i.e. cap/ratio info still missing)

Robust discussion about need to maintain support for new organizations and new ideas, with input from Alain, Paul, Scott, Miah, Martina, Jean; Martina also strongly requested that "Art" is included in the title

Miah and her office team will make final corrections and distribute to BAC for review and approval at next BAC meeting

Miah also mentioned a formal grant reporting tool - requested/suggested by Scott - will be a future project; Jean and Martina agreed this is a good idea

Miah: potential funding partner/collaborator could be Tina Peterson, new Community Foundation director - will she agree to match BAC grant with CF funds?

Grant priorities discussion:

Miah: summer intern Ann Fields created list of other arts commissions' grant programs for arts orgs; they focus on:

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES: projects, events, human experiences

EDUCATION: educational programs and projects (opportunities to partner arts orgs with schools)

ART CREATION: art commissions, art gets created

Alain: BAC Strategic Plan should help shape what our grant priorities are; BAC often functions as agent to empower arts

Miah: in PROGRAMMING section of BAC's Strategic Plan, BAC's goals include:

2. – provide programs and services that support sustainable growth for arts;
- 2.(desc.) and 2.1. – promote and support personal and public creative activity;

- 2.1.a. – expand grant program {how? \$\$? scope?};
- 2.1.b. – support emerging artists and arts organizations;
- 2.2. – advance community involvement in arts;
- 2.3. – respond to emerging needs in arts community

Scott: my main interest is advancement of arts education; would like to possibly see grants specifically for education programs

Jean: let's look at history of what orgs are asking funding for;

Jean request of Miah: provide list of who applied and what was funded

Miah: let's also consider degree to which applicants self-select (both in and out of application process); maybe add check-box: is your project or grant app for EXPERIENCE? EDUCATION? CREATION? maybe outcome is better measure than medium (performance versus visual etc)

Paul: cautioned that he's seen arts orgs and non-profits fabricate connections to grant project "themes" or priorities in order to seek funding; prefers BAC's more open grant application guidelines so that applicants are submitting proposals on their own merits, and they're not straining to make project grant application fit a narrowly defined funding priority

Miah: likes BAC move toward more outcomes-based emphasis and documentation in granting; we also need to better promote past BAC efforts and funded grant projects

Jean: suggested "A Year In The Arts" display in City Hall on art wall; and on website

Martina: also post successfully funded grant applications on website as public reference

ArtStart Work Group Report

(AWG: Alain Barker, Jan Grant, Lynn Schwartzberg, Paul Sturm; with Miah Michaelsen)

Paul: survey of local arts groups indicated a majority like the ArtStart event idea and will participate; date and time set for Saturday, September 17, 5pm-8/9pm; group agreed we need a headliner performer to make the event a serious draw for attendees

Miah: Straight No Chaser not available; Parks & Rec best draws are Carrie Newcomer and Krista Detor

Lynn/Paul: will contact Krista, which also gets us Dave Weber who can assist on tech needs

Performer ideas from all BAC:

- Hudsucker Posse;
- Jacobs SOM opera flash mob;
- BHS marching band (north or south);
- juggler (name to be determined);
- Binford Drum Corps;
- Prizy Prizy Please or Main Squeeze

Miah: cautioned this is a big project idea with a tight window for execution; recommended putting ArtStart event on hold for a year; possibly make event part of 4th Street Fest (Martina asked that this idea also be put on hold for a year); possibly make event part of Farmer's Market (Alain noted the weakness of this plan and suggested we either do the event as we believe it should be done to be successful, or not do the event)

After a bit more brief conversation among the group, it was decided to postpone ArtStart for a year

Miah: ArtStart and revival of the Arts Awards are two projects for BAC to work on

Officer Selection

Lynn discussed officer slate

Miah will send out list of nominees

Elections will be next meeting (August 17, 2011)

Lynn Schwartzberg adjourned meeting

Respectfully submitted by Paul Sturm for Alain Barker

BLOOMINGTON ARTS COMMISSION

August 17, 2011 meeting

PRESENT: Alain Barker, Martina Celerin, Sandy Clothier, Jan Grant, Peter Jacobi, Scott Jones, Jean Kautt, Lynn Schwartzberg, Paul Sturm, Craig Widen.

Ex-Officio: Miah Michaelsen.

Absent: Patricia Pizzo.

Lynn Schwartzberg called meeting to order at 5:07pm

Approval of Minutes from July 20, 2011:

Motion to accept minutes = Sandy; second = Scott; passed unanimously

Treasurer's Report by Scott Jones

\$12,223.69 balance in BAC Operating account with almost all IAC pass-thru funds dispersed

\$66,638.52 balance in Municipal Arts account

CITY UPDATE by Miah Michaelsen

Thursday Sep.8 will be B-Line Trail Completion Ceremony, 5:30p-7p; COB and Parks & Rec will co-present; 4p is bike parade; see Sunday paper for details

RFP info sent out today to planning firms for Switchyard Park; COB is planning some innovative ways to engage public in park planning

October dedication for Boys & Girls Club mural on trail

BEAD partnered w urban enterprise zone for grant funds for biz along b-line trail

Jill Bolte Taylor brains project: last COB suggestion to Jill was that she take her project to the community to see if she can raise funds; she did; update: 15 sponsors so far

IAC will soon announce a new Regional Arts Partner

Craig asked about Community Band and their lack of application for funds from BEAD/IAC; Miah spoke to the issue, and mentioned she has spoken w their board & staff about improving fundraising efforts and at least submitting applications for grant funds when available

OLD BUSINESS

GRANT GUIDELINES

Scott: changes to grant application: 1) provide example of 1:1 match on both Guidelines and Application; 2) carry numbering out from #8 to last line (three lines skipped)

Sandi: What does BAC do to help with capacity building, especially for new orgs that are not there yet?

Miah: COB provides some answers to arts orgs

Peter: This comes back to the question of: can we be an org that helps solve problems?

Lynn: ...and that's part of our strategic plan, but we don't yet have that figured out.

Craig: BAC has already made a positive impact; some local arts orgs that have learned how to improve their grant applications and how to make a case for their projects.

Scott: discussed prior example when BAC only offered feedback on first try of an organization's application (with no funding granted), then funded the project on the organization's second (improved) application try

Miah: Changes being voted on tonight are phase one of what will be larger changes long term; BAC may still want to offer a grant workshop, perhaps prior to the BAC meeting in September.

General agreement that BAC should try that; Sep 21 will be open session starting at 4:30pm to offer feedback on grants prior to application deadline

Motion to accept new grant application & guidelines = Peter; second = Craig; passed unanimously

Miah mentioned last meeting's request to see past-funded organizations & grants; Miah provided 2008, part of 2009, and 2010 grant recipients

Scott/Jean: We still need list of those who applied but were not funded

OFFICER SELECTION

Slate: Chair = Scott Jones; Secretary = Paul Sturm; Treasurer = Craig Widen

Motion to accept officer slate = Alain; second = Sandy; passed unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

BEAD GRANT PROGRAMS

Miah reviewed new Arts Partner Grant and new BEAD Forgivable Loan Program

Arts Partner Grants (APG):

max award = \$5K; total avail funds = \$20K; 1 grant cycle per year; grants avail to for-profit as well as not-for-profit orgs that focus on arts; grants are for new projects (not ongoing projects) in COB (not required to be in BEAD district); guidelines are on COB website; guidelines are very similar to BAC grant guidelines

Arts Partner Grants will replace ad hoc funding provided by BEAD/COB in the past to local arts orgs

Craig: asked for updated map showing city boundary, BEAD boundary, in relation to B-Line and placement of BAC commissioned/funded art projects

Miah: There's been some continued request to COB/BEAD for expansion of BEAD territory

Alain: Will COB ever give BAC resources like these to award out? COB funds and BEAD funds can provide different and distinct services; perhaps BAC can help assist making the distinction between BEAD and All-city projects

Miah: COB offering incentives to BEAD location/placement of/by orgs; benchmarked on other municipal models

Scott/Miah: This grant program will largely eliminate BEAD's ability to make impromptu gifts of support

Paul: once/yr BEAD funding mechanism may shift more arts org funding requests to BAC grants

Miah: BCT space-use grant pgm has greatly reduced impromptu requests for "freebie" space use; COB hopes this will APG will similarly help org better plan funding needs annually

Jean: praised COB website as resource for maps & info, but requested that easy-to-find spot/link be created on site to support new grant efforts

Forgivable Loan program:

effort by COB to offer something to businesses specifically as they relate to being located in BEAD as an economic district; 5-yr Forgivable Loan for 2 sectors of business development:

1. "Arts Row" incentives (west Kirkwood from Madison to Maple) - will support new retail, food, art up to \$10K
 2. "All-BEAD Sector" incentives - will support retail & arts development (not restaurant) up to \$5K
- If a business gets loan approved, their monthly loan payments are returned at end of each year they successfully remain in business

\$30K total funds for this program; currently a 2-year funding commitment; applicant business must be located on a ground floor; no second-floor developments

Jean: suggested COB go to Near West Side and Prospect Hill residents/neighborhood associations to see what they are interested in getting in their neighborhoods; Bloomingfoods has found that business success on west side is all driven by local residents

Craig: McDoel Gardens residents should be included too

Sandy: Have west Kirkwood businesses been notified of this opportunity?

Miah: info has been disseminated via Chamber, CVB, COB; but these are good ideas for getting info out

Craig: Are these loans issued on a first-come-first-served basis?

Miah: yes; application process and review criteria are available on COB website; typical to SBDC criteria

Sandy: Does Tom Gallagher know about this?

Miah: yes

Sandy: Does this loan program cover construction?

Miah: yes; it can be lease-hold improvements, build-outs, etc; monies go to the business operating in the sector (not necessarily the property holder); please promote this info and program

Scott: Can applicants apply to both APG and Forgivable Loan? And both APG and BAC grant?

Miah: yes, yes

Craig: After COB funds a business with a Forgivable Loan, how do we help these businesses survive?

Miah: We can mention them in BEAD news, but it's up to the business to take care of its own promo; they get no special coverage from COB/BEAD.

Sandy: any update on the Firehouse on Rogers?

Miah: no update yet

PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN

Public Art Master Plan is on hold until September meeting; Miah distributed document with topics for discussion

Alain requested that BAC members get a history of public art in Bloomington from COB prior to next meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETING SCHEDULE (WEDNESDAYS AT 5PM):

Sep.21 - McCloskey Conf Room:

open (informational) reviews of grants begin at 4:30pm;
public arts planning will be main meeting's agenda

Oct.19 - McCloskey Conf Room

Nov.16 - Hooker Conf Room

Dec.21 - McCloskey Conf Room

2012 meetings will be the third Wednesday of the month at 5pm

BUSKIRK-CHUMLEY THEATER

Lynn: BCT renovation is coming along great

Scott Jones adjourned the meeting.

Next meeting = October 19 beginning at 5pm in McCloskey Conference Room

Respectfully submitted by Paul Sturm

BLOOMINGTON ARTS COMMISSION

September 21, 2011 meeting; Hooker Conference Room

PRESENT: Alain Barker, Martina Celerin, Sandy Clothier, Jan Grant, Peter Jacobi, Scott Jones, Jean Kautt, Lynn Schwartzberg, Craig Widen; Patricia Pizzo (left early); Paul Sturm (arrived late).
Staff: Miah Michaelsen.

Pre-meeting grant question-and-answer period was conducted 4:30pm-5:10pm.

Scott Jones called meeting to order at 5:10pm

Approval of Minutes from August 17, 2011:

Motion to accept minutes = P. Pizzo; second = C. Widen; passed unanimously

Treasurer's Report by Craig Widen. Balances Municipal Arts Fund: \$66,638.52; Arts Commission Operating: \$10,580.14.

OLD BUSINESS

GRANT GUIDELINES

The meeting began with a brief discussion with Guy Hardy regarding the potential grant application from the Arts Alliance as a continuation of the pre-meeting grant question-and-answer period. The application would be regarding a non-arts project to develop a Web site for the arts community. Questions were raised regarding the necessity to have 501(c)3 status at application time (there isn't any requirement) and how to address artistic quality. The commission members provided feedback.

Inge Van der Cruysse, Assistant City Attorney with the City of Bloomington Legal Department, spoke to the commission about BAC grant guidelines. Her summary of her remarks appears below:

- (1) If the BAC has a grant program, can funding be granted to religious organizations or sectarian groups? Per the Establishment Clause ("*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...*"), government funding should not go to programs that solely focus on the establishment, aid to, prohibition of, or furtherance of one religion or all religions (separation of church-state).

However, religious organizations (and other sectarian groups) may compete for funding under grant programs that have a goal which is not related to religion, and government is not free to exclude religious groups from benefiting from public funding.

In BAC terms, when grant programs are issued and guidelines for the grant proposals are written, the guidelines and standards must on their face be subject neutral and view point neutral. In addition, the BAC must in its application of the guidelines and standards throughout its selection of grant recipients be view point neutral and subject neutral, because courts subject the standards/guidelines and the application of them to the strict scrutiny (the highest level of scrutiny) when they analyze a claim of a violation of a First Amendment right.

- (2) How about excluding other sectarian groups from access to public funding, groups whose viewpoint does not correspond with the viewpoint of the BAC?

Both the U.S. Supreme Court and the Federal Court of Appeals of the 7th Circuit (which decides cases for IN/IL and WI) have decided that a government is prohibited from denying access of political advocacy groups to government facilities open to the public for rent. Whether the question is about access to public funding or access to spaces owned by the government and open to the public, there is no real distinction in the law for our purposes.

Conclusions

Be viewpoint-neutral, content-neutral in the BAC grant program guidelines and standards, as well as in the application of those when the BAC judge proposals; required under the strict scrutiny analysis that courts apply when they analyze First Amendment cases.

Open Door laws require that BAC members discuss any selection of grant applicants in a public meeting, and that any of BAC members' writings (e-mail, memos, notes) be public records available to the public for inspection.

BAC is entitled to deny grants for any proposal that violates federal/state/local laws e.g. any proposal that violates the Municipal Code's non-discrimination provision 2.21.020.

PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN: TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. RATIONALE: Why are we doing this?
 - VALUES & STANDARDS
 - Values & Standards would be presented through a set of Guiding Principles and Values
 - What do we value?
 - What are Bloomington's art characteristics?
 - We're looking for a city filled with art
2. GOALS: What do we want this plan to accomplish?
 - Provide opportunities for local artists
 - Further develop the artistic vibrancy of the city
 - Enhance the uniqueness of the city
 - Benefit the city
 - Establish working relationships with other city agencies and entities
 - **Sub-Note:** Look to city's Environmental Commission as model and benchmark of BAC future role in arts policy discussion
 - Public input and feedback
 - **Sub-Note:** Look for best practices we can adopt or customize to our needs
3. SCOPE: How far-reaching do we want to be?
 - Bloomington is our scope
 - Produce a plan for arts development; not so much a temporal plan as a values + standards plan
 - Public forum can provide ideas for development, but plan should be BAC-driven
 - Create a blueprint for public art that can be useful to BAC programs and to other area businesses and organizations wanting to commission art
 - Help our citizenry understand how to do/what to do regarding public art
 - We can use Master Plan as a way to model something that will work – something that will help BAC achieve its mission and strategic plan
 - We need a public art philosophy combined with/as well as a public art process/practice for implementation of public art projects

Public Art Master Plan work committee: Alain Barker, Martina Celerin, Sandy Clothier, Peter Jacobi, Lynn Schwartzberg, and Scott Jones

First committee meeting = Thursday, October 27, morning, in the McCloskey Room.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN PLAIN SIGHT

Lynn reminded commissioners to tour and view the multi-site "In Plain Site" public artwork currently being presented by Ivy Tech Bloomington, and funded in part by a BAC grant.

IAC REGIONAL ARTS PARTNER

Miah: IAC announced that Ivy Tech Bloomington is the new Regional Arts Partner for IAC Region 8 (Brown, Greene, Lawrence, Monroe, Morgan, & Owen Counties).

Scott Jones adjourned the meeting.

Next meeting = October 19 beginning at 5pm in McCloskey Conference Room

Meeting Schedule for 2011:

November 16 beginning at 5pm in Hooker Conference Room

December 21 beginning at 5pm in McCloskey Conference Room

Respectfully submitted by Paul Sturm (and Scott Jones?)

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

ABSENT: Alain Barker, Lynn Schwartzberg

EX OFFICIO: Miah Michaelsen (City staff liaison); Susan Sandberg (City Council liaison)

Scott Jones called the meeting to order.

ART PROJECT GRANT REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

1. Art Project Grant applicants in attendance presented brief commentary on their grant applications

2. Art Project Grant applications were reviewed and scored by commissioners

Scott announced that Lynn Schwartzberg provided grant application feedback and scores in absentia via information she emailed to Scott.

Twenty-one grant applications were reviewed and scored. Applicants and requested amounts:

Grant #	Organization	Requested
1	ArtsWORK / Trustees of IU	\$ 495.00
2	Boys & Girls Club	\$ 1,000.00
3	Center for Sustainable Living	\$ 1,000.00
4	Edward Powell	\$ 1,000.00
5	Gallery Walk Group	\$ 1,000.00
6	Lotus Arts & Education Foundation	\$ 640.00
7	St. Marks	\$ 700.00
8	Women Exposed	\$ 1,000.00
9	BCT Management, Inc.	\$ 1,000.00
10	Bloomington Chamber Singers	\$ 1,000.00
11	Bloomington Community Band	\$ 580.00
12	Bloomington Playwright's Project	\$ 1,000.00
13	Bloomington Symphony Orchestra	\$ 1,000.00
14	Cardinal Stage	\$ 500.00
15	Early Music in Motion	\$ 1,000.00
16	IU Children's Choir	\$ 250.00
17	Jazz from Bloomington	\$ 750.00
18	MAYO	\$ 1,000.00
19	SIWE	\$ 510.00
20	Windfall Dancers	\$ 1,000.00
21	Winter Farmers Market	\$ 800.00

Thirteen grant applications were funded. Grantees and amounts awarded:

- **BCT Management** – \$618.60 for the 2012 PRIDE Film Festival.
- **Bloomington Chamber Singers** – \$557.50 for their performance of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*.
- **Bloomington Playwrights Project** – \$595.69 for their MiniPlay Contest and Camp that will engage local students in the writing and production of their own plays.
- **Bloomington Symphony Orchestra** – \$656.79 in support of their annual side-by-side concert with the Hoosier Youth Philharmonic that will include a special performance by Windfall Dancers.
- **Boys & Girls Club** – \$565.14 to bring performing artists into their art program.
- **Cardinal Stage** – \$500.00 for the hiring of an American Sign Language interpreter for performances of *Annie* and *Big River*.
- **Center for Sustainable Living** – \$534.60 for the 2012 Trashion Refashion Show featuring clothing made from recycled materials.

BLOOMINGTON ARTS COMMISSION (BAC)

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October 19, 2011 meeting, McCloskey Conference Room

- **GalleryWalk Group** – \$641.51 for support of the 2012 Downtown Gallery Walk and Gallery Works programs.
- **Jazz from Bloomington** – \$534.60 in support of the creation of a venue for young instrumentalists to practice improvisation and the performance of jazz music.
- **Lotus Arts & Education Foundation** – \$640.00 for the Lotus Blossoms Collaborative Art Project that will involve local students in the creation of several community art projects.
- **Musical Arts Youth Orchestra** – \$534.60 in support of the "Elements" project which increases the accessibility of orchestral music to underserved youth.
- **Southern Indiana Wind Ensemble** – \$510.00 for their May 2012 concert that will feature the premier of a piece composed by the winner of their Composition Contest.
- **Windfall Dancers** – \$610.97 for a collaborative project that features local musicians, singers, acrobats, and dancers in the presentation of "Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine."

Motion to adjourn: Martina; second: Craig; meeting was adjourned by Scott.

Next meetings:

Wed, Nov. 16, 5pm = commission meeting, McCloskey Conference Room

Tue, Nov. 29, 5:30pm = Public Art Master Plan Committee meeting, McCloskey Conference Room

Wed, Dec. 21, 5pm = commission meeting, McCloskey Conference Room

Respectfully submitted by Paul Sturm

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from September 12

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 = \$10,580.14
BAC has granted \$15K in 2011; BAC has \$20K to grant in 2012
(grants awarded twice annually)

PUBLIC COMMENT – Guest Speaker from the community:

Chaim Julian, Chairman, Democracy for Monroe County (affiliated with Democracy for America) and
Deputy Clerk at Monroe County

Mr. Julian commented on downtown Bloomington area architecture; Mr. Julian is concerned that the buildings going up are boring, variations on a box. He believes it is a shame that Bloomington — which prides itself in the arts, especially in its BEADistrict — should have so many boring and even hideous buildings. Mr. Julian is coming to BAC because, since architecture is an art form, it seems logical to him that BAC should have a voice in architecture and planning approvals. He understands there are no city ordinances to this effect, but he plans to speak to the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council in support of this idea. If Columbus, IN — which is not known for its arts but is very well known for its architecture — can have an architectural strategy, then it seems logical for the City of Bloomington to do the same. Mr. Julian suggested Kirkwood Manor, Victoria Towers, the Courthouse, and other older buildings as examples of beautiful architecture that should be preserved. He asked that commissioners think about how BAC might participate in maintaining architectural standards.

Commissioners Pizzo, Kautt, Jacobi all voiced agreement with the speaker.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Art Project Grant Program Debrief

BAC funded 11 organizations; as noted by Craig: \$15K awarded in 2011; \$20K to be awarded in 2012

Commission comments:

- Martina believes individual visual artists are underrepresented in the BAC grant process; performing artists – as members of ensembles – have more access to BAC grants, while visual artists aren't typically associated with organizations and yet carry similar cost burdens in their artistic endeavors
- Miah confirmed that BAC has not funded individual artists for the last two years because the commission decided to allow only organizations to submit arts project proposals in the grant process
- Patty/Peter/Jean voiced support for this idea
- Scott noted that individuals don't often have the ability to ensure the same level of public impact that we now seek from applicants
- Martina again noted that individuals should not be immediately excluded from applying if individual artists can support all facets and goals of the grant criteria
- Scott: is this something that will fit under the Public Arts Plan? Should we set up a separate Individual Artist granting program?

- Lynn: how does funding individuals meet our mission?
- Alain/Martina: we should hold individual artists to the same criteria as organizations; we should maintain our mission and desired public impact criteria
- Miah offered more perspectives, precedents, and suggestions for how BAC might manage next year's funds in order to consider and allow for changes like this to the BAC grant program; what individual artists need is the micro grant model at \$500-\$1,000
- Alain: along with Lynn's concern, we should make sure we don't fall too far into funding individual artists and not keeping the larger public impact at the fore
- Scott: if we are in agreement that this is something we want to explore, let's have Miah's Arts Admin graduate assistant pull some examples of other city grant programs to individual artists, and let's form a committee to explore this idea

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- Miah: Are there other changes to the current grant guidelines that need to be worked on?
 - Scott: do we want to hold applicants to perfectly balanced budgets?
 - Craig: would prefer to see organizations that can get close, but not necessarily perfect on these details
 - Miah: we can add language, "applications can be eliminated or disqualified due to noncompliance with guidelines"
 - Scott: do we want to require a 50:50 match? Do we want to cap in-kind support at 25% of total grant? (50% of 50%)
 - General commission response in the affirmative
 - Scott: what about word limits?
 - Craig: we should keep text controlled, and also do the same thing with the presentations (capped at 2 minutes, for instance), and organization representatives should have knowledge of the grant or otherwise not speak
 - Scott/Jean/Lynn: we should allow more words in the publicity and marketing plan description
 - Jean: and we need to provide more prior support & mentoring to applicants prior to submittal
 - Miah/Scott: we can do that; we already offer 2 grant writing workshops each year
 - Miah: what about "outline your project in 150 words or less" as an alternative?
 - Peter cautioned that we are too formulaic in our word limits, and perhaps we give more thought to how many words are allowed in each section
 - Paul suggested that we use "can or may be disqualified" on communication criteria, and only use "will be disqualified" on the financial issue of matching and in-kind funds
 - Peter: you could use the "ABC" criteria: Accuracy Brevity Clarity
 - Scott: what about "suggested word limit"?
 - Martina: do we penalize overly long grant applications?
 - Scott: I think we build in the flexibility for us to evaluate each grant application, but still be able to hold applicants accountable for poor grantsmanship

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- Miah: so we're going to add language to the review criteria section that we may disqualify applications for poor grantsmanship; use of bullet points are allowed & encouraged; we switch to "suggested word limit" in application
 - Martina: do we also agree that we're not funding training, capital expenditures, food, etc?
 - Lynn/Miah/Scott: Yes
 - Martina: somehow in the grant process we should strongly encourage them to come to the 2-minute presentation in order to offer pertinent information
 - Miah: since this is currently missing in our Guidelines, we should add a section about the grants review process in the Guidelines
 - Alain/Scott/Jan: speaking can allow orgs to tell us what is special, unique about their proposal
 - Miah: it's important to say that grants will be reviewed and scored in a public meeting; grantees are allowed and encouraged to participate through a public comment period. Any other thoughts? {no}
Then newly revised Grant Application and Guidelines will be presented for our review and approval at the December meeting

2. Public Art Master Plan Committee Report

Scott offered summary report of committee's first meeting:

- Scott: committee has developed a structure; established future goals that include: develop and implement a process of public input, solicit goals of city gov't & community, create a process for initiating new public arts projects, then facilitate a plan

Goals:

- Create a "Vision for Public Arts" subject to revision with public input
- Develop process for public input, and implement this process
- Identify current offerings, goals, needs
- Create a process for initiating new projects
- Finalize a plan

Current Steps:

- Committee developed a working "Vision for Public Arts" – want input tonight
- Defined a generic scope of this with relatively short-term goals (3-5 years) for entire city, to include the City of Bloomington, including but not limited to BEAD
- Miah has created an inventory of current COB public art holdings
 - Miah: on the COB website, go to Arts and Culture, see Permanent Collection: this will give listings of two dimensional work, sculpture, public art, three dimensional work, etc
- We've developed a questionnaire to be given to 23 city officials & staff (elected and appointed) to identify current activities and goals going forward
- This questionnaire also will help raise visibility of BAC within city
- Need to assign people to visit city officials & staff

Commission comments:

- Miah: send a letter to Tom Micuda (Director, City Planning) to let him know that BAC would like opportunity to talk about building design as it relates to Bloomington's future development; important to put this in writing so it gets formally folded into the planning conversation
- Craig: so we begin our visits and interviews after this letter has gone to Tom? {yes}
- Martina: are these to be face-to-face interviews? {yes}
- Peter: change "provide" to "add" in first sentence; also:
"Public art projects, independent of discipline or medium, enhance the community and represent unique opportunities for artists to engage people in their day-to-day lives."

NEW BUSINESS

- Lynn: Bloomington Arts Alliance has asked that BAC attend (in the whole) their "Artist After Hours" on January 17 @ 5:30pm; before their first meeting; location not yet known; Scott should be prepared to give a short presentation on BAC
- Miah: BAC "Report to the Mayor" has been moved to November 30, 7:30pm, City Council Meeting; Scott will deliver the report
- Alain: *La Boheme* is selling out at JSOM, so get your tickets
- Lynn will have a stall at the Holiday Market; come by & support

Motion to adjourn: Craig; second: Lynn; meeting adjourned by Scott at 6:40pm.

Next meetings:

Tue, Nov. 29, 5:30pm = Public Art Master Plan Committee meeting, McCloskey Conference Room
Wed, Dec. 21, 5pm = commission meeting, McCloskey Conference Room
Wed, Jan. 7, 8:30am = Individual Artist Grant Committee meeting, Suite 130 Conference Room
Wed, Jan. 11, 5pm = commission meeting, McCloskey Conference Room

Bloomington Arts Commission (BAC)
Wednesday, December 21, 2011
McCloskey Conference Room, City Hall

Commissioners Present: Alain Barker, Martina Celerin (late arrival), Jan Grant, Peter Jacobi, Scott Jones, Jean Kautt, Lynn Schwartzberg, Paul Sturm (later arrival), Craig Widen

Absent: Sandy Clothier, Patricia Pizzo

Ex Officio: Miah Michaelson (City Staff Liaison), Susan Sandberg (City Council Liaison)

1. Scott Jones called the meeting to order @ 5:05 PM
 - a. Poor initial member attendance negated a quorum for the first 40 minutes.
2. Minutes of October 19, 2011. Motion to accept – Peter Jacobi; Craig Widen second; passed unanimously.
3. Treasurer's Report – Craig Widen
 - a. Municipal Arts Fund (Acct 402) balance @ \$66,638.52
 - b. Arts Commission Operating Fund (Acct 403) balance @ \$10,580.14.
 - c. BAC has granted \$15K in 2011; has \$20K for 2012. Recent history: these grants have been awarded twice annually (spring and fall)
4. Old Business:
 - a. Artist Grants Committee presented/discussed two minor wording changes to the Grant Application "Guidelines"
 - b. An energetic Public Arts Master Planning discussion ensued. The "work in motion" and some of its deliverables (as they directly relate to the revised "Vision for the Public Arts") were debated.
 - c. Visits to City officials and staff, by BAC commissioner teams have begun. Completion deadline January 20, 2012.
 - d. Reminder: Arts Alliance "Artist After Hours" is January 17th, 2012 @ 5:30 PM. Location: Bloomington Playwrights Project (BPP)
 - e. The Commission scheduled a tentative date for the Public Arts Public Meeting for February 27, 2012 7:00 – 8:30 in City Council Chambers.
5. New Business:
 - a. Extensive discussion for establishing an exploratory BAC Committee to study "Individual Artists Grants": Martina, Paul, and Lynn volunteered to serve. Report due back at Feb 15th meeting. We (the commission) want the public to know we are looking at this subject.
 - b. A brief discussion of the Switchyard Steering Committee and its quest for innovative use of space. Further discussions to be held in January 2012.
 - c. Jean Kautt initiated a discussion of partnering and mentoring with Gary, IN and their new Mayor Karen Wilson-Freeman as she tackles some very serious community issues. Commissioners will look at ways to "reach out" and establish a relationship.

It was noted this has been a busy 12 months and the addition of enthusiastic energetic new members has been a boon to the commission.

Adjournment: @ 6:30
Motion to adjourn: Craig; second Alain

Next meeting: January 11th, 2012 @McCloskey Conference Room, City Hall

CW Dec 2011