

**Bloomington Arts Commission**  
**Wednesday, March 12, 2014, 5pm**  
McCloskey Conference Room, City Hall

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Martina Celerin, Sally Gaskill, Jan Grant, Abby Henkel, Jean Kautt, Lynn Schwartzberg, Francesca Sobrer, Craig Widen

**Absent:** Alain Barker, Peter Jacobi, Paul Sturm

**Ex Officio:** Miah Michaelsen (City staff liaison), Sarah Mihich (intern)

Guest: Fei Cai

Jan called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Francesca Sobrer, new Commissioner, was introduced.

Abby Henkel volunteered to be the secretary for one year.

**Approval of Minutes** (Feb 12, 2014): Craig moved, Abby seconded, unanimously approved

**Treasurer's Report:** Craig Widen

- 402 Municipal Arts is at \$87,930.95
- 403 Operating is at \$13,305.89. This one is used for projects other than the Arts Project Grant program. The APG program fund is a separate fund, and isn't part of the treasurer's report.

**Staff Report:** Miah Michaelsen

- Downtown Transit Center: Both projects are in fabrication. Miah has seen Dale Enoch's mural. Opening in June.
- Gateway Project: Website for public is now open. The public is encouraged to participate.
- 17<sup>th</sup> and Arlington: There will be a new sculpture in the roundabout, coordinated by HAND. A Call for Proposals is forthcoming. The project coordinators hope a Commissioner will sit on the selection panel. It will be completed this year.
- YMCA: New sculpture for the Northwest YMCA grounds. It's not strictly within City borders but serves Bloomington residents, so Miah has offered her advice.
- Stop and START: WTIU is commissioning three traffic boxes with kids' art.
- BEAD: Next meeting is Monday, March 24 at noon in the McCloskey Room. March exhibit in City Hall is "Portraits of Trees" by our own Martina Celerin
- The City is hosting the grant panel review for Region 8 of the Indiana Arts Commission: April 29, time TBA. There is talk of Ivy Tech backing out as the Regional Arts Partner after 2015 cycle.
- "Art Right Up Your Alley": Exhibit in City Hall atrium to celebrate neighborhoods, coordinated by HAND and the BAC. Proposals due May 1.

**Theater Consortium Report:** Fei Cai, Graduate Student, IU Arts Administration

- Theaters in town have been brought together to discuss the need for a consortium

- Purpose: To promote regional theater and make Bloomington a theater destination. Help local community understand the importance of local theater.
- Challenges:
  - Opportunity cost: How much they will need to devote to the project vs. how great an impact it will have on their audience growth.
  - Mismatch between the mission of each individual organization and the mission of a collaboration.
  - Must identify the incentives of collaborating
- Recommendation: A new organization to be the integrator and handle the collaboration
  - Benefits: A single mission, limited risk, avoids conflict of interest
  - Funding is the biggest challenge of other theater consortiums

### **Arts Project Grants: Jan Grant**

- Review panel: April 9, 4pm, McCloskey Room
- Changes
  - Miah will facilitate instead of Jan
  - Commissioners may only ask a few questions per applicant, and must be related to the application itself
  - Applicants may only present new information not in their application
  - New grant criteria rating sheet for commissioners
  - First reader & second reader: to help lead the discussion
    - We need to know which commissioners will be at the April 9 grant panel to determine first and second readers
  - The public will be encouraged to leave the room while commissioners discuss and score the applications
- Conflicts of Interest
  - Martina and Abby will abstain from voting on applications from organizations with which they're closely affiliated and leave the room while commissioners discuss and score those applications

### **Public Art Master Plan: Miah**

- Issues section
  - Each one was read, and all agreed that they haven't yet been achieved. Significant discussions:
    - #4 Lack of continuity across City departments: Jean suggested looking at the BAC's old interviews for ideas on collaboration opportunities. There was agreement that collaborations happen, but could be done "smarter" (all kinds of collaborations, not just within the City)
    - #5 Lack of clarity in navigating City processes related to public art activities and resources: Need more transparency
- Priorities
  - Each one was read and discussed. No significant discussions to note.
- Miah proposed and all agreed that the PAMP Sub-Committee should meet to finalize the PAMP. Miah will send a Doodle poll and the committee will meet in the end of April
- Way to go, Miah, on an awesome Master Plan

- All agreed it would be fruitful to track arts organizations' activities with a "toot your horn sheet" or survey to local arts organizations
  - A few new questions on the 2014 BAC Arts Project Grant application were added to collect this sort of data

**Advocacy: Miah**

- Arts Day at the Statehouse
  - Poorly attended (bad weather in late January)
  - Some issues surrounding the IAC might make people feel less invested to advocate
- National Arts Advocacy Dates: March 24 and 25