

BLOOMINGTON ARTS COMMISSION

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

January 8, 2025, 5:15 to 6:30 pm

Hybrid Meeting:

In person: Gerard, Natalie, Leila, Karen, Nia, Robert, Betsy, Gretchen, Paul

Remote: Suzanne, Christina

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order/Welcome
2. BAC Minutes/Financials - December 2024 and January 2025
 - a. Minutes from the December 2024 meeting were distributed and approved
 - b. Holly reports that for 2024 we had \$141,017 allocated for our 3 grant cycles and at the end of 2024 we had spent all but \$6,000. We had budgeted \$5,000 for our artists workshops series and thanks to Chaz and Christina who organized two workshops of which we spent \$1,750 and we encumbered the rest to pay for artists to give further workshops. \$3750 is already directed toward workshops being held at the beginning of 2025. For public arts we spend 6,000 to add the \$16,500 allocated for our new community public arts leaving \$10,500 which will not impact what Council gives us for the future and went back into the general fund and some was used for assorted arts expenses. For 2025 went up \$25,000 from last year making a total of 167,537 to spend on arts grants this year. This will give us the ability to increase the grant amounts which will encourage more applicants and hopefully attract higher quality applications. We also hope to increase the amounts for public arts grants.
3. City updates
 - a. ESD has restructured, allowing Chaz to spend more of her time on the arts!!
 - b. Jen Crosley, who works within the City Council, will be the Bloomington Arts Commission's new liaison to City Council. She will periodically attend meetings and make sure that Council is aware of our work. Jen introduced herself and spoke about her goals as liaison.
4. Update: Public Art - Natalie Almanza, Subcommittee Chair
 - a. Natalie reports that there are no updates since the last meeting, due to downtime during the holiday.
 - b. There is a public arts committee meeting scheduled on Friday but since snowy weather is reported this will probably be rescheduled in advance.
 - c. We are looking ahead to the Gateway, Fire Station and Hopewell.
5. Update: Grants - Elliot Josephine Leila Reichert, Grants Subcommittee Chair
 - a. Leila is still serving in a supportive capacity until the leadership is sorted out.
 - b. There will be a regular meeting on the 17th of this month at noon.
 - c. Leila shared a creative report from one of the arts grants recipients, a cartoonist.
6. From your Chair - Gerard
 - a. Two leadership positions are soon-to-be vacant: Grants Committee Chair and Secretary. Please reach out if you are interested in either of these.

- b. Also one mayoral Commission position will need to be filled as of February 1. Please get the word out to interested parties.
- c. A discussion about possibilities for the Bloomington Arts Commission for 2025
 - i. Priorities: Diversity remains a priority. We might consider expanding our work into new areas, such as youth artists and projects. We also might think about how we might get temporary use of street-level storefronts that are vacant.
 - ii. Discussion topics and presenters to consider: Commissioners are asked to think about this and make suggestions at our next meeting or contact Gerard/Holly.
 - iii. Events/Things to be aware of: January is a slow events month, but some upcoming events are listed below.
7. [Upcoming events and important dates](#)
8. Commissioner Announcements
 - a. We'll miss you, Karen!
9. Public comment
 - a. One member of the public with a question about our budget and a suggestion that we increase our presence on social media and consider
10. Call to adjourn

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