

BLOOMINGTON ARTS COMMISSION

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

May 15, 2025, 5:15 to 6:15 pm

Hybrid Meeting:

In person: Gerard, Natalie, Leila, Robert, Betsy, Gretchen, Paul, Rob, Suzanne, Christina and Nia

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order/Welcome
2. BAC Minutes/Financials –April 2025
 - a. Minutes from the April 2025 meeting were distributed and approved
 - a. Holly reported that we gave out \$62,000 in Arts Projects funding.
 - b. Chaz has encumbered funds for the arts workshops this year.
 - c. There is public art funding of \$16,500 available.
2. City updates
 - a. Holly asks everyone to take the branding survey. The city is working with consultants to come up with a brand that can be used for all PR and they are in the data consulting mode. Please take the survey and send to colleagues.
 - b. Two workshops coming up: Artists statement workshop led by Elliot Leila will take place at the end of May. June 23 will be a public art workshop led by Christina.
3. Update: Public Art - Natalie Almanza, Subcommittee Chair
 - a. Traffic boxes are being painted right now.
 - b. Hopewell installation by Jon Racek is delayed due to materials being held up by tariffs. Timeline is adjusted for a later date for installation.
 - c. Paul and Rob helped craft the gateway project call.
4. Update: Grants - Elliot Josephine Leila Reichert, Grants Subcommittee Chair
 - a. Artistic advancement cycle will go live on Monday, May 19th. And will close on June 27th. We will be reviewing proposals in July.
 - a. The Arts projects grants were strong this year. Gerard mentioned that we were able to offer higher amounts. The new software functioned well.
2. From your Chair - Gerard
 - a. There was a brief discussion about the misuse of funds. We would address on a case-by-case basis.
 - b. Windfall Dancers \$10K NEA grant was rescinded. This is the only one that we have seen so far. Holly will discuss the impacts with the IAC.
 - c. Discussion about loss of NEA funding: As a commission we could reach out to the IAC, or adjust operations grants to assist groups that are affected by these cuts. Providing a community resource could be helpful. Possibly a letter or statement of solidarity. Suzanne suggested that we might find out who is receiving indirect funds from the NEA. Perhaps a roundtable conversation about the loss of funding. Natalie suggested making a survey to organizations asking if they lost funding. Leila will write a first draft of a public statement from the Commission. Natalie will put together a survey. Suzanne mentioned that tax laws

will make a bigger difference to donors who might be giving to arts organizations.

3. [Upcoming events and important dates](#)
4. Commissioner Announcements
 - a. Books Booze and Brains at Morgenstern's bookstore.
 - b. Cats Cradle student theater program at the Cook Center.
 - c. Fairview Elementary School program put together a gallery on public art.
5. Public comment
 - a. No public comment.
6. Call to adjourn

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