

BLOOMINGTON ARTS COMMISSION

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

August 9, 2023, 5 to 6:30 pm

Hybrid Meeting:

In-person: City Hall McCloskey Conference Room 135, 401 N Morton Street - Chaz Mottinger (staff), Nick Blandford, Christina Elam, Gerard Pannekoek, Rachel Kabukala, Karen Hallett-Rupp, Rob Shakespeare, Suzanne Ryan-Melamed, Holly Warren (staff), Nia Carlsgaard, Elliot Josephine Leila Reichert

Virtual: Babette Ballinger

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order/Welcome
 - June and July meetings were skipped. Minutes from May meeting were approved unanimously.
2. BAC Minutes/Financials
 - ~\$49k paid out to projects grants. Funds originated from Council's budget allotment to BAC, plus BUEA funds. ~\$57k remaining for future grants. Once Strategic Plan is released, consider micro grants in reaction to opportunities.
3. Staff update - Holly
 - a. City Staffing Updates
 - i. Deputy Mayor, Economic & Sustainable Development
 - Several administration changes. Larry Allen: new Deputy Mayor. Angela Vanroy: new Communications Director (in previous role, was responsible for community betterment grants), Crystal Ritter: new Director of Community Engagement, Holly Warren: new interim ESD Director, following Alex Crowley's departure. Holly will have more involvement in the Hopewell and Trades District developments. Holly will remain involved in the arts and Chaz Mottinger will be more arts focused.
 - ii. Commission Mayoral Appointments (now through Legal)
 - Two types of appointments: Council (which includes interviews) and Mayoral (which have traditionally had a limited appointment process). Legal Dept will now oversee the process of Mayoral appointments.
 - iii. BAC Council presentation 9/13
 - Holly and Gerard presenting.
4. BCT Strategic Planning Feedback - Nick Kappas
 - NK: Starting with an aggressive 3yr strategic plan. Be more proactive. Engage with the community rather than simply being a vessel. New Executive Director starts in 2 weeks, previously Asst Director at Ruoff / Deer Creek in Indy (and former tour mgr for Wilco and Modest Mouse). More experimentation with programming.
 - a. What are you working on over the next 3-5 years?
 - b. How can the BCT advance your commission's work?
 - c. What advice/suggestions do you have?

- Nia: Get more local artists performing. Perhaps a showcase. Nick/Suzanne: High cost floor can be an impediment to local promoters and arts organizations to utilizing the space.
 - Suzanne: Asked about tech/crew internships for students. NK: BCT has done camps before, with several kids participating. Goal is to do more of this engaging K-12 education/audience.
 - Chaz: Could the BCT be a partner for a monthly artist party.
 - Gerard: Possible to utilize the lobby and wall spaces for local emerging and established artists? Previous leadership seemed to have a lack of awareness and engagement in what else is going on in town. When planning Granfalloon, have made a point to join Downtown Business Inc and Kirkwood Business meetings to establish relationships.
 - Babette: BCT may have lost its way for what it means to the community. The Brown County Music Center has excellent programming. Can the BCT better compete for musical acts that fit the space. NK: Agreed, but noted BCMC is a Live Nation venue which provides some advantage. Need to better engage with IU to be an alternative to what they turn away. Met this week to review show history to see what has sold well and what audiences might return if programming better served them.
 - Suzanne: BCT is special because it's a good-sized room but still very intimate. Similar to Music Hall in Tarrytown, NY. Might be worth looking at their programming.
 - Holly: Acknowledge theaters are still struggling around the country. When we review BAC grants, one of the biggest budget lines we see is venue rentals. Consider emerging artist access to spaces and how BCT can align with that priority of the BAC.
5. Update: Public Art - Natalie Almanza, chair
- Successful dedication for the Rogers Family Farm Jonathan Racek piece on Friday. Great turn-out from commissioners. Fantastic performance by Flowmotion. Rob: Noted how great a pairing the performance was with the theme of the artwork.
 - National Science Foundation mural: Selected Erin Tobey as the artist. Will be installed in the alley directly west of Wonderlab, east of Kirkwood apartments, visible from the B-Line. Wonderlab plans to engage in educational activities related to the nano-technology theme of the mural. In progress event: Oct 7. Celebration/Unveiling: Oct 21.
 - Finishing design details on the Public Art Master Plan, which will be included in the Strategic Plan presentation to Council in Sept. Micro-grants will open up the next day.
 - Duke mural: Christina has been speaking to neighbors to see what they want in the area. RFQ/RFP will be announced soon.
6. Update: Grants - Elliot Josephine Leila, chair
- Operations review tomorrow: 23 applications.
 - Emerging Artist applications open on Aug 21.
7. From your Chair - Gerard
- Thanks for making time for 1-1 meetings. Looking to finish those soon. On the whole, everyone seems to like everyone. Good balance in the group. Karen: Asked about feedback being shared. Gerard will target Oct.
 - a. Presentation to City Council on Sept 13 (immediately after BAC Meeting)
 - Framework: Review last 1-2yrs with pandemic as context, while highlighting

recovery and growth. Express gratitude for Council's previous support. Focus on why we exist, stats for why supporting arts as a fundamental part of the city's economic and recreational landscape, and the growing demands and appetite from artists and audiences. Request more funding for the arts and support for supporting spaces in town.

- Highlight the evolution and work of the Grants committee, particularly the increase in applications and addition of a separate emerging artists call.
- Summarize Public Art Master Plan and highlight recent 1% installations (4th St garage, Trades garage, Goat Farm, NSF mural).
- Nia: Highlight that we're increasing civic engagement, and how those tie to the values of the city. Suzanne: Highlight our efforts to diversify represented artists and funded grantees.

8. [Upcoming events and important dates](#)

- Sept 8: Black y Brown kick-off show at 4th St Garage storefront, curated by Christina.
- Fri 3pm: HS students created a heat-cooling paint. Mural on the shed in Wonderlab garden.

9. Commissioner Announcements

10. Public comment

- Paul Anderson: Impressed by how well-run and organized the meeting is. Thanks for the work you do.

11. Call to adjourn

- Gerard motion to adjourn. Nick seconded.

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