

## **BLOOMINGTON ARTS COMMISSION**

### **FULL COMMISSION MEETING**

September 13, 2023, 5 to 6:30 pm

Hybrid Meeting:

In-person: City Hall McCloskey Conference Room 135, 401 N Morton Street - **Nick Blandford, Gerard Pannekoek, Karen Hallett-Rupp, Rob Shakespeare, Suzanne Ryan-Melamed, Holly Warren (staff), Nia Carlsgaard, Babette Ballinger, Pauly Tarricone (staff), Natalie Almanza, Elliot Josephine Leila Reichert (joined late),**

Virtual: **Chaz Mottinger (staff), Christina Elam**

### **A G E N D A**

1. Call to Order/Welcome
2. BAC Minutes/Financials
  - Gerard moved to approve minutes. Suzanne seconded. Approved.
  - Holly reviewed grant payouts and budget. \$56,709 available listed currently, though roughly half of that will soon be paid out to Operations grant recipients. The balance will go towards the emerging artists grant cycle. Babette: Asked about about the timeline for paying funds out, raising concerns that recipients may be waiting longer than expected. Holly: City is very short-staffed, but will process payouts as quickly as possible.
  - Other funds: \$5k emerging artist professional development. \$16,500 public art neighborhood micro grants.
3. Staff update - Holly
  - ESD budget presentation to Council was 2wks ago. Advocated for additional grants funds due to increased applications. Proposed allocating funds towards public art downtown per the strategic plan. Nick: Questioned the focus on downtown as previous community feedback was that downtown was well-served, and outlying areas needed more attention. Holly: Feedback came from the public, particularly through the arts facilities feasibility study.
  - Feedback from announcement to the Gateway project.
4. Update: Public Art - Natalie Almanza, chair
  - a. End of Year Deadlines
    - Will look to focus our goals for Hopewell, and work towards an RFQ. There will be opportunities to do more in the future, but we want to get an initial project going.
    - 20 applications for the Duke substation mural.
    - Public Art Master Plan to be released next week, along with the call for neighborhood micro-grant applications. Babette: Asked if specific neighborhoods were identified. Holly: No initial restrictions or constraints. Suzanne: In the call, is there a definition of what kinds of spaces are feasible? What's the timeframe for project completion? Natalie: We'll make space recommendations and will help guide ideas towards spaces that are feasible. Rolling application process. Holly: We'll be working with HAND to help message this to neighborhood associations and other groups. Nia: Suggested putting an ad in the program guide.
5. Update: Grants - Elliot Josephine Leila, chair

- Holly's report: Thanks to Operations grant reviewers. Letters to applicants last week. Emerging artists open now and will close Sept 29. 30 applications so far. Likely meeting in early-Oct to review applications. Working on getting grant report forms out as well.
- Babette: Should we modify the application to better align the scoring with the questions? Suzanne: Perhaps we score each directly? Nick: Likes the current system since some questions overlap. Holly: Best to discuss in a sub-committee meeting. Will take time and commitment to review any feedback for changes.

6. From your Chair - Gerard

a. Presentation to City Council on Sept 20

- Holly and Gerard gave a practice presentation with slides for feedback. Aiming to keep it to 8-10min.
- Nia: Clearer language to explain emerging artists, "professional development." Note murals are also landmarks.
- Suzanne: How many people responded to the survey? Would provide good context. Put stats on screen (Nick echoed as a time-saving measure). Note grants stats as "to date" so it's clear 2023 stats are not complete. Remove image of Eskenazi Museum exterior to not confuse IU/City relationship.
- Natalie: Does the Emerging Artist grant graph need context for why 2021 was so low? Holly: Perhaps we add an in-progress note for 2023.
- Pauly: I can format a fact sheet to send too Council in advance so not everything needs to be covered in the slide.
- Babette: Can the photos show a better range of diversity and have drawn large and unique audiences? Should we list more funded organizations? Nick: Suggested we put this in the fact sheet so as to not lengthen the verbal presentation.
- Rob: Are we required to use the template we're using? It doesn't look like the arts, except for the content. Should we add more older art.
- Nia/Karen: Add at least one slide with a collage of photos to cover more ground quickly.
- Nick: All the feedback re: images are good. But let's help do the work and send specific images and events/orgs that we want represented in the photos. Holly: Send to Holly, Gerard, and Pauly. Put stats on screen so you don't have to contextualize them as much. Label photos so you don't have to give verbal examples. Combine grants bar graph slides to move through more quickly.

b. Millers-Showers Project

- Gerard: Parks lead initiative, funded by the bi-centennial bond. Early BAC feedback pre-pandemic. In Dec 2022, BAC was consulted. Our feedback was largely critical and expressed that we wished we were engaged earlier.
- Nick: Volunteered to write a letter if other commissioners wished to cosign. Letter would clarify BAC's role in providing feedback and the nature of it - that we did not consider the project as public art.
- Holly: Seek to get a commitment from Parks to include BAC and better consider the arts for projects in the future. Press release was not shared with Holly in advance, but it speaks to how we can better educate other City departments on

the BAC. Hoping to include an arts element in future City staff training sessions.

- c. Looking to the end of the year
7. [Upcoming events and important dates](#)
8. Commissioner Announcements
  - Babette: Paint Bloomington upcoming on Oct 7.
  - Nick: Shout out Christina, Chaz, and everyone who worked on Black y Brown Fest. The opening at 4th St Garage and the Fest in Switchyard Park felt great.
9. Public comment
  - None
10. Call to adjourn
  - Gerard moved to adjourn. Nick seconded.

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