

## **Bloomington Arts Commission Meeting Minutes – March 21, 2018**

Present: Sally Gaskill, Alain Barker, Michael Wilkerson, Gabe Colman, Andy Findley, Nick Blandford, Rachel Glago, Abby Henkel, Lynn Schwartzberg  
Public: Amanda Martinez

### **Call to Order**

Sally Gaskill called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

Welcome to our newest member, Andy Findley!

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Rachel Glago moved to approve. Alain Barker seconded. Motion passed.

### **Bloomington Bicentennial Community Song**

- Committee considered all the applications and narrowed it down to six finalists
- We sent follow-up questions and have received answers; committee will meet and report back at the next meeting

### **Arts Project Grants**

- Scoring committee met earlier this week and talked through guidelines and scoring rubric

### **Percent for Arts**

- Committee met a few weeks ago, discussed how the UDO can be leveraged for more funding
- Possible collaborations with Bloomington Transit for public art at bus stops
- Considering revising the guidelines, aligning them with the Public Art Master Plan and the City's Comprehensive Plan
- RFQ for Switchyard Park
- Trades District – looking into how to incorporate public art
- Graduate Hotel
  - \$285,000 for public art and/or art in the hotel from AJ Capital, the company funding the project
  - Encouraged them to engage the local community, not just visitors, and include performance arts (not just visual)

### **Treasurer's Report – Michael Wilkerson**

- No change in the funding since last month
- The Bicentennial Song will be funded from the Municipal Fund (402)

### **IU Arts Management Senior Seminar Feasibility Study – Amanda Martinez and Michael Wilkerson**

- Researching feasibility for Bloomington to have an Arts Council
- Survey
  - Sent to community members, students, Visit Bloomington, BEAD mailing list, Cardinal Stage, various arts leaders
  - Survey lists seven things an arts council could do; asks respondents to rate which are the most important
- Planning a focus group and some interviews
- If we did have an arts council, what would it do?
  - It's challenging for people to say what's not getting done
  - Plenty of locals and students aren't aware that we don't still have an arts council
    - Nick Blandford: the continued presence of the Waldron might suggest that when the BAAC shut down, all its functions continued
- Various organizations are partially filling the role, but some things aren't getting done
  - Neutral advocacy, neutral needs assessment
  - There is a craving for information and data
- Looking into funding sources
  - Asking Visit Bloomington about it; possibly related to the new convention center or the food/beverage tax
  - Needs money for people to pay attention to it; other cities this size fund their arts councils much more
- Presentation: May 1st at 9:30am, SPEA A203

### **Chair's Report – Sally Gaskill**

- Last week, Sally served as Indiana state captain for the 2018 Arts Advocacy Day in Washington, DC
  - Met with staff from all 11 representatives/senators and three elected officials, had positive meetings
  - Discussed continued funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and other arts issues
  - Mike: Creative placemaking is changing everything
  - Congresspeople on both sides of the aisle are in support of funding the arts in the federal budget

### **Staff Report – Sean Starowitz**

- BEAD strategic planning process is going well

- Lots of discussion about funding; the City can't lobby on their behalf
- Kicking off focus groups this week
  - BAC will be involved
- Hosted cultural districts statewide two weeks ago
  - Discussed shared challenges and opportunities
  - Feel they need more direction from the State
- BEAD is sending out an RFP for a graphic designer to rebrand, design banners, etc
- Rachel and Sean are working on bringing in Richard Ross, photographer of the juvenile justice system – April 5-6
  - Exhibit goes on display at City Hall April 1
- Ron Finley coming April 2, 4pm at the IMU solarium
  - Gangster gardening
  - Social justice work related to growing your own food
- Sean will speak at/attend several conferences in May
- City projects
  - Launched bikeshare – dockless program, 150 bikes, working with the company Zagster, ADA accessible bikes and bikes for visually impaired people

### **Commissioner Announcements**

- Gabe Colman: The FAR Gallery will be open for the April Gallery Walk
- Lynn Schwartzberg: Chamber Singers has final Feast on Bach concert on April 16
  - And Bloom Magazine is hosting a fundraiser with Krista Detor at the FAR Gallery
- Rachel Glago: Richard Ross will be here April 5-6
  - Award-winning artist and photog who focuses on the juvenile justice system in America
  - His photos are used around the country as a catalyst for change
  - Lots of events while he's here
  - Funded by the public art grant from IU
  - Holler at Rachel! Nice job planning this!
- Sally Gaskill: Cardinal Stage is going through strategic planning and is holding several focus groups
- Michael Wilkerson: Center for Rural Engagement is starting up; has \$12 million from the Lilly Endowment and several other funding prospects; using arts as a form of redevelopment and reengagement
- Nick Blandford: Secretly was in Austin for SXSW, they have artists in town tomorrow at the Bishop, a few of his coworkers did music advising for Wild Wild West (new Netflix show)

### **Adjournment**

Michael moved to adjourn; Rachel seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm! Early!

Minutes prepared by Abby Henkel, who is dismayed that they didn't all fit into three pages.