

Bloomington Arts Commission

Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2018

Present: Gabe Colman, Emily Goodson, Nick Blandford, Sally Gaskill, Abby Henkel, Mike Wilkerson, Lynn Schwartzberg, Rachel Glago, Andy Findley, Alain Barker

Absent: Angelo Pizzo

Staff: Sean Starowitz

Council Liaison: Susan Sandberg

Public: Jeff Cannon

Call to Order

Sally Gaskill called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Approval of Minutes

April minutes passed.

Financial Report – Mike Wilkerson

No change in accounts from last month. \$100 for the Bicentennial Arts Project will be spent this summer.

Arts Project Grants

- Committee met April 25 to review and score grants on a 100-point scale; Sean Starowitz subsequently sent several scenarios based on average scores which the committee voted on; vote was unanimous
- Will fund the top three grants at their full request
- Sally: Pleased to be able to give full funding to the highest rated projects, but not happy that so many will receive between \$500 and \$600; we simply do not have enough funds available
- Lynn Schwartzberg noted that for the first time she was asked to recuse herself from Bloomington Chamber Singers grant even though she's not a board member or employee
 - Abby Henkel: it's in the best interest of transparency with public dollars to recuse oneself even if there's no monetary connection to the organization, but the person is highly involved with it
 - Nick Blandford: the recusal process was consistent; he also noted how remarkably consistent the scoring tended to be from one commissioner to the next, with occasional outliers
- Sean: The scale, criteria, and rubric form were more detailed than last year
- Emily Goodson: The process felt fair and successful; very happy with how it went and this was the reason she joined the BAC!

- Approval of proposed funding scenario
 - Lynn Schwartzberg moved to approve
 - Alain Barker seconded
 - Andy Findley: can the groups getting 50% of their request still pull of their projects? (yes)
 - Nick: funding the middle tier of projects helps diversify the genre, content, and age of organization that we fund
 - Sally: Nearly half of the organizations being funded are new to the Arts Project Grants program; two of those not being funded are long-time recipients whose 2018-19 projects were not rated highly
 - Rachel Glago: there's no guarantee that you will be funded at the full amount, happy that we can fund three projects at the full amount
 - Motion passed unanimously

BAC Projects

- Bloomington Bicentennial Community Song
 - Welcome guest Jeff Cannon, who was selected as the songwriter after a thorough application process
 - Has a background in classical, folk, and rock music, and teaches communications at the IU Kelley School of Business
 - Advisory Committee
 - Sally, Alain, Lynn, Nick, Emily, Andy, Rachel
 - Will help Jeff oversee the project
 - Meet initially with Jeff and make a plan: Wednesday, May 16 at Secretly Group
 - Song: "Ride (the Bloomington song)"
 - Concept: Bloomington is a fertile place
 - Demo was played for the commission
 - Sean: from all the applicants, Jeff was the most entrepreneurial, very complete submission and plan
- Percent for Art Committee
 - Next meeting: Friday, May 11 at 12:30
 - Will talk about Trades District and Switchyard projects
- Community Arts Awards
 - Awards date has been set by Paul Daily: Thursday, November 15 at the Waldron
 - Committee: Sally, Lynn, Alain
 - Next meeting: May 22 at Inkwel

Staff Announcements – Sean Starowitz

- Bicentennial street party: big success, between 6,000 and 7,000 attendees
 - Cardinal Stage Company, Storytellers Guild, and IU Theater were the only arts organizations present
 - Sean will ask businesses on Kirkwood to see if they had more customers
- RFQ/RFP
 - BEAD graphic designer
 - Broadview gateway art
 - Utilities to update its lobby with temporary water-themed artwork; the stipend is not great but if the work sells the artist will retain 100%
- IAC update
 - State granted BEAD \$5,000 toward BEAD developments
 - \$2,500 of that for traffic box art; will commission a new series of projects
- Urban Land Institute report
 - Study for use of old hospital site
 - Respondents said housing for artists was one of the top unmet needs (!)
 - Proposes using 10% of land for arts center, 10% office space, 80% housing (!)
 - Sean and Joanna Woronkowicz will do a study in 2019 to assess Bloomington arts space needs
- Switchyard Park groundbreaking is Friday at 11:30
- Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit in New Jersey
 - Sean was on a panel about the work we do and how we find funding
 - ArtPlace is sunseting
- Music Cities Forum in Indianapolis
 - Hosted by Sound Diplomacy, looks at music and public policy
 - Sean and Joanna W spoke on a panel

Chair's Report – Sally Gaskill

- June meeting has been moved to June 20 at 5pm; the 3rd annual Arts Project Grants will be at 6pm
- Thanks to Mike Wilkerson for his senior seminar which spent the spring semester assessing the reinstatement of an arts council in Bloomington ; Andy, Alain, Sally and Sean attended the final report presentation; next steps are unclear

Commissioner Announcements

- The May 10-12 IU Vonnegut Granfalloon: Voces Novae (Sally and Abby) performing at the Upland on Friday, 5:45 at Upland; Mike will be speaking on a panel at 9am; Cardinal (Rachel) is giving two readings of God Bless You Mr. Rosewater at the Waldron
- One World Catering (Lynn) is moving into the Woolery Mill on May 14; has cool bathrooms

- May 24: Cardinal Stage's season announcement party at the Woolery Mill, 5pm (Rachel)
- Friday, May 11: summit at JSoM about music, business, and peace (Alain)
- Bloomington Early Music Festival: partnership with the IU Historical Performance Institute, May 18-27, 22 events all free; collaborations with Early Music America this year (Alain)
- IU Summer Language Workshops (Andy) calendar soon to be published – includes many performances, free and open to the public (May 29 – July 28)
- FAR is moving along; block party with arts organizations at 4th and Rogers on June First Friday (Nick)
- Abby is singing at the City's tree bicentennial festival in Bryan Park on June 2

Adjournment

Sally Gaskill adjourned the meeting at 6:32pm