

**Bloomington Arts Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2019 CORRECTED**

Taken by Abby Henkel, Secretary

Present: Nick Blandford, Sally Gaskill, Rachel Glago, Abby Henkel, Lynn Schwartzberg, Michelle Walker, Alain Barker, Andy Findley, Quinton Stroud (new commissioner), Elizabeth Licotta (incoming commissioner in February)

Absent: Angelo Pizzo

Public: Curtis Smith, Erica Brown, Chaz Mottinger, Kristen Dake, Ndinomholo Ndilula, Justin Schwemmer, Jenny Mack, Vicky Munn

Staff: Sean Starowitz, Tyler Myles, Katlin Suiter

**Call to Order**

Sally Gaskill called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

- No changes
- Rachel Glago moved to approve; Lynn Schwartzberg seconded.
- Minutes passed unanimously

**Financial Report – Sean Starowitz**

- The money to Ivy Tech for the Arts Awards was taken out last month. No other changes.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Project Grant Reports**

Midway Music Speaks: Great report. Abby went and said it was well done despite the weather.

**Welcome, new commissioners!**

Elizabeth Licotta (joining in February) and Quinton Stroud

**BAC Projects**

- Community Arts Awards
  - Sally requested an RSVP requirement for future events
  - Several commissioners suggested more clear organization - name tags, etc.
  - Turnout for the event was a positive sign
  - Commissioners think we should continue this partnership in the future
  - Financial support
    - Rachel Glago suggests that we not vote on the actual amount we contribute at this moment

- Sean Starowitz pointed out that the amount we contributed (\$500) was minimal considering how much it cost to put on
  - Alain Barker suggested getting the honorees together for dinner
- Public Art Planning Committee
  - Trades District call for submissions closed with 70+ submissions #wow
    - Considering a variety of factors including supporting artists who have never done public art before
  - Switchyard Park closed in December with 45 submissions
  - Seems that the calls for proposals have been well designed and marketed, considering the high response rates
  - Timeline
    - Finalists chosen by mid-Feb
    - Period of public comment
    - City will choose a finalist
- Grants
  - Committee met Monday to finalize the applications and guidelines; will be sent soon
  - We have a \$40,000 pool of funding this year
    - Will be one pool of funding with two types of applications; amount for each category will not be divided up ahead of time
  - Two grant categories: operating and project-based
    - Project grants open to individual artists now
    - The applications aren't identical; operating is more complex than project-based, which we simplified from previous years
  - Michelle Walker expressed concern that there might be fewer overall grants handed out because we're open to giving out much larger grants; committee members pointed out that we will likely only give out a few operating grants, so overall we'll be giving out much more money and a higher number of grants.
  - Lynn Schwartzberg: if an applicant can fully match the BAC funding with in-kind support, will the applicant feel invested enough to work hard to make it a success?
    - Nick Blandford: We want to lower the barrier for entry but not the standard for quality. If applicants can demonstrate that they're putting in the sweat equity, it seems worth it to support them.
    - Andy: We could add a disclaimer on the grant form allowing us flexibility in special cases.
    - Quinton Stroud: To prevent inflated numbers, how about we say labor does not count toward in-kind match
    - Sean: If our goal is to lower the barrier, changing the in-kind match rule could bring in projects that would not have applied in the past
  - **Dates**

- Feb 20 at 5:30pm – Big grants opportunities meeting with IAC, BUEA, Visit Bloomington, and BAC
- March 13 at 4pm – Workshop before BAC meeting
  - Will add a second one because that's over spring break
  - Sean will send out potential dates, an evening time the week before
- Commissioner office hours as available
- April 5: Deadline
- Alain moved to allow the grants committee to finalize the grant guidelines and applications; Michelle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Chocolate tart time**

THANK YOU LYNN ☺

### **New Appointments**

We have two more slots to fill, to join in February. People who live outside city limits can be voted onto the BAC by commissioners. Joanna Woronkovic from SPEA was named as a potential non-resident appointment.

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

- Sally Gaskill presented the following assessment of the BAC's activities from 2016-2018:
  - In January 2016, BAC was without a staff liaison; Miah Michaelsen left in the fall of 2015, and Michael Shermis was loaned to us on a temporary basis.
  - We transitioned from the Kruzan administration to the Hamilton administration, and successfully advocated with the new Mayor for the hiring of a new Assistant Director of the Arts in the Dept of Economic & Sustainable Development.
  - We announced the position, had 62 applicants, and hired Sean Starowitz! Sally was proud to be on the search committee, representing the BAC.
  - We completed a new 3-year Strategic Plan and consulted it throughout the 3-year-period. The plan will need to be renewed/revised for 2020.
  - We initiated a partnership with Ivy Tech to increase the visibility of the Community Arts Awards event, beginning in 2018
  - Bicentennial Project: We commissioned a unique project to honor the City's heritage and future, Community Song (Sally's idea, woot!) - and rolled it out throughout the community.
  - Stewarded our financial resources, barely touching our pot of \$60K
  - Structural changes: We now have Standing Committees and regular meeting schedules.
  - Supported new public art initiatives:
    - Started a new Public Art Fund to promote public/private partnerships:
    - Commissioned Dale Enochs' sculpture at Clear Creek Trailhead

- Thanks to Sean, more murals and neighborhood-based public art – traffic circles, median strips, bridges and a bike underpass + Market Garage down the street
    - Planning 2 major new % for Art projects: Switchyard Park & Dimension Mill that are really increasing our national profile as an arts town.
    - Revising the % for Art guidelines for the first time in 20+ years
  - Made changes to the Grants Program:
    - 3 years ago, started an annual Grant Awards ceremony for advocacy purposes
    - Made improvements in the decision-making process
    - In 2018, ESD requested a major increase in our grants program budget and Council adopted it unanimously
    - Leading to the introduction in 2019 of an operating support category for our local nonprofit arts organizations – a humble beginning, a long time coming
  - Said farewell to the following commissioners: Jean Kautt, Jan Grant, Martina Celerin, Peter Jacobi, Gabe Colman, Emily Goodson - and today, Alain Barker and Abby Henkel (more about them later)
  - Welcomed the following commissioners: Angelo Pizzo, Nick Blandford, Rachel Glago, Andy Findley - and today, Quinton Stroud, and Elizabeth Licata
- Alain Barker and Abby Henkel’s last meeting is today. They will be sorely missed. Sally’s tribute:
  - Alain has been the only person employed in a leadership position in the arts at Indiana University who has actually spent time over many, many year to support the arts in the community.
  - Abby came to us having served as an intern for Miah Michaelsen, and gave us her writing and communications and social media skills – serving as our honored Secretary for many years. Admirably represented the GLBTQ community.
  - Both of them are so smart – both active in the Community Song project; Abby in the Grants Committee; Alain in the Arts Awards
  - Alain’s farewell message touched on the increased interest and support for the arts during his experience with the BAC. He noted the support and guidance of Sean Starowitz and his predecessor Miah Michaelsen. He also noted that the past three years have been particularly impressive with the reinvention of BEAD, expansion of public art, projects in the community that are deeply inclusive, the redevelopment of major areas, and so much more. He expressed hope that, as the BAC continues to grow, with energy, conviction and passion of an emergent generation, a fundamental principle will be used as a guiding star: the BAC’s central mission to stimulate and encourage community appreciation for and participation in the arts. He also encouraged us to consider the larger

Bloomington community and noted that the key role the BAC can play in fostering the arts. He finally expressed his appreciation to his fellow commissioners and looks forward to our continued work.

- *Abby wanted to mention that you all are awesome and it has been a heckin' pleasure working with each of you. I'll be back.....as a grant applicant and mega-fan.*
- Sally is handing over the chairpersonship to Andy Findley.
  - Alain moved that Andy Findley be our new chair
  - Abby seconded
  - Motion passed unanimously
- Nick expressed interest in taking over the public art committee chair.
- Rachel nominated herself to be the grants committee chair.
- Lynn will chair the arts awards committee.
- Quinton Stroud will be the secretary.

#### **Staff Report – Sean Starowitz**

- The strategic plan ends at the end of this year.
- The IAC has created a strategic plan for cultural districts
- Traffic box program is being reinstated
- Two murals going up at the Dimension Mill

#### **Commissioner announcements**

- Feb 9: Bloomington Music Expo (record fair, live music, vendors, some art, cool stuff). All admissions proceeds will be donated to Midway Music Speaks!
- Midway Music Speaks will be operating Girls Rock summer camp. They are seeking volunteer help for the planning and execution of the camp.

#### **Adjournment**

Andy Findley adjourned the meeting at 6:30.