

Bloomington Arts Commission Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2018

Taken by Abby Henkel, Secretary

Present: Nick Blandford, Sally Gaskill, Rachel Glago, Abby Henkel, Lynn Schwartzberg, Mike Wilkerson, Alain Barker, Angelo Pizzo

Absent: Andy Findley

Public: Jenny Mack (Arts Alliance of Greater Bloomington)

Staff: Sean Starowitz (via telephone)

Call to Order

Sally Gaskill, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes from previous meeting

- No changes
- Lynn Schwartzberg moved to approve; Alain Barker seconded.
- Minutes passed unanimously

Financial Report – Mike Wilkerson

- No change in funds since last month

BAC Projects

- Bloomington Community Song (Nick Blandford)
 - formerly known as the Bloomington Bicentennial Community Song
 - Sean will post new content online on Friday (the Song has its own page on the city's web site)
 - will be featured at the Community Arts Awards on Saturday night
 - Alain Barker: Important to distinguish the song from the video, and the songwriter from the song as a piece of community art so that the community takes ownership over it
 - Angelo Pizzo: Some concerns about the video
 - Nick Blandford: We probably should have released it as an audio recording first, let it develop its own life, then make a video
 - Rachel Glago: Going forward, we need to strategically think about how we commission a project like this and who manages it.
 - Sean Starowitz: It's good to debrief, but in terms of scope of work, Jeff has delivered and gone beyond. Comments have largely been positive lately.

- Nick: Recommends forming the BAC committee and a chair earlier, have a hierarchy on the committee, be more efficient with communications
- Community Arts Awards (Sally Gaskill)
 - Sally will emcee
 - BAC happy with partnership
 - Saturday, November 17, 6-8pm at the Waldron
 - Continue to invite people to attend (it's free, no RSVP required)
- Public Art Planning Committee (Sean for Andy Findley)
 - 50-75 proposals submitted for our two public art projects (Dimension Mill and Switchyard Park)
 - Committee is working on Percent for Art guidelines revision
 - The Graduate Hotel public art plan:
 - Committed \$300,000 toward public art
 - Will have a gallery and be part of Gallery Walk
 - Will commission a mural
 - Setting aside some money for buying local art
 - Money won't be entirely spent right away, as per suggestion of the committee

Grants – Abby Henkel

Thank you to City Council from all Arts Commissioners for increasing our Grants budget!

- Committee met last week to make a plan for new grants program
- New: provide operating support for nonprofit arts organizations
- New: individual artists can apply for project grants. Like all other project grant applications, they must show community impact and be either education-based or open to the public.
- Recommendations include:
 - One \$40,000 pot of money
 - Apply for either operating funds or project grant
 - Operating grant: max of \$5,000
 - Project grant: max of \$2,500
 - Requirements for getting operating funds:
 - Been in existence for three full years
 - Must have current 501(c)(3) nonprofit status
 - The organization's primary mission must be the arts
 - Determining the matching requirement is tricky; in-kind contributions should not count toward the matching requirement, nor should other local public sector dollars
 - 990s on Guidestar include in-kind, so should not be used as reference

- Need to rewrite guidelines to incorporate this and be careful to clarify how to demonstrate community impact
 - Sean will start a Google folder to collaborate on a guidelines doc and application form
- Consensus agreement to support the committee's recommendations.

Staff Report – Sean Starowitz

- Dimension Mill opened!
- BEAD Summit
 - Got great responses
 - Giving out a couple grants based on it
- Cultural Districts bill: Sean is meeting with Senator Ford about resurrecting it

Chair's Report – Sally Gaskill

- Sally announced that she has served three years as chair and it's time to pass the baton to someone new, beginning January 2019. Please consider yourself.
- Several commissioners are rotating off (sob!) so each Commissioner is asked to recruit new people, especially those who will bring diversity to the table.
- Emily Goodson has received a big playwriting fellowship (yay!) but has therefore stepped down from the Commission (sad).
- Lynn (Vice Chair) will chair the December meeting because Sally will be away.

Commissioner Announcements

- Voces Novae is performing *Amahl and the Night Visitors* on Dec 9 at the Waldron – a project led by Bloomington Symphony Orchestra, with Windfall Dance and Reimagining Opera for Kids (funded by BAC Project Grant – free but tickets are required)
- Mike's arts admin students are working on their reports for the Center for Rural Engagement
- Nick has been working closely with Visit Bloomington on the Bloomington Music Expo to be held February 9, 2019
- Voces Novae's world premiere of the *Vonnegut: Requiem*, written by 8 composers will take place May 11-12, 2019
- Congrats to Cardinal Stage on receiving the Ivy Tech Community Arts Award for Arts in Education AND an article in American Theater magazine AND a prestigious American Theater Wing grant, all in one week!

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17pm.