

Bloomington Arts Commission
Wednesday, February 13th, 2019
5 to 6:30 pm.
McCloskey Conference Room

Present: Rachel Glago, Andrew Findley, Sally Gaskill, Michelle Walker, Sam Sveen, Nick Blandford, Elizabeth Licata, Lynn Schwartzberg, Quinton Stroud, Bryony Gomez-Palacio (via phone)

Public: Joanna Woronkowicz, Rosie Pacuttada, Curtis Smith, Kristen Dake, Ndinomholo Ndilula

Staff: Sean Starowitz, Tyler Myles, Katlin Suiter

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order/Welcome

Meeting called to order at 5:01 PM.

2. Chairs Report

- Introduction of new commissioners - Elizabeth Licata, Sam Sveen, and Bryony Gomez-Palacio

- New committee assignments
 - Andy: There are two major committees for commissioners to participate in, public arts and grants.
 - Rachel will be taking the lead on the grants committee.
 - Nick will take on the public art planning committee.
 - All commissioners encouraged to join one of these two committees

- BAC history
 - Sean presents slideshow on the history of the Bloomington Arts Commission.
 - Andy will share longer version of presentation with the commissioners via Google Drive.

3. Public Comment

- 5 members of the public in attendance. No comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

- Sally mentioned that minutes are missing her discussion on the accomplishments of the BAC over the past 3 years and would like these to be noted in the text prior to approval.
- Michelle discussed a call to action provided by former commissioner Alain Barker that is also missing from meeting minutes. Michelle suggests these should be added and that commissioners should follow up on the challenge issued to them.
- Sally to provide necessary edits to amend the minutes prior to approval.
- Approval of minutes postponed until March meeting.

5. Financial Report

- Michelle provided a lengthy discussion of the financial history and resources of the BAC.
 - The commission doesn't have an ongoing operating budget.
 - BAC funds come in two accounts, some leftover profits from the postcard days and some which are associated with a public art fund.
 - Grant budget doubled from 20K to 40K.
 - The commission provided a small amount of funding to Curtis Smith to help with Ivy Tech Arts awards but usually does not take in any significant amount of funds.
 - Lynn: Most city commissions do not have a budget at all. We are in a better position than most being that we receive any funds at all from municipal government.
 - Michelle: Sean also has a fund that can support the public art but that doesn't flow through the Arts Commission and typically reaches out to the commission to consult when he is making these decisions.
 - Sean: There are two accounts with funds for the BAC. One is leftover funding provided from the percent for art. The other is a funding line from the postcard series which is no longer in operation. This account currently holds \$4,117.15. Once the money from the postcard series is utilized it will not be replenished and the account will be zeroed out.
 - Sean has money through my office for public art commissions, BEAD things, and the like but the commission is always involved in some level in the decisions.
 - Michelle: Does the rest of the city know that we have money? We have public art all over the place. If some anti arts person were to damage our public art would it be incumbent on us to fix it?
 - Sean: It depends on the project. In the potential rewrite of the percent for art we are looking into creating a clause related to ongoing maintenance of public art. We recently had to take a piece to a fabrication shop in order to be reshaped. We also had an anti-police message sprayed onto a piece of art on the B-line. These things come out of my budget.
 - Michelle: The city does spend money on the arts in many ways. The parks and recs department hosts a robust summer concert series. The city provides support to the BCT and takes responsibility for the building. None of that comes through the BAC but represent substantial commitment to the arts on the part of the local government.
 - Sean: We also support the BCT. Parks and Rec also supports programming and leverages sponsorships for the film in the parks program. We don't have a department of arts and culture here in Bloomington so the money doesn't funnel through just one department.
 - Sally: The Bloomington Urban Enterprise Zone is a state allocated block. The BUEA has always had a lot of money to spend on the arts. They've had 40K in their arts budget. They have a historic façade program, support the lotus

festival, and others have gotten grants for façade of their building. They have submitted a place making project that will fund public art projects over the next few years.

- Andy: In your view, would we be welcome to participate in the BUEA?
- Sean: Yes, their meetings are open at noon. I know the commissioner. There is a rather diverse set of constituents who sit on their board and we can discuss how to be involved with the organization. Council budget hearings are in August, but they are pretty extensive and tend to run late into the evening.
- Rachel: Nick and Rachel were on the review panel for their grants in previous years.

6. BAC Projects

- Public Art Planning Committee (Nick Blandford reporting)
 - The project for the Trades District application received roughly 70 submissions. The budget is 80-100K, depending on the size and range we may provide some funding for material support.
 - Sean did some initial sorting to help us. The subcommittee is involving John Bollander, who is a landscape architect, someone from Sean's department, and other members of the public.
 - The committee is reviewing applications individually first, then as a group in the coming weeks.
 - Sean will contact the top-rated applicants for budgets, mockups, etc. with the idea that would begin work on June 1.
 - In mid-April, Finalist materials would be put on display for public viewing and we would take in public comment.
 - Following this we would expand the jury further and that group would do a final review the last week of April to select winner. Sean will follow up and ensure timeline and budget are fine and once this is solidified, we will inform the public.
 - There are a lot of really quality ideas and proposals. We are not starved for options. The source of submissions stretches far beyond Bloomington. It's a diverse pool in terms of backgrounds and experiences.
 - Next meeting is March 1st. Even though we are in this phase of narrowing the 70 down to 5. If one of the new commissioners would like to join that would be great.
 - Michelle raised the question about local representation and wondered if the city management structure is aware that the chosen applicant may not be local. Sean noted that we've exhausted some of the local artists and have supported many of them. There are really good candidates in Indiana and we are considering that.
 - Sean noted that 3 cities have requested using our model of RFQ, the San Francisco Arts commission is one. Reno also reached out to me because of the public art award Bloomington received.
- Grants (Rachel reporting):

- Last grants meeting was in early January. We haven't had a consistent grants meeting time previously. A big focus was on getting the new grants program out. We are meeting on the 3rdrd Friday of every month from noon to 1.
- There are currently two funding categories for the grants now: projects support grant and operating support which is new.
- There is no specific allocation of the money, meaning that is isn't necessarily split 20K for projects support and 20k for operating support.
- People can only apply for one of the other. Project support can be an organization or an individual artist. We did this purposefully, in order to open up who could apply.
- You can ask for 2K maximum for project support. Operating support is available to non-profit arts organizations. They can apply for up to 5K or 5% of their overall budgets.
- Deadline is coming up on April 5th. We haven't received any application yet.
- We are hosting upcoming workshops in the coming weeks. There is a Facebook group through the BEAD to get the information out there. There will be additional workshops focused specifically on BAC grants. That will be held on March 13 from 4-5 PM at City Hall.
- Office hours will be toward the end of March. We want to give people an opportunity to meet one on one with commissioners. Once they are due on 4/6 the grants committee will start to read through them. Generally, the hope is to notify recipients of the Award by late June to have the reception at June BAC meeting.
- Lynn asked about the composition of the review committee. Rachel noted that everyone on the BAC has access to the review committee but the review committee provides options to the commissioners. We are looking to see how to open it up, possibly inviting community members to be included in this.

7. New appointments + discussion of potential advisory appointments

- Andy noted that we have one vacancy (mayoral) that must live within the city limits of Bloomington.
- Discussion of Joanna Woronkowicz
 - Andy: We have many interested and qualified members of the community who cannot join the BAC due to residency requirements. In the past the council has been open to having a non-voting members who were present and active in all other ways. We discussed adding Joanna to our group and wanted to introduce her to the room.
 - Sally: Joanna is one of 2 tenure track faculty professors at the Arts Admin program at IU. Her background extends to the National Endowment for the Arts as well as the Cultural Policy Center at the University of Chicago where she received a PhD in policy analysis. She is an example of one of the resources we have here in the community. We had the issue of the city residency requirement.

Several years ago, we had a longtime member of the commission, Paul Stern, who moved out of the city.

- The BAC found a provision that allows for 3 people to serve on the commission as non-voting members if they live beyond the geographical borders of Bloomington. This makes Joanna eligible.
- Joanna: I'm in touch with Sean a lot speaking about issues related to the arts. This is something I think about all the time and am happy to be able to contribute in some way. At IU, I am now the director for the center for cultural affairs. We are doing a lot of this work at IU and see a lot of opportunity to connect things we are looking into at the center with the work of the commission. I would like to make this a good experience on both sides.
- Joanna is willing to meet with commissioners to discuss her potential appointment to the BAC.
- The BAC will vote on Joanna's appointment to the BAC in the March meeting.

8. Staff Report – Sean Starowitz

- Advocacy Efforts
 - Sean and Alex Crowley have been discussing the possibility of the BAC having an arts evening at City hall after our Grants reception on June 12. Sean mentioned the mayor's support and suggested that we have the 5-6:30 grants reception, a BAC presentation by Andy and BEAD presentation by Sean. This is a way to get a routine of being in front of the elected officials and give them some more information about the work we are involved in.
 - Rachel: It's got to look good to have this right before the budget and have a good showing of people.
 - Sean: The city and Mayor Hamilton receiving the public leadership for the arts award is a big deal. It's national level recognition. We should strike while the iron is hot and try to get in front of council and to get the arts community and general community involved. I want to double down and throw it out there to see how you all feel.
 - Andy: Sally discussed maybe making advocacy a more general part of our meetings but also maybe formalizing advocacy into some sort of subcommittee.
- Tax District / Senate Bill 255
 - Indiana used to have a statewide arts advocacy network that dissolved. Senate Bill 255 is a cultural arts bill but is on the house side currently. The Herald Tribune will run an article this week explaining this. The bill will create a tax district for the cultural district. This means we could create a local ordinance to capture state sales and payroll. You create tax district, a year out the state creates a baseline, and anything above the baseline goes back into the community to invest. You have to be a part of Indiana culture district program in order to qualify. We are 1/10 communities that have the designation across the

state. This is an exciting opportunity for the state and for us to compete with other cultural district in terms of developing a creative work force.

- Sally recommends reaching out to our state senators
 - Sean noted that a lot of communities not in the cultural district are showing broad support for the tax district. There are a lot of key players stepping up. The challenge with Bloomington is that we can't always be the face of these sorts of programs. Fishers, Jeffersonville, etc. are a part of the cultural districts program as well.
 - We are also working with parks department and public works on joint replacements around maintenance. Want to think about adding a clause related to having 1% allocation for maintenance. We could say projects about above a certain amount require 2% to increase funding and notice that 10% of the 1% should be locked into an endowment for maintenance There are some pretty expensive repairs coming down the line. The BUEA is redoing an expanded mural in Billing Trades court. We are also working with revolution bike for a public art murals. They have more clearance looking toward IU and want to beautify the building. The Trojan Horse has also been a recipient of Façade Repair Grant. They are restoring the bay windows and original brick from the 1800s.
- Bead Logo
 - There is a new BEAD logo that will be revealed publicly in March. There were some expected controversies concerning the BEAD - especially boundaries and inclusivity. The new BEAD logo is based on the original shape of the city logo and emphasizes the potential to go in any direction for a creative or arts-related experience.
 - March 18th is the new launch date. We are currently working with the convention center and the business bureau to ensure they are clear on what the BEAD is.
 - Some concern over colors used (purple for now) - Michelle noted the North-South Bloomington debate. Bloomington south is purple and the North side is blue and gold.
 - Lynn noted the community conversation about the North South divide.
 - Sean: We had multiple stakeholders' suggestions and input into the logo and that did not come up.
 - Some discussion about the business of the logo - confusing or inclusive?

9. Commissioner Announcements

Andy: Our next meeting will be on March 13. Sally will preside over the meeting as I will be out of town.

Sally: It really is our job to write letters to elected officials. There is a new group, the arts education alliance, which formed out of the national music merchandising association. It's a lot of good people from business and nonprofit worlds. At Arts Education Day, people will go and speak with our elected officials. The other thing we can do is send letters to the legislature and representative, just following the suggested guidelines in the memo. If they don't hear from us they don't know we support arts education.

Advocacy in government is crucial. The Herald Tribune has the first new editor in 33 years. There is also a new owner. The new editor was previously the arts editor a while back. A lot has changed in the city since he left back in 2010. I would suggest that Andy or Sean reach out to him.

Rachel: As some of you may know, Cardinal Stage has posted a marketing manager position. I am stepping away from Cardinal Stage. I've been with the company leading the marketing department for some time and they are looking for someone else to take the position. We've received some great applications thus far. I've accepted a full time position with Secretly Group. The Cardinal position is still part / time but there is hope that it will become full time next season. I've worked pretty far ahead so should be easy transition.

Michelle: Kenneth is looking to create performance space in the city and the Bloomington Symphony wants a large space and now there are a bunch of different people with interests about performance space. I'm trying to monitor that conversation. It's interesting to see people come out the woodwork and discuss what's going on and their interests in the space.

Sean: Space is becoming increasingly limited. The churches that didn't charge rent are now starting to because their parishioners are declining. People want rehearsal space with a stage like at the BCT or another space like the Black box.

Nick: The Record Festival was a success. Report stated that at least 600 paid attendees and 200 free (students, kids, promo passes) attendees. With vendors and volunteers there were at least 900 people across the space throughout the day. There were over 50 exhibitors, half selling goods. We had vendors coming in from out of town. It was great. We have dates on hold for next year. Admissions were donated to Mid-way Music, which received approximately \$3000. That says a lot about how Visit Bloomington is doing to support the arts (several commissioners noted that this was a great improvement over the past and suggested good things for the future).

10. Good of the order/Adjournment

6:38 PM adjournment