

Bloomington Arts Commission
3.13.19 Meeting
City Hall

Attendees: Rachel Glago, Bryony Gomez-Palacio, Lynn Schwartzberg, Sally Gaskill, Nick Blanford, Quinton Stroud, Elizabeth Licata, Sam Sveen

Staff: Sean Starowitz, Tyler Myles

Approve Minutes

- Lynn calls to approve the February minutes, but asks for less detail. The minutes were approved.

Welcome to Public

- Sally is serving as chair of this meeting due to Andy's absence. She welcomes the members of the public who are attending.

Vote on Joanna Woronkowicz

- Sally opens the floor for discussion related to bringing Joanna onto the commission. Joanna did a study on the grants program to help reevaluate how the program operated, and the commission has implemented much of her feedback.
- Nick asks if we should make the fact that we have the capacity to bring on 3 commissioners through the channel Joanna was initiated public. He asks if this is something we should post publicly via the city website or simply add commissioners who reside outside of the city limits as we see fit.
- Rachel expresses that posting the openings publicly make the commission more accessible. It could open up opportunities to integrate people who are in the county and interested and participating.
- Sean agrees that the vacancies should be posted publicly but acknowledges that this process will require members to devote their time to onboarding work.
- Sally notes that historically it has been at the discretion of the commission when people beyond the city limits have been provided opportunities to join.
- Rachel and Nick suggest that posting the possibilities of vacancies to those beyond the city limits could simply highlight the fact that there are multiple routes to participating on the commission.

- Lynn moves to confirm Joanna's membership. Nick seconds. Joanna is approved by a unanimous vote.

Financial Report

- Sean provides a financial report. There are no changes in the financial status in either of the BAC accounts.

Grants Committee

- Rachel discusses the grant workshop that occurred prior to the beginning of the meeting and expresses satisfaction with the turnout and the overall outcomes of the event.
- The commissioner office hours are scheduled for the week on March 25.
 - Quinton: Monday 25 @ 5 -6 PM at School of Education
 - Rachel: Wednesday, 27 @ 12 -1 at Upland
 - Nick: Friday, the 29th @ 4-5 PM at Rainbow Bakery
- Grants Committee will be meeting from 12 -1 on upcoming Friday. Subject of meeting is finalizing who will be on the grants panel. We want to include one member of the community. We don't have grants to review right now.
- Nick: Any members of the public can contact Rachel if they are interested in participating in the grant review.
- Lynn: Should we think about the artistic disciplinary background of the readers.
- Sally suggests having people introduce themselves in grant workshops moving forward, for networking purposes. Bryony suggests possibly providing attendees with nametags in order to provide a better sense of who is in the room.

Public Art

Trades:

- Nick: We had 75 or so initial submissions which have been sorted into tiers. We landed on the top 5 finalists. We talked about our biases up front and keeping that as a part of the conversation throughout, we ended up with a diverse set of finalists. Sean has contacted the finalists, requesting a concept proposal.
- Sean: I've heard from all the top contenders and they are all in. I've reached out to possible collaborators within the city who might be helpful to the artists. We also may be able to leverage the rolodex we've created when thinking about future projects. Out

of the 75-80, we've had a ton of qualified people and may be able to think about how other venues in the city might be spaces that could utilize some of the projected ideas. We are going to post the finalists for public comment online and in person.

- Nick: A big takeaway from the experience was around how we could issues calls that would help provide people with the feedback necessary for getting involved with public art.
- Sally: So many applications came from architects or architectural firms. How did the final 5 turn out?
- Sean: Most of what we picked this go around were artist led proposals. We'll do a big PR push when this comes out. We want to make sure this process is more transparent. We will be looking for people to join the Switchyard team moving forward.

Bloomington Community Song

- Sally: Jeff Cannon spoke at Bloomington Rotary recently, presentation, and was very well received. He ended with the song. Regarding the community roll-out, we may have neglected to follow through on our end.
- Rachel was curious about the expectations of the project now that the 2018 year is over. Being that it was a Bicentennial commission.
- Sally: Ideally it wouldn't be a committee task. I think if each of us could look at our networks and look at places we might suggest for the song to be introduced to the community that would be enough. Perhaps we could look at it that way. I don't want it to be a burden but it's an important project of the commission.
- Sean: I think it's just leveraging our networks and bringing the song up when there is time. I think we could have done a better job at connecting the dots. We need Jeff at our June 12th event. I don't want to create a committee but if you hear of stuff then think about the community song.
- Rachel: How much of the connections should we facilitate?
- Lynn: We don't need to facilitate but just connect him.
- Nick will call Jeff and let him know how the Commission sees things and let him know we won't be actively pitching things. If he has events he wants to get into and needs entry, he shouldn't be shy about reaching out to the BAC to support him if we can.

Advocacy

- Sally: Andy talked to Michelle and I about beginning an advocacy committee for the Commission. We have not done this in part because the city has not allowed us to actively advocate during campaign seasons. I think Andy would like there to be a more centralized way to discuss what's happening in the policy / political world that has relevance to the arts. For example, to ensure that the arts are including in community planning for the hospital site and convention center.
- Nick and Lynn are interested in participating in advocacy work and the committee. In addition to organizing and consolidating the information we have, Nick suggest this is an opportunity to ensure passing along of institutional knowledge from long-term Commission members who will be cycling off soon. There will be a point where we lose experience on the commission.
- Sean: The Commission needs to be thinking about diversifying. We want to bring members of the community to rise up and then go on to other boards and commissions. How do you balance between experience and next-generation leadership?
- Lynn: When the planning for the Switchyard happened a member of the committee was on the commission. There has been no seat at the table for the hospital revitalization and none at the convention center.
- Sean: The convention center consultants interviewed over 300 people over the past 3 days. The process has shifted to cast a wider net. If you feel like you're not being involved, I can connect you.
- Sally: I am willing to chair the advocacy committee.
- Bryony: We could explore further prior to committing to see what the mission for the group would be and what is possible.
- Nick proposes a breakout meeting for commissioners who are interested.
- Sean will send out a Doodle and figure out what the commission can and cannot do legally by speaking to the liaison in the city office.
- Rachel: I also spoke to Andy about the advocacy committee and want to think about how we can advocate for more financial assets for the BAC. How can this subcommittee think about how to create financial stability beyond the grants budget to support things like the Ivy Tech community awards? We don't have a lot of funding to do projects we might be interested in.

Staff Report

- Sean: The first quarterly meeting for the BEAD rebrand is this month in McCloskey. The IAC will be there. We have a lot of fun applications for the BEAD. We have the website ready to rollout and this will happen on the coming Monday.
- The IAC got a state proclamation for the cultural districts turning 10 but none of the cultural districts were notified so we are trying to be more public about the work we are doing. Had a useful meeting with Representative Ellington about the cultural districts.
- Just turned in our yearly report to the cultural district program. We've had over \$20 M investment in the BEAD last year in terms of housing, art spaces, etc.

BloomingSongs Grant Report

- Sally: I attended the event at the public library and found it to be a well-attended, successful summer arts event for children. We funded the production of a CD of songs for children from a number of local composers.
- Lynn: In the grant review they discussed how many of the CDs had been distributed and it wasn't even half of the 500 that were made. Most of the money was spent on the production of the CD and they are sitting in a box somewhere. It doesn't feel like they are doing distribution.
- Sean will ask what they plan to do with the remaining stock.

Commissioner Announcement

- Sally: I participated in the performing arts focus group of the convention center planning process. The consultants asked good questions. They asked a lot about facility needs of the community.
- Nick: I went to the small business section. There weren't businesses there besides myself. It was myself and couple of gentleman who were involved with development from the original convention center. They were coming from investment perspective and how to make sure the process was self-sustaining.
- Sean: In April they will come in with a design charette. Performance space came up in the city/staff group.
- Rachel: I went to the public segment of the consulting process. People spoke about needing a space that is versatile enough to turn into performance space but that can work as convention space. With performance space there tends not to be space for artist. We also talked about the need for stage and spoke about space needs for a

facility that could hold around 250 people. They seemed interested in a space that could go away and then come back.

- Sally: How is the Indiana Senate bill going?
- Sean: it got moved to government regulation and reform. It was on the docket for today but got moved to sometime next week to go to house weighs and means as it is related to making a change in taxes. When moved to the House, all the language around taxes was removed so we are trying to figure out when to replace that language. We have a variety of key players.

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 PM