

Bloomington Arts Commission

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

5 to 6:30 pm - McCloskey Conference Room

Attendees: Lynn Schwartzberg, Sean Starowitz, Sally Gaskill, Nick Blandford, Andrew Findley, Bryony Gomez-Palacio, Rachel Glago, Quinton Stroud

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order/Welcome
 - a. Meeting called order at 5:05 PM.
2. Approval of April minutes
 - a. Motion to approve minutes by Rachel. Second by Sally. Minutes approved.
3. Welcome Public
 - a. Invitation for public comment
4. Financial Report
 - a. Michelle Absent and nothing new to report. There will be a debit on the account for the June BAC Grants reception.
 - b. Final Grant Reports
 - i. Bloomington Storytellers Guild
 1. Sean: Storyteller's Guild did a great event.
 - ii. Bloomington Creative Glass Center
 1. Sean: The Glass Center report is an update. They moved into a new building and are asking for an extension since renovations pushed back their programming. They plan on doing an artist's residency program.
 2. Sally: I would recommend we give a target date, extension of 6 months.
 3. Rachel: 6 months sounds good as the final renovations should be completed this month.
 4. Sally moves to extend terms of The Creative Glass Center's grant to December 1. Seconded by Bryney. Motion passes.
5. BAC Projects
 - a. Grants Committee
 - i. Update on May 1 meeting
 1. Rachel: The committee completed discussion of grant applications on May 1. Members on the panel included Elizabeth, Rachel, Andy, Quinton, and two members of the public, Rebecca Fassman, and Ndino. We decided to fund at least 20K in project, but we didn't want to decrease it from the original number.

ii. Funding Scenario Approval

1. The funding scenario we are proposing funds 11/17 of the applicants. The majority of projects are funded, and we are basically funding at the capacity amount. The few not funded at the maximum level are still being funded close to the amount they asked for.
2. Only one individual artist applied, and they received funding, actually received the highest score. There were a couple of applicants whose projects weren't thoroughly flushed out. Sean will assist them by providing feedback and next year we will have a BAC member work with them.
3. Discussion:

Lynn expresses unreadiness because score distribution at 70.

Sean: The distribution cut off is at 70 as the scores was a pretty low but the scores this year were a bit lower than they were in the previous years.

Sally expresses concern that cut off for operating is at 80.

Lynn: If you fund at 80 and above wouldn't it more fully fund the successful grant applications?

Rachel: Then we would be spending less than 20K for the projects which we didn't want to do.

Sean: Operational support cannot apply for funding the next year so we wanted to make sure people could apply next year for the full pot. Joanna's report said that operational support benefits larger organizations instead of newer groups. We want to make sure these people can receive the group.

Rachel: The distribution for operating support is smaller than project support which is another reason we could go down to 72 for projects. In the operating support category, the applications were very close to one another. We needed to make sure the distribution made sense.

Lynn: I am concerned that we are funding a project which scored so poorly.

Nick: The scoring might be lower if people aren't using the same score. There is a wider range of people and if someone was providing an aggressive score, they could be lower so a 72 might not be that low.

Sally: In the future, you may ask people to withdraw, such as the case with Civic Theater in a situation where an organization submits an incomplete application.

Nick: By adding operating we recognize that we are in a learning process. We need to trust the committee that is doing reviewing, and we also need to make sure there is a cut off for funding next year.

Rachel: I'm also nervous about preestablishing a cutoff. The scoring can get down to 70 quite quickly once the reviewers started taking off points.

Andy: We also needed to think about the actual applications and their quality. Even though the difference between some of the applications was just half a point, the applications were significantly different. We considered quality of application, past funding, and opportunities for future funding when thinking about how to propose the funds.

Sean: There was a total of 55K requested for operating funds and 28K for projects.

Andy: Surprisingly a lot of organizations budget went up significantly between the last year and this.

Sally: Request for 5% should be based on the most recent fiscal budget.

Rachel: We also asked groups to submit any sort of grants/funding sources they've received using the same grid we've received in the past year.

Sally: Financial need is not a part of the consideration in the grants program. My understanding of the request for city funding for past 3 years was to get data?

Sean: We wanted to make sure we were not providing grants to the same organizations each year. In the information session we specifically noted that that we would think about this in our focus on equity.

Lynn proposes question related to the role of community engagement in the scoring process. She notes that The Creative Glass Company does not mention true community engagement and that all their engagement is fee based.

Rachel: Their entire application brought in new and creative ideas. When they do new programming its based-on evaluation and feedback from the community. The committee actually discussed the need to host a workshop on community engagement. Almost all the organizations applying for operating support had low community engagement.

Sean: The IAC is struggling with this as well. It is a big issue related to how do we explain community engagement to legacy organizations.

Nick: I believe the executive summary notes are a big step. Perhaps we could create a bulleted note of qualitative information about the scoring category.

Rachel: The last note with operating support, is to make sure we funded about 50% of the programs so next year we can fund at the larger level. Many of those not funded this year can apply next year. The groups we felt most comfortable with varied across disciplines and had very diverse organizational types.

Sally: How did you manage with artistic quality?

Rachel: This was relatively balanced with operations support, whereas quality had more of an impact on the project grants. With operating, they all gave pretty solid information about their work but we focused on organizational capacity and community engagement more heavily for this category of grant. Artistic support was weighted higher in projects support. Next year we should ask for less information. Things like the social media links were unnecessary.

4. Bryony motioned to approve the funding scenario. Andy seconds.
Scenario approved.
- iii. BAC to have a short meeting (5p) prior to the grants reception at 5:30.
- iv. Arts Night at City Hall
 1. Arts Night will take place on June 12. Sean and Andy will conduct a 5-minute presentation. I would encourage all to start sharing the event with their networks. There is a reception after.
- b. Public Art Planning Committee
 - i. Trades finalist update
 1. Link is live and boards are up at the Mill.
 2. Nick and Andy hosted at the Mayor's tent last week.
 3. Overall, we received 190 comments, comment period ends on 5/22
 4. Sean: In the online commentary, people are being way more thoughtful in discussing all of the various options. In person, people are simply pointing toward their favorite.
 5. Sally encouraged everyone to post the link on their neighborhood listservs.
 6. Interviewing final candidates will take place at the end of May.
 - ii. Switchyard update
 1. Switchyard review is coming, but difficult to set a time with panel

members. The process should be more efficient than Trades.

iii. Parking Garages

1. There was an initial proposal to extend the life of the 4th street garage to 5 years but that has now has been fast tracked to rebuild the whole thing. BAC options include:
 - a. We could go a traditional route, carving out 1% budget to do a sculpture or something affixed to the structure
 - b. We can advocate for the facade to be integrated into the design of the facility. The downside is we would have to move quickly so we couldn't do a full call for submission. We have a list of qualified artists from recent RFQs that would mitigate.
 - c. Sean put together list of local fabricators and artists who could be a good fit for this work. We are thinking about artful integration, so it doesn't look like a concrete box.
2. Time is a challenge
 - a. 4th street garage is fast tracked and that's the project we engaged in first. Trades garage is in a historical district so there will be more parameters for what can be done aesthetically.
3. Sean noted that there will also be an opportunity for a window display or gallery. This could provide opportunities for displaying poetry in the lobbies or elevators shafts. The gallery could host various arts. The Trades Garage has to be historically contributing. There is an opportunity to think about how the convention center and the garage could be connected.

iv. Mural on 10th street and Graduate Hotel

1. At some point we'll need commissioners to review concepts for the mural. There will also be upcoming conversation about the Graduate Hotel related to what art would be on the facade. They also plan to have a call to host artist programming for the next year and the commissioners will have an opportunity to assist with this decision-making process.

c. Advocacy committee steering meeting update

- i. Steering committee of Bryony, Sally, Nick, Rachel, and Andy have been reviewing our current strategic plan, looking for ways to adjust as necessary.
- ii. BAC calendar
 1. If you need assistance or need access / tech support, reach out to

Sean or Andy. The calendar is named, "BAC Calendar" on google.

6. Staff Report

- a. Arts Night at City hall - be there!

7. Commissioner Announcements

- a. Andy: Granfalloon is this weekend
- b. Lynn wants to return to Public Art committee.
- c. Sally: There is a composer's forum at city hall on Saturday and Sunday of this week.
- d. Sean: Black y Brown festival is coming up soon.
- e. Rachel: For June's First Friday, 4th Street is doing a block party with several groups. We are doing a staff arts show. We are also helping to program the music.
- f. Sally: BLEMF runs Friday May 17th. It's all free, most of them are emerging artists.

8. Public comment

- a. None

9. Call to Adjourn at 6:31pm