

Bloomington Arts Commission

Wednesday, January 8th, 2019

5 to 6:30 pm - McCloskey Conference Room

Agenda: Sally Gaskill, Nick Blanford, Bryony Gomez-Palacio, Lynn Schwartzberg, Elizabeth Licata, Joanna Woronkowicz, Rachel Glago, Quinton Stroud, Karen Hallett-Rupp, Samuel Sveen

Public: Chaz Moniker

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Welcome
2. Approval of December Minutes

Sally notes incorrect spelling in previous minutes.

Minutes approved by all.
3. Financial Report - No Change
4. Welcome Public
 - a. Invitation for public introductions
5. BAC Projects
 - a. Grants Committee Update

Rachel: I've sent around an email to provide clarity around the information we discussed related to the grant applications and have not yet received feedback from the commissioners.

Karen: I found it difficult to provide feedback in the google document. Were any changes made after our last discussion? I feel unsettled about some of the questions being asked without a solid logic for them. I think it's important to provide an explanation of who will see the data, how it will be shared, and ways for using the data.

Rachel: We do have a disclaimer on the form that explains how the data will be used on the form. Perhaps it should be lengthened.

Joanna: We should think about whether the disclaimer is providing the information the participants need to have. We should also be giving an option to opt out. Will this be held on a secure server? I also wondered if we would get accurate data based on the questions asked. For example, asking the director of an organization to list their racial demographic of their staff. I think this presents a measurement issue.

Rachel: The participants have been provided with the opportunity to opt out. I do agree that the server might be a bigger issue. The goal for the data is to create a way to track who we give

funding to support equity and access.

Joanna and Karen feel that saying we want to track the data and use it in this way seems a bit vague.

Elizabeth: If this information is in the final report then we are only getting data about people we've already given money to.

Nick: I believe the forms for this process should be locked in by the time this goes live. I think should we remove the demographic questions for this year and get the people who have strong opinions about this on the grants committee so that we can work through this.

Sally: Are organizations currently funded using this form or last year's form?

Rachel: Last year.

Sean: The idea for this was to think about whether we wanted to set aside a portion of our \ funding to support diversity, equity, access, and inclusion as a potential funding mechanism.

Elizabeth: I think the structure of this is that these sorts of things happen at the grants committee and then we bring the work back to the general group.

Bryony: Options, table it and then put this to the grants committee to work through over the next few months. The next option is for those deeply interested to take on this work and try to finish.

Sean: We could ask does your organization have a diversity statement and if so, could you please copy and paste it.

Joanna: We could ask an open ended question such as how does your organization take into account diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility? Giving an open ended qualitative question could be a better option.

Bryony calls for a show of hands for those who want to table in depth data collection in order to work on it for next year. The commission decides to table this.

Lynn: I think we have to connect this to how we plan to use these priorities in the guidelines.

Rachel: We will update the form using the sentence Joanna provided about IDEA.

b. Public Art Planning Committee

Sean: Stefan will be working with Tom Fansler* who does fabrication. We are getting quotes from two competing firms. We had an architect out of Germany but his pricing was too high. We are hoping to go under contract very soon.

Switchyard Park is under contract and since we got an additional amount we are expanding the work around that. We will be using the big dipper design to activate both sides of the splash pad.

We resubmitted to the court about the removal of the commercial space within 4th Street Garage. We would need a variance in order to have the retail space removed. If it goes back to the

original footprint, the garage goes up 100 feet in the air. This pushes back the timeline but we will be thinking about parking.

For Trades, we've already started construction on the garage. We will get an RFQ out for that process.

Nick: Does the 80K for this project have money set aside for maintenance?

Sean: Yes, 10%. In other news, the Convention center is moving forward and the commission will have a substantial role to play in that. If we are able to get in early we can push for the integration of public art.

Rachel: Pili's just opened their deli. They want to think about how to make the space more artistic and how to involve the LatinX community and community artists involved.

Commissioners debate about whether or not this is something the BAC can be involved in being that Pili's is a private business.

Bryony and Nick suggest that we should focus our attention specifically on public spaces.

Nick: Public Art committee meeting is this Friday at noon.

c. Strategic Plan

Bryony: We revised the document and paused after we cleaned up the comments. Since then, I've been focused on interviewing and setting up the focus groups. I have met with several organizations and have more established meetings in the coming weeks. I would like to have other commissioners attend if possible. All of this information is available. Overall, people seem to think the BAC provides funding and does nothing else. People also don't have a clear idea of what we are doing or how we disseminate information.

There have been conversations about starting the focus group.

Joanna: We suggested focus groups to get wider community feedback. I think it will be more difficult to do this as we are thinking about how to recruit people to participate. I think something more random, such as setting up a booth at the farmers market could be useful. Do we think actually getting wider community feedback is necessary for the strategic plan?

Lynn: I think a way to do it would be to reach out to organizations that have been funded over the past several years. I am wondering if we could create focus groups with these organizations specifically as a way of informing the strategic plan.

Karen: Are you finding consensus with the interviews you've done. I'm wondering how many of these you need to do?

Bryony: From performing and visual arts, people wish their was more professional development and actual programming from the BAC.

Sally: Some of this tension is related to the BAC not being an arts council. Some of the

functions that people seem to want the BAC to put on would be the work of an arts council.

Lynn: We can't do all of the work that people would like to see happen in the community.

Bryony: We asked Arts Alliance what their goals were and they were related mostly to connecting artists to resources in the community.

Sean: I think random surveys would be a good way to engage the community. It would be good to get Arts Alliance active to think about how we can serve the East side of the city. I think we should also think about capacity. It could be good to do 1-3 general stakeholder meetings in the city.

Nick: It can serve to put some people in the same room and helping to connect people who may not be in contact.

Rachel: If we host stakeholder meetings, can we please host them at locations outside of city hall in order to make it more inviting.

Lynn: Another suggestion is to move the meetings to the various organization's office locations.

Nick: It's not the job of the BAC to be providing these solutions. Some of this could be the work of groups like ArtsForward. We can think about how we can push this information along to those who might more appropriately handle this work.

Bryony will send around a doodle poll to get the next meeting on the books.

6. Staff Report

Sean:

- We've moved the Evan Farrell statue down on the B-line. It has been in repair for around a year. We've also filed a contract with Marcy Knights for repairing the tile piece at Fairview.
- The IAC Conference will be held in Columbus on 10/15 and 10/16.
- Ribbon cutting will happen at the Graduate on 1/24.
- We are hiring an office manager in ESD so if you know someone, please let me know. We will also be hiring a strategic planning person and have hired a small business person. The BUEA loves the zone arts projects and we have some funds from BUAE from some public art matching projects.
- There is also some work going on around the Bloomington Gateways. The people working on this will be attending the next BAC meeting. There are some really cool environmental opportunities with these gateways. On the city website, you can offer public comment.
- We will also have IU First Nations at next meeting.

7. From the Chair

a. Moving forward

Bryony: I see my role as one that steers and guides the commission but not necessarily pushing my own agenda. I've noticed that we have good ideas and conversation but the energy around this decreases once we leave.

b. New procedures

I've added action items to the meetings to help with tasks expected of commissioners when they leave. There is also an Action Items folder in the BAC folder. This should help us to streamline our processes and help us to stay on track and to make sure we are following through on our commitments.

Whenever a new project comes up, we will create a summary document to give members of the commission a place to understand where the project is.

Lynn: There used to be some sort of onboarding procedure. There was an orientation manual at some point.

Sean: If you know people who might be interested in the commission, please let them know to apply. We will have 3 open council positions and one mayoral position available. I would encourage people to apply very soon.

c. Communication tools

8. Action items by commissioners with due date if applicable

- Rachel will update the final report and launch grants once legal approves.
- We have a tentative date for the public information meeting and will need volunteers.
- We need to decide what to do with the focus groups.
- Bryony will send out doodle poll for the next Strategic Planning committee.
- Commissioners should comment on the Gateway project on the city website.
- Commissioners to add their events to the Calendar.

9. Commissioner Announcements

Rachel: Bloomington Music expo on February 7th and 8th at the convention center. We are raising funds for Midway Music speaks and Girls Rock Bloomington, the Shalom Center, and a local radio.

Cardinal Stage has put together work to select plays and playwrights of color. Sally and Quinton are on the committee.

The Center for Cultural Affairs is presenting a speaker on this Friday on the work of visual arts and empathy.

Lynn: Peter Jacobi, a former mission of the commission, really valued the arts here in Bloomington and he encouraged the flourishing of all arts in Bloomington. I want to make sure

the commission keeps that vision of inclusivity of all types of art not just all types of people.

Bryony thanks Lynn and Sally for the work they have done across the years as members of the commission.

10. Public comment

Chaz Moniker: I like coming to these meetings. I feel as though I've learned a lot.

11. Call to Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:45