

Bloomington Arts Commission

Wednesday, February 12th, 2019

5 to 6:30 pm - McCloskey Conference Room

Sean Starowitz, Bryony Gomez-Palacio, Nick Blandford, Samuel Sveen, Rachel Glago,  
Elizabeth Licata, Karen Hallett-Rupp

## MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Welcome

5:05pm

2. Approval of January Minutes

Approved.

3. Financial Report - No Change

No change

4. Welcome Public

- a. Invitation for public introductions

6 guests present (including meeting presenters)

5. Guest Presentations

- a. IU First Nations

Nicky Belle

The IU First Nations building is located on 712 E 8th street, a short walk from here. Founded in April 2007—the youngest cultural center within the university. What do they do? Serve those who identify as Native American, functioning as a home-away-from-home, by connecting them with IU resources and DEMA (Diversity, Equity, and Multicultural Affairs). Scholarships, academic support, counseling, educational programming and discussions.

Community Support requires three points of focus: there is great diversity in Native communities, Indiana means “land of the indians”, native people are alive and thriving. There are 573 federally recognized tribal Nations in the United States—distinguished by language, customs, traditions, foodways, worldview and origin stories, economies, systems of government, systems of relatedness. We can do great work when we keep Diversity in mind.

“Land of the Indians”. The name comes from the simple observation of the many Native communities in the state. Currently we have 0 tribes in the state due to the many Removal

Treaties (1795 to 1840). Native presence is found in the state, but they come from other states.

What happens now is informed by what has happened in the past.

Native community needs: representation in government and leadership, recognition in accurate representation within curriculum and education, acknowledgement of contemporary presence, Others to help combat erasure and stereotypes.

Action items: What can we do? Use of Land Acknowledgement Statement at meetings and public events to remind people of active Native presence; environmental concerns are Indigenous concerns. Resource: [www.native-land.ca](http://www.native-land.ca)

Also, acknowledge Indigenous People's Day the second Monday of October. Bloomington is the first city in Indiana to celebrate the day (not campus). There are great opportunities for partnership and highlight the arts.

Work to support visibility of Native tribal communities. Invite leadership and community representatives. Collaborate with local and state resources for opportunities and events. Promote events that advance recognition and amplify the voices of Native community members.

Fan of Black y Brown as a... (finish)

Be mindful of language use — speak in the present tense! Avoid lumping and “othering” — don't expect one person or group to speak for all groups, or know everything there is to know.

Ideas on how we can work together: providing space for Native art/artists especially outside of November. Help us mainstream Native arts and culture (all groups).

Sean: what role does the BAC want to play on celebrating Indigenous Day? We should also get more BAC involvement in Black y Brown (tentatively June 12-13).

Nick: can we setup an actual event with booths, artists, information, etc with the city?

Rachel: how can we get involved in the Spring or other times in the year?

Nick: some events are more private, but there is room for informational sessions, dance presentations, and other events.

Audience member: Coming from Hawaii where I saw a large amount of signage and history in regard to the local history, I am wondering if this can be found in Indiana? — There are a couple of sites, and the work is improving but it is not yet strong in presence.

#### b. Janeway Project

We first presented 4-5 months ago, so I won't go into a lot of background. We started fundraising (30k) in the fall and we now have 38k which is great, that will help. We are now planning an event for the Memorial Day Weekend (23) Saturday at 11am. The exact location on the Blaine is yet to be determined, we are meeting with Parks and Rec next week. The bust is

being worked on. We are working on getting some speakers. Kate Wilgrew is not available that weekend, but she is interested in the project—working on having her come at another time. We are working on the information panel and the content needed to be included. Mayor sponsors will be listed on the right side. 99% of our donations were from individual donations, the other 1% was from corporate support.

Besides the unveiling we have several activities. We partnered with WonderLab on a Science of Star Trek session for children, and an after-hours adults only party to meet sponsors.

Several other events were mentioned for the entire weekend. Hotel block rooms have been secured for out of towners—they expect a couple of hundred people to travel to Bloomington for this.

The limestone base is also being worked on. Everything is on schedule and we are checking the list that Sean shared with us regarding public restrooms, security, and all the other things we didn't know about but are working diligently to secure.

The BAC votes to formally support the project moving forward.

## 6. BAC Projects

### a. Grants Committee Update

Grants are live.

Rachel: Last week we had an info session that was not attended as much as last year, but I think it was because more people are up to speed on the process and didn't have as many questions. Lots of new faces. Great questions.

Sean will be sending out an email to as many people as possible in regards to the March meeting at 4pm before our monthly meeting—please attend if possible to help guide people and answer their questions.

Sean: We need commissioners to step up and help review grant submissions.

Rachel: I am creating a one-sheet cheat sheet with the main things that need to be made clear.

The hour before the meeting we need 3-4 commissioners to give advice. We also have office hours when 2 commissioners meet with interested parties the week or two before the deadline. We try to move around town and choose different locations. Once 2 commissioners pick a date/time we announce the session—interested email Sean and if nobody inquires then it gets cancelled.

Week of March 23rd is selected as an option for office sessions. Rachel will send out options for sessions that commissioners can sign up for.

Rachel asked members of the audience to participate and perhaps help review grants.

Sean gave a brief summary of the grants review analysis, data gathered, process, and what the expectation of the process is.

#### b. Public Art Planning Committee

Nick: we had a meeting last Friday to address our plan to reframe the PA Master Plan. Now a Master Plan and Tool Kit, more of a community document instead of a government document. We came up with great talking points and will meditate on those notes over the next month. Our general timeline is now to June for internal review/ June to November will pivot to community feedback / aim to have a finished document to vote on at our November meeting.

We are shorthanded, good attendance lately but if you want to get involved please let us know. Internal and Community.

We had the ribbon cutting for the Nina Chanel Abney mural and it was a great event with a lot of people in attendance from out of town. Kindergarten class from St Charles was there to do a workshop with Nina. It was a good day for closure in regards to the project.

Sean: Trades still working with Stephan and trying to get sign off from an engineer. Ignition Arts is the most likely fabricator. 4th street garage is on hold. Switchyard we had a walkthrough to go over the two parts of the project. The timeline for this project is tight. Trades garage, there is an art component with 80k to be used—waiting to send out the RFQ once we have final renderings.

We also have BAC opportunity to partner with BUEA on Sam Bartlett Dedication - Tyler Myles is leading and will include the BAC. Same will go for the 10th street mural.

#### c. Strategic Plan

Bryony: I have conducted a few more interviews since our last meeting and I urge you all to read the notes available on the drive so that you can start to see what the overall requests and observations are as well as commonalities that keep coming up such as people not really knowing what the BAC does, or how to hear from us.

A second meeting will be set up in a couple of weeks to follow up on the information gathered and to stay within the January/June//November schedule that all documents under revision are on.

Joanna will present a plan for community input our next meeting in March.

Veering off topic we discussed how BAC commissioners should when possible support Arts Forward Bloomington (AFB) by attending their meetings, sharing their message, and overall being available to them as needed. This will help solidify which entity is in charge of what within our community.

## 7. Staff Report

Sean:

We had a final report due at the State Arts Commission for the BEAD.

The BEAD has the potential to get 5k for the collaborative exhibition - Paper Pavilions in collaboration with Arts Rd 46, Columbus Area Arts Council, Columbus Museum of Art and Design, Indianapolis Contemporary.

Space needs assessment underway

Getting close to selecting master planner for the hospital.

BEAD will take help manage the City Partnership with the BCT. Parks and Rec will manage the facility, but will Alex Crowley and Sean Starowitz will act as the liaison between BCT and the city.

Gallery Walk -wanting to get some third party help from BAC/BEAD on improvement.

BAC involvement and BEAD support artist documentation workshop. Professional development...

Jane Kupersmith — was hired as the Small Business Development Director in ESD.

Lotus has a job opening for arts and community engagement manager.

More community staff transitions are expected - BCT will be hiring a new Executive Director.

#### 8. From the Chair

Given the time there will be no message from the Chair this month.

#### 9. Commissioner Announcements

Rachel - Secretly is hosting a music night on March 5 at Blockhouse. Bloomington music expo, great, even if we had fewer people than last year—they spent more! Chaz has great photo classes, and every 3rd Wed of the month you can get feedback on your photography at FAR. All levels are welcome.

Sam: Collide at the Mill, the next one is with Ben Swanson from Secretly. Free lunch.

#### 10. Public comment -

#### 11. Call to Adjourn

6:28pm

#### **Action items:**

Rachel: one-sheet infographic for Grants

Bryony: More interviews, email questions for artists (will share with commission before sending

out)

PA Master Plan task force: review the notes taken at the last meeting and start creating a new outline for future content development.

Joanna: Strategic Plan community engagement plan