

# Bloomington Arts Commission

## Special Meeting minutes

Virtual meeting, Zoom

---

Attending: Valeria DeCastro, Samuel Sveen, Rachel Glago, Quinton Stroud, Nick Blandford, Karen Hallett-Rupp, Essence London, Elliot Reichert, Elizabeth Licata, Bryony Gomez-Palacio, Babette Ballinger

Staff: Sean Starowitz, Jane Kupersmith, Tyler Myles, Andrew Krebbs, Marnina Patrick

**Bryony Gomez-Palacio** called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm and welcomed everyone. At that time, no members of the public were present.

**Sean Starowitz** introduced Jane Kupersmith as the Assistant Director for Small Businesses.

**Jane Kupersmith** introduced herself as also a member of the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association (BUEA) and stated the hope that we will be partnering together on some emergency grant funding.

**Sean Starowitz** thanked everyone for being a part of the first online BAC meeting during these unprecedented times. Sean then provided background information on the Rapid Response Fund which was created with two million dollars out of Food and Beverage Tax Fund as well as \$500,000 from the BUEA Fund. The RRF was formed to help alongside the federal programs of the SBA loans and PPP. Sean stated that it is nice that arts and culture has not been left out of this picture. Part of reason for the special meeting is to seek approval to shift current grants program to a short term grants program with the goal of distribution to community in next few weeks. Sean acknowledged that Rachel did a great job with grant program which now has to be put on pause due to this time of uncertainty.

Sean then presented the Arts and Culture survey that closed with around 180 respondents. The findings were summed up with the statement that there is a need to shift the arts program grant. There is some federal guidance on reopening but not the most helpful. Three phases have been created but it is not until later in phase two and phase three that arts and culture places would be safe to reopen. Federal guidance is that each community would have 14 days of decreasing cases before that reopening happens.

Jane and Sean are involved in the Economic Stabilization & Recovery (ES&R) working group that is looking at short and long term program to address the local economy. Some thoughts about what would be required upon reopening is addressed in the grant application.

**Rachel Glago** went into an explanation as to what changed with the grant. Operating budgets are now supported and it has been decided to close for individual artists at the moment. The biggest eligibility change is to now focus on organizations and nonprofits. Another change is the removal of the ceiling on the grant amount.

**Bryony Gomez-Palacio** asked if there were any questions on the application.

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

The type of questions along with the short timeframe was commented on. Rachel explained that it is not a project application so it should be quick for organizations to share that narrative.

It was clarified that the stipulation about an organization not being able to get support in back-to-back years had been waived.

**Bryony Gomez-Palacio** motioned to vote.

**Babette Ballinger** moved to vote. The vote was taken and it passed unanimously.

**Sean Starowitz** stated that voting was the main goal of the meeting. Then asked how everyone was doing and if anyone wanted to join a working group.

**Sean Starowitz** stated that the BAC will be online for the next meeting. Goal is to first get the grant program out, then review, come together to look at everyone's score. Not sure how many applications will be received but thirty-five applications is the regular amount.

**Bryony Gomez-Palacio** adjourned the meeting at 5:53 PM.