

Bloomington Arts Commission

Meeting minutes

Virtual meeting, Zoom

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

Absent: Samuel Sveen

Staff: Sean Starowitz, Tyler Myles, Marnina Patrick

Bryony Gomez-Palacio called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm and welcomed everyone. The minutes from the April 23rd meeting were reviewed, accepted, and voted on.

Sean Starowitz and **Rachel Glago** gave an update on the grant project. Rachel Glago shared that \$80,800 was awarded. Twenty-six applicants in total and all were awarded funding. Nine panelists reviewed the application with scores submitted to Sean Starowitz who then aggregated the scores with a bell curve. Sean Starowitz elaborated on how the money was divided up and the rationale on how it is an investment into the community. This information was presented to the BUEA earlier and it was voted to accept the recommendations.

Nick Blandford brought attention to how the curve for funding is not as apparent as with past grant programs and encouraged everyone to ask any questions. **Valeria DeCastro** then asked for clarification on some of the rewards to which Sean Starowitz elaborated more on specifics about the scoring for the organizations. **Babette Ballinger** then asked what the follow-up will be and if there will be a public announcement. Sean Starowitz explained how there is a follow-up form for each organization so there can be tracking. Also, it was explained that there will be a press release but the traditional way of announcing the recipients will not take place during this time of COVID. **Nick Blandford** then asked if the dollar amounts of these grants are public record to which Sean Starowitz said everything is public record. It is anticipated that there will be scrutiny over the awards. **Karen Hallett-Rupp** then asked why there are some groups that did not apply when it was anticipated that they would. Bryony Gomez-Palacio explained that there was a large outreach to organizations but not everyone was able to get their applications together in time during the loan application period of one week. Sean Starowitz shared that typically the BAC receives around 30 applications so the numbers weren't far off. Also, the groups that are more fall focused perhaps didn't have the staffing capability to apply. Lastly, there is the hope that there will be more opportunities with a longer application time.

Essence London shared a comment that there were a few organizations that they didn't think were eligible as those organizations did not need the money immediately and was remiss for not encouraging them to apply. Bryony Gomez-Palacio explained that the wording did have an urgency to it and that wording will be paid more attention to in the future. Sean Starowitz explained that there will be more funding in the summer.

Bryony Gomez-Palacio motioned to vote on approving the grant funding as proposed by the grant committee. Rachel moved to vote and the roll-call vote passed unanimously.

Public Art Committee update: Nick Blandford stated that he did not have an update but that they will be reenergizing the project. A “restart” email will go out within the next week. Sean Starowitz shared for the 1% that the contract negotiations for the 4th street garage are coming to a close, a bonding issue has been resolved, T3 fully signed the contract for Switchyard Park and the project has begun. Lucas Brown will be a design and construction consultant on the 1% project with Stefan Reiss. Lastly, there is a mural being done by Chelsea on the Cardinal Spirits’ building which is being sponsored by BEAD and the 10th Street mural is progressing well.

Rapid Response Loan Fund update: Sean Starowitz shared that that program is going well and some arts and culture groups have applied for it.

Strategic Plan update: Tyler Myles presented on a survey administered to constituents on what they hope to see funded and supported during COVID. The Bloomington Arts Commission Awareness Survey had ninety-one respondents. There were six questions but only three were focused on for this presentation. The data was analyzed with several Strategic Plan Recommendations given at the end.

Babbette Ballinger then presented what was found through a separate inquiry and the results were similar to Tyler Myles’ findings such as marketing is needed to increase awareness to the BAC, BEAD, and call for artists in general.

Sean Starowitz stated that the BAC will be online for the next meeting.

Bryony Gomez-Palacio adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM.