

# Bloomington Arts Commission

## Meeting minutes

Virtual meeting, Zoom

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

Absent: None

Staff: Helen Lee, Tyler Myles, Marnina Patrick, Sean Starowitz

Public: Andy Nicole Dennis and Laura Greenwood from IU Photography, Elizabeth Claffey with IU

**Bryony Gomez-Palacio** called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm. The minutes for the last meeting are not available.

**Sean Starowitz** gave an update that there is no change in the financials.

**IU MFA Photography Project:** The community outreach project is named The Bloomington Projection Project and its mission is to bring the community together through art by presenting creative writing pieces from Bloomington residents shared in a widely accessible public space. Additionally, the project strives to remove the exclusivity of having art in a gallery. The project overview involves community voice in the form of short creative writing pieces, reflection in the form of photography-based artwork, celebration of community in the form of an open event, and lasting connections by producing an online publication of the writings. The overall theme is “what makes a community?” and this is exploring the community of Bloomington through its citizens, in their own words. The Bloomington Projection Project strives for a wide, rich selection of voices from people of all walks of life. Collaborative outreach has been done to organizations such as Boys and Girls Club, Bloomington Pride, and Bell Trace. Identified community benefits are as follows: amplification of expression, art for all in the public space, open access to an online publication of the project, and a public engagement platform for the community to participate in current issues as well as solutions. The final collaboration will be the art piece projected in a safe and accessible location outdoors where community members can share their writings throughout the projection. The timeline is that call for submissions will go out on September 11<sup>th</sup>, the submissions are due on October 4<sup>th</sup>, and the event will take place on Friday November 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be seven artists with seven unique reflections on the writing which will produce 40-50 photograph-based works projected on a loop. Potential locations include Brian Park, the side of a downtown building, Building Trades Park, inside or outside of the Mall, the YMCA, and the IU Arboretum. Any feedback, concerns, or suggestions from the BAC were welcomed. **Eliot Reichert** shared that the Ezkenazi building has a great façade and then asked how collaborators are being identified. **Laura Greenwood** responded they were looking at community organizations and a few were selected that would give a broad range of people in Bloomington. **Babette Ballinger** suggested considering having a few options for locations for the final projection presentation. **Nick Blandford** and **Sam Sveen** both asked about criteria for the physical location. It was said that less textured surfaces with minimal windows would be ideal. The Duke Energy substation was recommended as a good location with a large field. Protection technology was also

discussed to be sure that the technology is bright enough as well as possibility of coordinating two projectors at once. Additionally, the lot next to the CVS on Kirkwood, the backside of the Buskirk Chumley Theater, the pavilion at Switchyard Park, inside at the History Center, the Banneker Center, Girls Inc., and the Shalom Center were suggested as possible locations. Contingency plans for bad weather or strict lockdowns were mentioned.

### **Public Art Projects:**

**Trades District Garage** - interviews being scheduled with the finalists and then next Friday there will be a discussion on a decision. All three finalists' designs are distinctly different and so the request is to think about what story should be chosen. **Babette Ballinger** raised concerns about safety in the stairwell during the nighttime. Discussion ensued about the safety requirements and how they will be adhered to.

**Switchyard Park** final designs were presented and discussed. **Karen Hallet-Rupp** had a call with the History Center to discuss the history of the railroad that once passed through that space. The colors are still being decided on but the core design is ready to be voted on. **Nick Blandford** motioned to approve the design. **Bryony Gomez-Palacio** seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed. **4<sup>th</sup> Street** design is under contract and under way. **Trades Sculpture** had a redesign for a little bit smaller. Still waiting on numbers for powder coating. **People's Park** currently on hold. **BCC** street mural is moving forward. Resolution is going to City Council on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Grants** – September meeting is cancelled due to a lot of public arts meeting on the same day. The Recover Forward program grant is being led by Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association (BUEA) and supported by the BAC. Currently in the middle of the application period as it closes on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. One or two commissioners are requested to be on the review team for those grant applications with a very tight two week turnaround. **Essence London** and **Elliot Reichert** volunteered their time.

**Miscellaneous: Waldron letter** is ready to be sent as soon as all signatures are received. **Community Arts Award** is currently up to the BAC to decide if they should take on this role now that the Waldron is no longer operating in its former capacity. Discussion ensued as to what the purpose is, if it is worth the time or not and if so, should it be made bigger than it once was. **Sean Starowitz** gave background history on the Community Arts Award and how its original intention was to create advocacy for the arts not necessarily to be celebratory for individual artists and arts organizations. It was proposed to the BAC to consider perhaps incorporating the concept of broader advocacy into the efforts that the BAC already does. Also, it was proposed to consider incorporating moments of celebration in the arts and how we can get more people from the public involved with the grants ceremony and the BAC's annual report to the Council. **Bryony Gomez-Palacio** offered to propose to the Arts Alliance of Greater Bloomington to see if they would like to take it over. **Essence London** asked about the nomination process and it was explained about how it is a public process with an advisory board selecting nominations from five categories. Currently it was tabled as a broader question of should there be a point person or a sub-committee devoted to advocacy that could be assigned to these questions. **Strategic Plan** update is that there has been no comments or suggestions so it was decided that it would be voted on at the next meeting with a two week deadline imposed for time to incorporate changes.

Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Staff report: Paper Pavilions** update starting with background of the 2018 grant received from the Columbus Museum of Arts and Design (CMAD). The website was presented and information shared about the organizations and artists involved. The opening is on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 and there is a variety of programming planned with hopes that the exhibition will eventually come to Bloomington. Additionally, the backend of the website being built from scratch while being in compliance with ADA Standards for Accessible Design. **Space Needs BEAD Report** postponed till next meeting. **Waldron** update is that they are still in negotiations. There are some organizations looking into the building and an IU SPEA group is doing a feasibility study of the Waldron to see about a shared resource space for arts organizations. Part of the timing will be dependent on initiatives in front of the Council such as 2021 budget as well as the LIT. **Helen Lee**, new SPEA intern, was introduced.

**From your Chair:** Strategic Plan reminder and for those reviewing grants please be diligent with email and communicating if your schedules changes.

**Commissioner Announcements:** **Rachel Glago** shared about Midway Music virtual festival and summit is coming up with a lot of content and at the low price of \$3.00 per event. **Elliot Reichert** shared that the Ezkenazi Art Museum has been reopened and to let him know if anyone wants a private tour. **Sean Starowitz** shared that the Grunwald has an exhibition called State of Nature (by appointment only) and it is all about Indiana. **Sam Sveen** shared that the Mill is trying a new thing with him doing a Youtube video where he will interview people such as John Armstrong with the Bloomington Academy of Film and Theater.

**Bryony Gomez-Palacio** adjourned the meeting at 6:22 PM.