

Bloomington Arts Commission

Meeting minutes

Virtual meeting, Zoom

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

Absent: Quinton Stroud

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

Public: Elizabeth Claffey with IU, Ben Jacob with Indiana University, AJ O'Reilly community member.

Bryony Gomez-Palacio called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm. The minutes for August 12th and September 9th were moved to approve by Bryony Gomez-Palacio and seconded by Nick Blandford. Motion passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

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

IU MFA Photography Project: Report/update was not given.

Public Art Projects: Trades District Garage – Esteban Garcia was chosen and is excited to be working with the City. Finalists have been informed of the decision. The project is now being put under contract with Esteban. Esteban has a collaborative aspect with workshops will be held throughout the community for engagement for the design of the tiles. Additionally, a regional fabricator based out of Charleston is going to work with Esteban. **4th Street** – updated schematics should be coming next week to reflect the adjusted design. **Trades Sculpture** – also had to be redesigned and schematics should be coming soon. **People's Park** – on hold right now while negotiating with property owners. **BCC** - the Black Lives Matter mural is moving forward and is slated for October 24th for install. There is a sign-up for volunteers to work between noon and 5:00 PM.

Grants: Area 10's Final Report – They reported on what they were able to do since March due to COVIDs impact on the organization. **Recover Forward Grants** received twenty-four applications but one was withdrawn as they found funding elsewhere so the final total is twenty-three. There is a core of reviewers from the MAA program at IU so great practicum experience for them. Then Essence and Elliot are representing the BAC alongside BUEA members. Then the findings will be presented at the next board meeting of BUEA in November. This funding mechanism is for fall programming at \$40,000 and a little bit of funding has been set aside for venues. Out of the six venues that were eligible, only three applied so looking into the cause of that. Another grant round will be announced before the recipients of this round are announced, so more reviewers will be needed. That funding will go towards quarter one 2021 funding for programming or events. **Rachel Glago** asked questions about this round of grants which then prompted **Sean Starowitz** to clarify about the Recover Forward monies.

Miscellaneous: Strategic Plan document was discussed. **Valeria DeCastro** had a comment about the word usage in the section about the core objective which prompted discussion that resulted in keeping the

words as is. **Bryony Gomez-Palacio** moved to have the Strategic Plan approved as it stands for the next five years. **Essence London** seconded the motion. Roll call vote passed unanimously. **Bryony Gomez-Palacio** asked for feedback as to which section the commissioners would like to take ownership of.

Public Art Master Plan update will come at the next meeting.

Staff report: Paper Pavilions exhibition is open and the virtual tour launched last week. Next week there will be a panel discussion with a few of the artists and Limestone Post will be writing an exhibition review. **Waldron** update is that the current wait is on City Council to pass the 2021 budget which has funding allotted for the Waldron. There is a proposal from Cardinal, BAFT, and BPP under review but no decisions have been made. If the funding goes through, the Mayor will be announcing a task force.

Bryony Gomez-Palacio shared that she assisted with an initiative to solicit feedback on what people would want with the Waldron to help inform the proposal that was submitted. **Rachel Glago** shared she had a call about the proposal and suggested that perhaps a grant could assist a group if they take control of the Waldron. **Sean Starowitz** stated that they are going to have to have a real long look at capacity and use of the 100-year-old building. Also, it was emphasized that the Waldron is a key critical arts infrastructure and a lot of organizations use the Waldron.

From your Chair: Bryony Gomez-Palacio wants to figure out what BAC wants to accomplish before the end of the year. **Nick Blandford** wants to set up a first meeting and set up a timeline for the Public Art Master Plan. Additionally, would like to look at the Strategic Plan and apply some structure to what action items will come of it.

Commissioner Announcements: Rachel Glago shared that the virtual festival for Midway Music Speaks went well with a couple hundred people participating. **Bryony Gomez-Palacio** will be starting in January on the board for Dimension Mill in January.

Public Comment: AJ O'Reilly shared about the art store he has started with his wife called Griffy's Art Supply.

Bryony Gomez-Palacio adjourned the meeting at 6:19 PM.