

# 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, Marnina Patrick, Sean Starowitz

Public: Chaz from FAR Center for Contemporary Arts

**Bryony Gomez-Palacio** called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm. The minutes for the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting were motioned for approval 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.

**Public Art Projects: Trades District Garage** – There will be a wide community engagement project involving the tiles for the project with Esteban Garcia. Currently thinking through the strategy on that component but the ideal timeline is to go into production by the end of March. The garage will be open by then so there will be forthcoming work to showcase the public art. **4<sup>th</sup> Street** – Currently working to get that project expedited and on track. Garage will be completed in August and that was not under the original timeline with Ignition Arts and or Project One so working to fast-track those projects without sacrificing any quality. **Trades Sculpture** – Finally closing out and getting everything under contract and that is also slated for completion by the end of this year. **Switchyard Project** – Still waiting on an updated timeline from T3. **Public Art Master Plan** – The Public Art Committee talked through and outlined a draft of the master plan. There is a revised outline for sections that want to be incused in the master plan. Items of inclusion are as follows: a table of contents, an about section, a section about what public art specifically is, public vs. private, temporary vs. permanent, physical pieces vs. activation and programming, as well as describing values and goals. Also, there is information on BAC's funding and management of public art, public/private partnerships, neighborhood association opportunities, additional funding opportunities, and access to other projects outside the BAC. Additionally, a section defining the values and requirements behind public art from the practical side such as scale and audience then to broader concepts of sustainability and inclusion. Lastly, a directory of the City's public art inventory will be included, a how-to for citizens to become involved with public art as well as a public art tool kit for overall engagement and resources. Sections have been delegated to groupings of commissioners and the next committee meeting there will be further discussion with hopes to get it finalized by June. Sean Starowitz asked that if any commissioners come across examples of what other cities are doing that to email him and/or the full commission. Nick Blandford emphasized that the end goal is to create a document that can have embedded links that go out to external sources. The core of the document will be static but there will be aspects of it that will make it a living document. Babette Ballinger shared concerns

of redundancy and the amount of energy going into this document. Bryony Gomez-Palacio clarified that over the next four weeks aspects will be refined and parsed down into a succinct document.

**Grants: New Chair Announcement** – Rachel Glago will be stepping down and Essence London will be the new Chair. Essence London is excited about the year ahead and is currently drafting out some goals as well as thinking about a grants toolkit and new ways to promote new grant opportunities. Rachel Glago is very excited as well and shared about a recent meeting the two of them had collaborating over goals. The torch has been passed and there were expressions of gratitude for the three years that Rachel Glago has been Chair of the Grants Committee. Lastly, Rachel Glago shared about a Slack group they are a member of called Indiana Venue Alliance and what they have been doing around grants and the second round of PPP. This comment prompted further discussion about outreach and how eligibility requirements make outreach more time involved. Sean Starowitz stated that that type of outreach is best for the local programs rather than national programs. Essence London then asked about the funds that have been allocated for grants and it was clarified that the money does need to be spent by the end of this fiscal year or it will revert into the general fund. Valeria DeCastro stated they would like to join the grants committee. Sean Starowitz then highlighted that grant funding from the IAC has a deadline for the letter of intent on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and requests that the commissioners share with people and/or organizations that could benefit from it. Babette Ballinger asked about the public art map that was mentioned previously and then shared that the commission should discuss a way to recognize people who have worked hard through this pandemic. Sean Starowitz shared that there is an electronic version of a public art map. Also, it was agreed that it is a general conversation to have in regards to documenting and recognizing this moment in our collective history. Bryony Gomez-Palacio asked for everyone to think about this over the next four weeks and it will be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Nick Blandford shared reluctance to use any existing funds or seek further funds but rather this idea may be better thought of as a public/private partnership. Elizabeth Licata voiced concern that it may be a bit premature but then it was stated that it would be good to have the planning done now.

**Strategic Plan** – Bryony Gomez-Palacio stated that there is not a lot of updates. The implementation schedule is available with people's names marked on what they want to work on. Essence London will be spearheading social media and Valeria DeCastro is working on that as well. Rachel Glago is working on the website and stated that assistance is not needed. Karen Hallett-Rupp and Bryony Gomez-Palacio are working on cross commission collaborations by identifying what other commissions BAC would like to work with. Essence London, Rachel Glago, Quinton Stroud, Elizabeth Licata, and Valeria DeCastro will be working on grants. The "Community Hour" idea will be worked on by Bryony Gomez-Palacio and Babette Ballinger. Then Quinton Stroud stated the desire to work on the community engagement.

**Staff report: Waldron** – Waldron Task Force met once and are meeting again at end of January to do their due diligence. Eight focus groups are being conducted to get insight from the community as to what the outcome should be. The City is not making the building available to anyone in the meantime.

**Commissioner Announcements:** None

Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Public Comment:** None

**Bryony Gomez-Palacio** adjourned the meeting at 6:08 PM.