

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, Quinton Stroud, Sam Sveen

Absent: NONE

Staff: Helen Lee, Marnina Patrick, Sean Starowitz

Public: NONE

Bryony Gomez-Palacio called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm. The minutes for the January 13th meeting were unavailable so they were postponed till next month.

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

Public Art Projects: Trades District Garage – Community engagement workshops have been scheduled with the Mill. **Switchyard Project** – This should be complete by May. **4th Street** – Garage will open in August. Working on a timeline for the public art installation to be around that date. And hope the Trades Gateway - Probably quarter 4 of 2021 **Public Art Master Plan** – Meeting held a review of documents and copy provided by commissioners. The hope is that the midpoint check in will have more copy available. Work now will be done on reducing redundancy and ensuring that the strength of the message is there. Then it will be brought to the monthly BAC meeting for everyone to review.

Grants: – Essence London stated that the scoring for the Recover Forward Grants have been completed. Now switching focus to the BAC arts grants with hopes of launching by the beginning of March. Quinton Stroud created a proposal for an emerging artists grant program. Quinton spoke to the creation of this funding stream to support emerging artists which would simultaneously boost the production of engaging opportunities for the City of Bloomington. Essence London explained that the next thing to do is to set the dates for the grants, the workshops, and the one-on-one conversation with the public. The hope is to have these dates set by the next BAC meeting. Sean Starowitz shared that the IAC will be at the next grants committee meeting to speak about their programs to ensure everyone is aware of what is going on. Elliot Reichert spoke about the term emerging and how that can mean different things to other people as well as a preference for more money to less recipients. Babette Ballinger spoke about overlapping concepts that perhaps are being lost because there is so much. Sean Starowitz reminded about the e-verify requirement from the state that anything over \$1,000 needs to go through that system so that is to be considered. **Recover Forward update** – A big thank you to

Essence London and Elliot Reichert for their work in reviewing applications. The recommendations to the BUEA happened today and there were about \$42,000 awarded with two venues and eight or nine first time applicants. A big framework that the reviewers scrutinized was equity and inclusion. About twenty-thousand was reserved for venues as the future for them is truly unknown at the moment. The Save Our Stages may have complications if big venues like the NFL could qualify for that funding. Lastly, Essence London shared that there was an observable improvement in the quality in some of the applications. For example, an applicant that was reviewed before had a much stronger application this time so overall that is encouraging to see.

Strategic Plan – Bryony Gomez-Palacio spoke about the first quarterly meeting between Arts Forward Bloomington and Arts Alliance Bloomington as well as the leader of Artisan Alley who is starting to take over Arts Alliance. Overlaps in work were identified and a better sense was found of where they can come together for a common goal. Also, minutes from meetings will be shared so as to stay informed. Generally, there is a concern for artists experiencing homelessness and overall pay or in other words, the lack of pay. Sam Sveen asked which group had the space in the mall. It was clarified that that was Arts Alliance and it was called Art Beat but it is currently closed. Sean Starowitz asked if there has been an increase in artists experiencing homelessness and if they are tracking it. Bryony Gomez-Palacio stated that there had not been time at that meeting to go very deep into that but it is important. Sean Starowitz also spoke to how historically artists always get a short term lease on spots here in Bloomington and not a long term lease so that is something to consider as talks around the Waldron and the hospital redevelopment is talked about. **Social Media** – Essence London and Valeria DeCastro had a productive meeting about the difference between the social media platforms and the intended goals of both. There was a request for submissions of upcoming important dates for commissioners to submit so they can be posted in a few weeks in advance. Lastly, the BAC's logo was requested for the social media accounts. Sam Sveen shared about the importance of faces with social media as that demonstrates the people behind the art and the people who interact with the art. This could be linked in with tags, locations pinned, and hashtags that perhaps could be tied into the public art map. Rachel Glago has no updates on the website. Babette Ballinger shared that a basic outline was created for the Community Hour but there is not a lot of consensus. An email will go out soliciting feedback so more consensus can be found. The proposed time for this Community Hour is around 16:30 or 17:00 but that is open for discussion. Ideas are being discussed on possible topics to discuss. Babette Ballinger asked if there is a viable mailing list and it was shared that there is a distribution list to be utilized. Karen Hallett-Rupp updated on the cross commissions collaboration work and the preliminary list that was created for potential partnerships. Bryony Gomez-Palacio was recently in attendance at a focus group on commissions and there was consensus that collaboration is something that is wanted. Karen Hallett-Rupp then updated on the emerging artists tool-kit and how the vision for it has changed. Not sure if it should be under Public Art or if it should be under the general BAC

heading in the Strategic Plan. Additionally, a request was made for collaboration with other fields of art due to Karen Hallett-Rupp's expertise in the visual arts. It was proposed that this be connected with the work Rachel Glago is doing for the website. Nick Blandford asked if there is a difference with this tool-kit and the other tool-kit and it was stated that they are intended to be different and there will be some overlap. Sean Starowitz stated that there could be outreach to performing arts organizations and BEAD funding could be allocated for that.

Staff report: Waldron – While the future of the Waldron is still being discussed there has been some concern in the community about the loss of space. The IAC has offered a small amount of funding to support projects over the years. So Sean Starowitz put in a grant application to investigate additional opportunities for artist's to use. For example, there will be space in the two new parking garages for display as well as a vacant storefront at the Graduate Hotel. There possibly could be some matching funds available from the City. IAC has not responded yet. Additionally, the space needs assessment was never followed up on so that is something to do such as possibly a feasibility study. Karen Hallett-Rupp asked for an update about the Jordan River/Hidden River project. Sean Starowitz spoke about the ideas around potential arts projects to be down in tandem with the Utility project such as poetry, sound artists, etc.... Next Sean Starowitz extended an invitation to the commissioners to join the two check-in calls that have been conducted with performance arts and festivals groups. Then it was shared that reviewers are requested by the Columbus Area Arts Council for their Region Nine grant. That would likely coincide with this grant cycle in April. Rachel Glago has experience with that process which is a different process than this region and it is state funding. **Commissioner Announcements:** Nick Blandford shared news that Secretly's two labels, Jag Jaguar and Secretly Canadian, celebrating 25th anniversary this year. There will be a large fundraiser to happen to raise funds for New Hope for Families sheltering services. Also will be looking to tap into other business partnerships for fundraising. Additionally, there is going to be a poetry record put out.

Public Comment: None

Bryony Gomez-Palacio adjourned the meeting at 6:15 PM.