



METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

Metro Arts Commission

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

February 18, 2021

This meeting took place via teleconference.

A recording of the meeting can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XCCKSU3Gs8>

Attending Commissioners: Jim Schmidt (Chair), Matia Powell (Vice Chair), Will Cheek (Sec. /Treasurer), Jane Alvis, Ellen Angelico, Rev. Dexter Brewer, Marianne Byrd, Sheri Nichols Bucy, Marielena Ramos, Paula Roberts, David Jon Walker, and Campbell West

Absent Commissioners: Bonnie Dow, Hope Stringer

Staff: Caroline Vincent, Grace Wright, Emily Waltenbaugh, Janine Christiano, Nichole Robinson,

Guests: Derrick Smith (Metro Legal), Charda Johnson (Metro ITS)

METRO ARTS MISSION:

Drive an Equitable and Vibrant Community through the Arts

A. Call to Order & Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

Chair Schmidt made a roll call of all Commissioners present.

B. Vote on Governor's Executive Order No. 71

A motion that the meeting agenda constitutes essential business of this body and meeting electronically is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans considering the COVID-19 outbreak and is permitted under the Governor's Executive Order number 71 was offered by Commissioner Cheek and Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion.

Chair Schmidt asked for any additional comments.

Roll call vote was taken, all members present voted, and all votes were affirmative.

C. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve Arts Commission minutes from April 3, 2020 – January 21, 2021 was offered by Commissioner Byrd and Commissioner Walker seconded the motion.

D. Arts in Action

Emily Waltenbaugh gave an update on Metro Arts communications including the relaunch of Racial Equity in Arts Leadership (REAL) program and updates on application timelines and application results for Diversity in Arts Leadership (DIAL) Internship, FY22 grants, Thrive Cycle 2, and Opportunity Now.

E. Action Items:

1. Opportunity Now Host Site Awards

Janine Christiano gave an overview of the Opportunity Now program and application review process. She also presented the project timeline if the Host Sites were approved:

- Application Review Panel: Feb 16
- Job Applications Open: Feb 24 - April 9
- Hiring, Training, Orientation: April 12 - June 11
- Projects: June 14 - July 23, 2021

Nichole Robinson gave an overview of the proposed Host Sites and their programs:

- Tennessee State University's "MSPAR AIR Youth" program; Recommended allocation: \$7,600 to serve 8 students
- Women of Color Collaborative's "WOCC Summer Intern Experience" program; Recommended allocation: \$15,200 to serve 16 students
- Prado Studio's "ENVISION 37208" program; Recommended allocation: \$19,000 to serve 20 students
- King's Daughters Day Home's "KDCDC Arts Enrichment Education" program; Recommended allocation: \$22,800 for 24 students
- Moves and Grooves' "Imagine Your Community (IYC) Project" program; Recommended allocation: \$22,800 for 24 youth
- Notes for Notes' "Notes for Notes Digital Music Work Experience" program; Recommended allocation: \$24,700 to serve 26 students
- Turnip Green Creative Reuse's "TGCR Sustainability & Arts Youth Program" program; Recommended allocation: \$24,700 to serve 26 students

- Southern Word’s “Creating Cultural Centers through Words and Music” program; Recommended allocation: \$24,700 to serve 26 students
- From the Heart’s “Music 4 Life” program; Recommended allocation: \$24,700 to serve 26 students

Chair Schmidt asked if there was public comment. There was not.

Chair Schmidt then called for questions or discussion.

The Commission asked for clarification regarding technology access given that the programs would be either fully or partially virtually. Staff clarified that organizations would first attempt to bridge the gap, but that Metro Action Commission and Metro Arts would oversee any gaps. It was also noted that laptops given to Metro School students will not have to be returned over the summer.

The Commission asked for clarification regarding gender equity in the student recruitment process. While Metro Arts does not oversee that, staff assured the Commission that the Metro Action Commission does promote equitable access though they do not use quotas.

The Commission asked for clarification regarding whether all funds had been spent and whether the Commission would receive a post-program evaluation. Staff answered yes to both.

A motion to approve the Opportunity Now Host Site Awards was offered by Commissioner Byrd and Commissioner Roberts seconded.

Roll call vote was taken, all members present voted, and all votes were affirmative.

F. Public Art Review and Updates

Due to technical challenges, this item was postponed to the March Arts Commission meeting.

G. CARE Report

Commissioner Roberts presented an update from the Committee for Antiracism and Equity (CARE).

Commissioner Roberts gave an update on the outcomes from the CARE retreat.

The Committee discussed a review of Arts Commission programming and the arts ecosystem through an equity lens. Using a document by the Maryland Association of Boards of Education as a base, the Committee is revising it to fit the needs of the Arts

Commission. The lens will be assessed using a Metro Arts program for testing. It will be brought to the Arts Commission for approval when it is completed.

The Committee also discussed establishing a comprehensive equity training for new Commissioners to be brought to the Arts Commission.

The Committee is also looking to work on an organizational assessment and a communications plan for community relationship building.

The Commission asked for clarification about the training and whether it would apply to everyone. Commissioner Roberts clarified that it would and would be standard practice going forward.

The Commission also asked for clarification regarding whether the CARE training would be in addition to Crossroads training. Commissioner Roberts clarified that it would be.

This Commission asked for clarification if there was additional focus on external relationships and the Nashville arts ecosystem as a whole. Commissioner Roberts answered that external relationships were being considered and that this training would be foundational work to be expanded.

H. Executive Director's Report

Caroline Vincent reminded Commissioners about access to information through the Board Report, Arts Alert, Arts in Action. Also, offered the availability of staff to give updates regarding any information the Commissioners might be interested in.

Caroline also updated the Commissioner on the status of Metro Arts in the budget process and specific requests, a current application for a part time, temporary contractor for the Strategic Funding & Initiatives team, the partnership with 2Sigma Data Clinic, and a brief overview of public art updates.

F. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.