



# METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

## **Metro Arts Commission**

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

March 18, 2021

**This meeting took place via teleconference.**

A recording of the meeting can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/jh3aeGFyXvk>

**Commissioners Present:** Jim Schmidt (Chair), Matia Powell (Vice Chair), Jane Alvis, Ellen Angelico, Rev. Dexter Brewer, Marianne Byrd, Sheri Nichols Bucy, Paula Roberts, Hope Stringer, and David Jon Walker

**Commissioners Absent:** Will Cheek, Bonnie Dow, Marielena Ramos, Campbell West

**Staff:** Grace Wright, Janine Christiano, Marysa LaRowe, Van Maravalli, Anne-Leslie Owens, Ian Myers

**Guests:** Derrick Smith (Metro Legal)

### **METRO ARTS MISSION:**

**Drive an Equitable and Vibrant Community through the Arts**

#### **A. Call to Order & Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 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 Alvis and Commissioner Bucy 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 February 18, 2021 with correction to show Commissioner Alvis present was offered by Commissioner Roberts and Commissioner Walker seconded the motion.***

Chair Schmidt asked for any additional comments.

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

### **D. Action Items:**

#### **1. FY21 THRIVE Cycle 2 Funding Awards**

Janine Christiano presented an overview of the Thrive program.

Marysa LaRowe presented the funding recommendations of staff and the community review panels for FY21 Thrive Cycle 2 and gave an overview of the projects as follows:

- Andrew, A Boy Called Hair, and the Edgehill Polar Bears Use Their Superpowers to Solve Their Community's Problems: Creating a Viable and Equitable Community; Recommended Allocation: \$9,500
- SEVEN: A Contemporary Exploration of Fatness and Blackness; Recommended Allocation: \$9,500
- Madison Seed Library; Recommended Allocation: \$9,500
- Notes for Notes: The Podcast; Recommended Allocation: \$8,550
- Power of Voice; Recommended Allocation: \$7,890
- Jaefriz Online Music Program at Bellevue Community Center and Metro Parks Music; Recommended Allocation: \$4,110

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

Chair Schmidt asked if there was any further discussion or questions from Commissioners.

***A motion to approve the FY21 THRIVE Cycle 2 Funding Awards was offered by Commissioner Alvis and Commissioner Powell seconded.***

Roll call vote was taken, all members present voted, and all votes were affirmative excluding Commissioner Stringer who abstained because she was not able to hear the presentation due to technical difficulties.

## **2. Public Art Committee member nominations**

Van Maravalli presented to the Commissioners two candidates for proposed nomination to the Public Art Committee: Sara Lee Burd and Shaun Giles.

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

Chair Schmidt asked if there was any further discussion or questions from Commissioners.

***A motion to appoint Sara Lee Burd for a term of 3 year(s) and Shaun Giles for a term of 1 year with the option to extend to the Public Art Committee was offered by Commissioner Alvis and Commissioner Angelico seconded.***

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

## **3. Kossie Gardner Sr. Park Project Scope**

Van Maravalli gave a presentation regarding the project scope and call to artist worked on by the Community Advisory Panel. The proposed project vision and goals include:

- Multi-Generational Representation
- Historical Content
- Promote and Inspire Community Wellness
- A Space for Gathering
- Partnership and Programing

The call to artists opens March 8, 2021 and will close April 5, 2021 at 11:59pm. The call details include:

- Professional artists and artist teams working or living in Nashville Davidson County
- Short Answer Application Questions
- Selection Criteria:
  - Community Connection/Commitment
  - Artwork Examples
  - Short Answer Response
  - Artist Capacity

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

Chair Schmidt asked if there was any further discussion or questions from Commissioners.

The Commission asked for clarification on if there was any potential for the expansion of this project in the future. Staff explained that this project is the first stage of funding for Kossie Gardner Sr. Park and that there might be future opportunities.

***A motion to approve the Kossie Gardner Sr. Park Community Canvas Project Scope was offered by Commissioner Bucy and Commissioner Byrd seconded.***

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

#### **4. CARE Board Training Recommendation**

Commissioner Roberts presented to the Commission a recommendation on Board member training from the Committee for Antiracism and Equity. The Committee recommended "[Beyond Diversity: How to Build a Truly Anti-Racist Organization](#)" by Beyond Feminism and Crossroads for onboarding future Commissioners and highly recommended for current Commissioners.

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

Chair Schmidt asked if there was any further discussion or questions from Commissioners.

The Commissioner asked for clarification about whether there were provisions if the training became unavailable or needed to be updated. Commissioner Roberts clarified that CARE was committed to developing this training as needed and regarding any changes.

***A motion to approve the Beyond Diversity video as the first resource for training and onboarding Commissioners, Committee Members, and agency staff within the agency by the first month of service as a standard practice going forward and all current Commissioners would be strongly encouraged to view this training was offered by Commissioner Haynes and Commissioner Walker seconded.***

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

### **E. Program and Project Updates**

#### **1. Public Art Updates**

Van Maravalli gave the Commission the following Public Art updates:

- a. Stix Lighting Improvement
- b. Metro Arts Conservator Report
- c. Art Lending Library
- d. Madison Arts Community Survey

## 2. Strategic Funding and Initiatives Updates

Janine Christiano updated the Commission on the following Strategic Funding & Initiatives programs:

- a. FY22 Grants Application Process
- b. Equity Programs: REAL, Power of the Pen, and BIPOC & White Arts Administrator Groups
- c. Youth Partnership Programs: Opportunity NOW, Restorative Arts, and DIAL (Diversity in Arts Leadership)

Janine Christiano also updated the Commission on the hiring of a part-time consultant, Natalie Alfaro Frazier.

## **F. Adjourn Meeting**

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 15, 2021 at Noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.