



METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

Metro Arts Commission

Minutes of the Arts Commission Meeting

May 20, 2021

Metro Southeast Building

Green Hills Auditorium

1417 Murfreesboro Pk.

Nashville, TN 37217

Commissioners Present: Jim Schmidt (Chair), Will Cheek (Secretary), Jane Alvis, Ellen Angelico, Rev. Dexter Brewer, Sheri Nichols Bucy, Marianne Byrd, Bonnie Dow, Paula Roberts, and Hope Stringer

Commissioners Absent: Matia Powell, Marielena Ramos, Campbell West, and David Jon Walker

Staff: Caroline Vincent, Grace Wright, Ian Myers, Emily Waltenbaugh, Tré Hardin, and Van Maravalli

Guests: Derrick Smith (Metro Legal), Imani Miley

METRO ARTS MISSION:

Drive an Equitable and Vibrant Community through the Arts

A. Call to Order & Welcome

Chair Schmidt called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve Arts Commission minutes from April 15, 2021 was offered by Commissioner Dow, Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

C. Action Items:

1. Kossie Gardner Sr. Park Community Canvas Artist Selection

Public Art Project Manager Tré Hardin gave an overview of the Kossie Gardner Sr. Park Community Canvas project and presented the Commission with the artist recommended by the advisory panel: Elisheba Israel Mrozik.

Elisheba Israel Mrozik is a Fine Artist and Award-winning Tattoo Artist. She owns One Drop Ink Tattoo Parlour, which is located directly across from Kossie Gardner Sr. Park. Recently her work has been displayed at the Frist Art Museum as part of the *Murals of North Nashville Now* exhibit and the *Blood at the Root* exhibit done in partnership with her spouse as EXO:DUS. Elisheba has also been a Metro Arts Thrive project recipient and was part of the first Learning Lab Cohort in 2016.

Tré Hardin also presented past examples of Elisheba's work and a rough concept model for the project as well as a projected timeline for the project:

- Late June/Early July 2021: PAC Concept Approval
- July 2021: Project Development/ Install
- Summer 2021: Unveiling/Community Event
- Fall 2021-2023: Continued programming at park/ Explore partnerships with community organizations and Universities

Chair Schmidt opened the meeting for questions and discussion. The Commission discussed the proposed project.

The Commission asked if the history timeline that is part of the park wall currently would remain permanently, and additionally, if biographical information about the artist would also be added to the wall. Staff confirmed that the timeline is permanent and is separated from the canvas section by a transparent panel. In terms of the artist biography, there are plans to add signage to the transparent part of the wall.

The Commission also asked for clarification regarding additional roles Metro Arts could play in continuing the work of this project and being involved in a restorative healing process in the area. Additionally, there were questions about how Metro Arts might be involved with any future projects such as a cap over the interstate. The staff clarified that they have been working interdepartmentally on North Nashville investments as well as continuing and developing transit relationships.

The Commission asked for clarification about whether the example of Elisheba's mural work was local. Staff clarified that predominantly yes and also that one of Elisheba's most recent partnerships with Creative Girls Rock for their Thrive-funded mural project.

The Commission noted that they were particularly excited that the artist's business is located next to the park and public art installation.

A motion to approve Elisheba Israel Mrozik as the Kossie Gardner Sr. Park Community Canvas artist was offered by Commissioner Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Angelico, and the motion passed.

D. Metro Legal Ethics Training

Derrick Smith from Metro Legal gave the Commissioners an ethics training presentation regarding the role of Commissioners with the goal of:

- Understanding that Commissioners cannot accept benefits related to their role on the board.
- Understanding when Commissioners may be biased or have a conflict and should recuse themselves.
- Remembering to disclose knowledge they have received about an agenda item from outside the meeting.
- Remembering to articulate the specific reasons and basis for their decision.
- Understanding that the Open Meetings Act prohibits deliberation outside board meetings & Public Records Act makes almost all Commissioner's emails open to the public.
- Understanding best practices for making informed decisions.

It was also clarified that Derrick Smith is available to give legal advice to the Arts Commission and its Committees on these circumstances.

Chair Schmidt asked if there were any questions.

The Commission asked for clarification regarding a situation where the possibility of gain existed but was not clear or guaranteed. Derrick Smith recommended erring on the side of disclosure so that a case-by-case decision can be made especially if there is any direct impact positive or negative.

The Commission thanked Derrick Smith for his time and expertise.

E. Adjourn Meeting

The Chair reminded the Commission that the next meeting will be Thursday, June 17, 2021 from 12pm-2pm to accommodate grant allocations. Refreshments will be provided given the length of the meeting.

The Chair reminded the Commission that the Arts Commission would be having their budget hearing with the Metro Council Budget Committee that night at 5pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Will Cheek (Secretary/Treasurer)

Date

Prepared by Grace Wright