



Metro Arts Commission

Minutes of the Executive Committee

April 26, 2021

This meeting took place via teleconference.

A recording of the meeting can be viewed here:

https://youtu.be/uGTvZVxC9_Q

Commissioners Present: Jim Schmidt (Chair), Matia Powell (Vice Chair), Will Cheek (Secretary)

Staff: Caroline Vincent, Grace Wright, Janine Christiano, Ian Myers

Guests: Paula Roberts, Ellen Angelico

METRO ARTS MISSION:

Drive an Equitable and Vibrant Community through the Arts

A. Call to Order & Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 11:36 a.m.

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 Powell and Commissioner Schmidt 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 October 15, 2020 with correction to show Commissioner Alvis present was offered by Commissioner Powell and Commissioner Schmidt 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. Discussion of Community Outreach and Support Plan

Chair Schmidt opened discussion about the request brought up by Commissioner Angelico at the April 15, 2021 Art Commission meeting about the Arts Commission's response to anti-LGBTQ legislation and how to support the Nashville LGBTQ artist community. Additionally, he proposed discussion on the same for other communities, such as the BIPOC and AAPI communities, that have been experiencing similar violence and prejudice.

The Committee asked staff to report out on demographic and data collection of artists served in grants and funding projects. Staff updated the Commission on current demographic data and optional, self-identification questions. It was also noted that staff was interested in discussing both response and communication with Nashville communities and well as a review of guidelines with an equity lens in place. Staff did clarify that the funding decisions themselves could not be made based on demographics, but that there were areas identified where staff could make practices more accessible.

The Committee discussed the need to reach out to a broader range of underrepresented Nashville communities and asked staff for clarification regarding their priorities. Staff clarified that the Committee for Antiracism and Equity have been working on the idea of cultural and relationship mapping. This could additionally be part of the strategic planning process.

The Committee asked for clarification regarding grantee reports on audiences served. Staff responded that tracking is included on closeouts but that exact data could potentially put an undue burden on grantees and project coordinators. The Executive Committee proposed looking into a plan for the Arts Commission to fund and implement a review of participation in and for Metro funded programs and organizations. The Committee also discussed expanding outreach in terms of sharing opportunities beyond the Arts Commission as a part of relationship building.

The Committee also brought up the topic of how the Commission could respond more quickly to current events happening in our community as a way to come together, especially given how artists and arts organizations have responded to COVID. Staff responded positively but did point out that human and financial resource limitations

often made these initiatives unfeasible. Thrive was also mentioned as a possible avenue for some of this work.

The Committee discussed budgeting limitations and proposed as part of the strategic planning process identifying programs and goals to seek further funding.

The Committee also discussed having a communications plan in place to reach out to communities to show support.

Commissioner Roberts reported on in more detail on some of the work of the Committee for Antiracism and Equity including:

- An equitable and thoughtful outreach and communications policy
- Cultural and relationships mapping
- The creation of an Equity Lens document

She further elaborated on a discussion of instead of having a communications statement, finding ways that the arts could inform the Commission's response. The idea would allow for staff to respond while additional action is being followed-up on. There was discussion about whether these decisions would be made by staff or in conjunction with the Executive Committee.

The Chair asked about a timeline for working with the Committee for Antiracism and Equity on a communications plan to be able to respond thoughtfully to current events with the needs of the community effected in mind without burdening them. Staff will follow-up.

The Committee also brought up discussion around securing further funding and dedicated funding to help support these resources. The potential for federal recovery money was also brought up as an upcoming point of discussion. It was suggested that the Strategic Planning and Funding Committee meet to discuss possible actions.

The Committee also recommended eventually creating a position to focus on this work and community outreach.

The Committee proposed pursuing:

- The creation of a communication tool
- Asset and cultural mapping
- Ways to track participation in Arts Commission programs
- Avenues for increased funding
- Review artist/grantee self-identification collection processes/metrics for possible improvement

E. New Business/Next Meeting

Ian Myers gave the Committee a review of the upcoming Executive Director’s review. Staff will provide the previous annual evaluation for the Chair to use as an example, and then the Executive Committee will meet to review.

The Committee asked if there would be input from staff and other communities. Staff clarified that managerial staff would provide feedback on managerial competency of the agency.

F. Adjourn Meeting

Chair Schmidt asked if staff would be reporting back on the Strategic Planning RFQ and updates. Staff let the Committee know that the selection is still in process with Procurement, but they hope to update the Executive Committee in June.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Will Cheek (Secretary/Treasurer)

Date

Prepared by Grace Wright