



METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

Metro Arts Commission

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

April 3, 2020

This meeting took place via teleconference.

A recording of the proceedings has been posted at:

<https://www.nashville.gov/Government/Boards-and-Committees/Committee-Information/ID/49/ArtsCommission.aspx>.

METRO ARTS MISSION:

Drive an Equitable and Vibrant Community through the Arts

Attending Commissioners: Marielena Ramos, Bonnie Dow, Campbell West, Hope Stringer, Jackie Daniel, James Schmidt, Clay Haynes, Matia Powell, Paula Roberts, Sheri Nichols Bucy, Will Cheek, Jane Alvis, Marcus Whitney

Staff: Lauren Fitzgerald, Tré Hardin, Ian Myers, Anne-Leslie Owens, Caroline Vincent, Emily Waltenbaugh, Atilio Murga, Skylar Peterson, Grace Wright

Guests: Kenneth McCoy (Metro ITS), Alex Dickerson (Metro Legal), Justin Marsh (Metro Legal), Derrick Smith (Metro Legal)

A. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Chair Marielena Ramos called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.

Chair Ramos did a verbal roll call of all Commissioners present and all answered verbally, except:

- Commissioner Matia Powell (present – no verbal response)
- Commissioner Marcus Whitney (present – arrived later in the meeting)

B. OUTLINE VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING PROCEDURES

The new virtual meeting procedures as authorized by the Governor's Executive Order No. 16 were explained for the benefit of the Commissioners and the public.

C. VOTE ON GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 16

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 16 was offered by Commissioner Schmidt and seconded by Commissioner Haynes.

Chair Ramos asked for any additional comments.

Commissioner Cheek registered disapproval of the public comment process and offered the solution of electronic access to the meeting in future events.

Metro Arts staff explained that a Metro Arts staff member was available at the Howard Office Building for public access.

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

D. ACTION ITEMS

1. THRIVE guidelines

Janine Christiano gave a presentation on the impact of the March 3rd tornado and the COVID-19 crisis on the Nashville art community and proposed the use of THRIVE funds to “support artists and communities in Nashville & Davidson County during this unprecedented time by funding unique, artistic responses to the circumstances impacting communities due to the March 3rd tornado and the spread of the COVID-19 virus.”

Chair Ramos asked Metro Staff if there was any public comment. There was not.

Chair Ramos opened the request to discussion.

There was discussion amongst the Commissioners regarding eligibility for the THRIVE funds, timeline for projects, existing THRIVE project continuation and the source of the funds. It was noted by staff that the funds are sourced from grants, returned project funds, and not the Metro budget.

A motion to amend current THRIVE guidelines as presented; allocate up to \$40,000 in Tenn. Arts Commission unallocated operational grant funds as well as returned FY20 THRIVE funds from cancelled projects (currently \$9,500); and to give staff the ability to make awards up to \$2,500 to artists, artist teams and non-grantee organizations for community-driven projects to support the community during the impact of the March 3 tornado and COVID-19 was offered by Commissioner Schmidt and seconded by Commissioner Stringer.

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

2. Virtual community grant panel meetings

Janine Christiano presented on the impact of COVID-19 on the safety of Metro Arts grant review panels. In line with the Mayor's Safer At Home order, she requested that the meetings be held virtually as no location is specified in the guidelines.

Chair Ramos asked Metro Staff if there was any public comment. There was not.

Chair Ramos opened the request to discussion.

A motion to allow all FY21 Grant Panel Review procedures to take place in electronic meeting format to uphold public safety orders was offered by Commissioner Schmidt and seconded by Commissioner Roberts.

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

3. Grantee Deadline Flexibility

Janine Christiano presented on the request from several arts organizations for grant application deadline flexibility given the impact of COVID-19/March 3 tornado and the potential effects of the lack of funding, especially during these times.

Chair Ramos asked Metro Staff if there was any public comment. There was not.

Chair Ramos opened the request to discussion.

There was discussion around qualifications for extensions and the deadline that would be set.

A motion to allow arts organizations, who missed the original deadlines, to submit their FY21 grant applications by April 15th in order to be considered for funding was offered by Commissioner Cheek and seconded by Commissioner Schmidt.

Roll call vote was taken, all members present voted, and all votes were affirmative. Commissioner Daniels and Commissioner Stringer were unable to vote due to technical difficulties.

E. ADJOURN MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 12:44PM