



METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

Metro Arts Commission

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

August 20, 2020

This meeting took place via teleconference.

A recording of the proceedings can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/Hw-F7AOQg8>

Attending Commissioners: Marielena Ramos (Chair), Jim Schmidt (Vice Chair), Jane Alvis, Marianne Byrd, Will Cheek, Niki Coffman, Bonnie Dow, Clay Haynes, Sheri Nichols Bucy, Matia Powell, Hope Stringer, Campbell West, and Marcus Whitney

Absent Commissioners: Jackie Daniel (Sec./Treasurer), Paula Roberts

Staff: Caroline Vincent, Ian Myers, Janine Christiano, Marysa LaRowe, Emily Waltenbaugh, and Grace Wright

Guests: Justin Marsh (Legal), Charda Johnson (Metro ITS)

METRO ARTS MISSION:

Drive an Equitable and Vibrant Community through the Arts

A. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Chair Ramos called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m. and did a verbal roll call of all Committee members present.

B. 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 Alvis and Commissioner Dow seconded the motion.

Chair Ramos asked for any additional comments.

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

C. ARTS IN ACTION: Highlights of Prior Month's Activities

Emily Waltenbaugh presented the Arts Commission with communications updates, including the conclusion of the DIAL Fellowship, the conclusion of this year's Opportunity NOW partnership, the Madison on my Mind call to artists, media mentions, and I Voted Sticker/Election updates.

D. ACTION ITEMS:

1. THRIVE Guidelines

Janine Christiano gave the Commissioners updates on the changes to the FY21 THRIVE Guidelines including:

1. Clarification & streamlining of process
2. Articulation of specific expectations around equity & feasibility
3. Increased protections for youth and general public
4. Deadlines that balance funding well-developed projects quickly, while giving an additional opportunity in January for those not ready to apply yet. This gives all awardees enough time to complete projects by the end of the fiscal year.

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

Chair Ramos opened the request to discussion.

Commissioner Schmidt inquired about the potential burden of background checks for smaller organizations. Janine clarified that the process was a standard one for working with youth, but staff would endeavor to make it as simple as possible including potentially allowing previous checks to be used.

Commissioner Schmidt asked for clarification regarding the new cultural equity scoring and specific metrics. Janine clarified that scoring criteria will be distributed to communicate specific requirements for this application criteria.

A motion to approve the FY21 THRIVE Guidelines was offered by Commissioner Cheek and seconded by Commissioner Dow.

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

2. ABC Allocations

Janine Christiano updated the Commission on the Arts Build Communities grant panel through TAC, and the proposed allocations recommended by the Grants and Funding Committee. She briefly summarized the overall allocations:

- \$29,376 in ABC grants
- 13 organizations
- Grants ranging from \$356 - \$3,130
- Allocations are 71%-89% of original ask
- Covid-19 related social distancing or remote programming plans were addressed during the panel review

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

Chair Ramos opened the request to discussion. There was none.

A motion to approve the FY21 Arts Builds Community grant allocations and awards was offered by Commissioner Alvis and seconded by Commissioner Schmidt.

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

3. Update Bylaws to Vote on Officers at August Meeting

Caroline Vincent proposed to the Commission temporarily updating Article VI, Section 4 of the current Arts Commission Bylaws to allow for a vote on the Officers and Committee Slate in August versus September, given the ability to hold virtual meetings are uncertain.

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

Chair Ramos opened the request to discussion.

Commissioner Cheek suggested that Article VI, Section 4 of the bylaws be permanently updated to state that the Officer and Committee Slate must be voted on “no later than September.”

A motion to amend the Arts Commission Bylaws (Article VI, Section 4) so that the Arts Commission Officer and Committee Slates must be voted on “no later than September” was offered by Commissioner Alvis and seconded by Commissioner Cheek.

Roll call vote was taken, all members present voted, and all votes were affirmative. The vote met the 2/3s requirement stated in the Arts Commission bylaws.

4. Officers Slate and Committee Roster

Caroline Vincent reviewed the Officer and Committee slate selection process as outlined in the Arts Commission bylaws and presented the Officer slate recommended by the Nominating Committee and the Committee Slate proposed by the Chair.

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

Chair Ramos opened the request to discussion. There was none.

A motion to approve the Executive Officer Slate and Committee Roster for 2020/2021 was offered by Commissioner Dow and seconded by Commissioner West.

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

5. Executive Director's Performance Review Delegation

Ian Myers updated the Commissioners that since there was not a set standard for the Executive Director's performance review, staff was proposing the following process:

The Commission delegates the performance review of Executive Director to the Chair.

Commissioners may send their input for the review to the Arts Commission HR Manager until September 4th, 2020. The input will be forwarded to the Chair for inclusion in the review.

The Chair will report back to the Commission at a later meeting.

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

Chair Ramos opened the request to discussion.

Commissioner Haynes asked for a comparison between previous procedures and this new procedure. Ian clarified that in the past Executive sessions usually involve a review already written by the chair and that this process, would allow front end input. The Commissioners' e-mailed comments would also be public record.

Justin Marsh, representing Metro Legal, also clarified that Executive sessions are not allowed currently for this purpose. Also, noted that the bylaws state that the Executive Committee puts together the review and presents to the Commission.

Commissioner Haynes followed-up by asking for a rubric from staff with specific questions for the ED review as well as requesting to revisit the overall process.

Commissioner Bucy asked for clarification as to whether the input was a requirement and if so, when that would be possible. Ian Myers clarified that this was not required and that he would reach out after the meeting with instructions.

A motion to grant delegation to Chair Marielena Ramos to complete the Executive Director performance review was offered by Commissioner Schmidt and seconded by Commissioner Bucy.

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

E. PROGRAM, PROJECT, AND OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Caroline Vincent gave the Board updates on the following:

- Metro Arts recently hired Marysa LaRowe as a Program and Evaluation Coordinator
- Metro Arts' technical, advisory role to the Mayor's Office regarding a Black Lives Matter mural.
 - Council person Sharon Hurt had reached out about Metro Arts ability to pay for a project. While Metro Arts temporary public art funds are limited, THRIVE could be an option or funds currently allocated to the Kossie Gardner project could be reallocated.
 - Metro Arts has been supportive as a technical advisor to the project. While the department has not been asked by the administration to lead or fund this project, staff are open to continuing conversations about how Metro Arts can help.
 - Commissioner Ramos appreciated staff continuing to reach out to the Minority Caucus and that they know where we stand.
- Staff has sent a proposal to the CARES Act Committee to support a badly hurting Nashville arts ecosystem.
- Light Meander is undergoing maintenance, and lighting design work will be going forward for Stix.
- Potential for an in-person meeting in September. Reach out to Grace Wright with any concerns.

Commissioner Cheek requested a survey for changing the meeting times due to conflicts. Staff will send post-meeting and include questions about in-person safety procedures.

F. ADJOURN MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.