



METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

Metro Arts Commission

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

December 10, 2020

This meeting took place via teleconference.

A recording of the meeting can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92QPN6Ccih8>

Attending Commissioners: Jim Schmidt (Chair), Matia Powell (Vice Chair), Will Cheek (Sec. /Treasurer), Jane Alvis, Marianne Byrd, Sheri Nichols Bucy, Jackie Daniel, Bonnie Dow, Clay Haynes, Marielena Ramos, Paula Roberts, Hope Stringer, Campbell West, and Marcus Whitney

Staff: Caroline Vincent, Janine Christiano, Marysa LaRowe, Grace Wright

Guests: Derrick Smith (Metro Legal), Dontrai Buchanan (Metro ITS)

METRO ARTS MISSION:

Drive an Equitable and Vibrant Community through the Arts

A. Call to Order & Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

Chair Schmidt took a roll call of all Commissioners present.

B. Vote on Governor's Executive Order No. 65

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 65 was offered by Commissioner Powell and Commissioner Alvis seconded the motion.

Chair Schmidt asked for any additional comments.

Roll call vote was taken, all members present voted, and all votes were affirmative except for Commissioner Bucy who was having technical difficulties.

C. Action Items

1. FY22 Grant Guidelines

Janine Christiano gave an update of changes recommended for the FY22 Grant Guidelines, including:

1. Matching Funds Reduced to 25%
2. Shift to Operating Support Only
3. A Pre-Application requirement
4. Grant Review and Scoring Refinement
 1. Updated Language
 2. Addition of Equity Criteria
5. Clarification and Streamlining of Process (see [FY22 Grant Guidelines](#) for full changes)

Commissioner Bucy, as Chair of the Grants & Funding Committee, expressed her appreciation for the Grants & Funding Committee's involved review of the guidelines and staff for recommendations and changes. Chair Schmidt expressed appreciate for Commissioner Bucy's leadership in this process.

Chair Schmidt asked Staff if there was any public comment via email or (phone/in person). There was not.

Chair Schmidt closed public comment for this agenda item.

Chair Schmidt opened the request to discussion among the Commissioners.

The Commission clarified that the Arts Commission would only be offering Operating Funds. For non-arts organizations who have received project funds in the past, staff planned to encourage them to apply for Thrive funding.

The Commission also clarified that the recommendations from the Commission's Committee for Antiracism and Equity (CARE) has been incorporated into the FY22 Guidelines. Staff highlighted that this can be particularly seen in the updated scoring criteria.

A motion to approve FY22 Grant Guidelines was offered by Commissioner Ramos and Commissioner Cheek seconded.

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

2. CARES Act Funding Allocations

Caroline Vincent reviewed the funding criteria and presented the Commission with the first round of CARES Act Funding proposed allocations for review.

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

Chair Schmidt closed public comment for this agenda item.

Chair Schmidt opened the request to discussion among the Commissioners.

The Commission asked for clarification about what happens if the Arts Commission does not approve allocations for all of the funding. Staff clarified that according to the resolution any unspent money would return to the city's COVID fund. Staff will check with the Legal and Finance office to see if it would be possible to allocate any leftover money to already approved organizations.

Chair Schmidt encouraged everyone on the meeting to reach out to any potential applicants.

The Commission asked how the CARES Act list compares to previous Metro Arts grantees. Staff clarified that staff have been and will be reaching out to grantees. Some of the organizations expressed that they would not be applying as expenses have already been covered by other federal grants.

The Commission asked for clarification about 'remediation' and other designations. Staff clarified that these were terms used by Pathway Lending as part of the verification process.

A motion to approve CARES funds awards for the Basic 1 category was offered by Commissioner Haynes and Commissioner Bucy seconded.

Roll call vote was taken, all members present voted, and all votes were affirmative except for Commissioner Whitney who abstained due to conflict of interest.

A motion to approve CARES funds awards for the Basic 2 category was offered by Commissioner Ramos and Commissioner Haynes seconded.

Roll call vote was taken, all members present voted, and all votes were affirmative except for Commissioner Stringer, Commissioner Alvis, Commissioner Whitney, and Commissioner Roberts who abstained due to conflict of interest.

A motion to approve CARES funds awards for the Basic 3 category was offered by Commissioner Powell and Commissioner Ramos seconded.

Roll call vote was taken, all members present voted, and all votes were affirmative except for Commissioner Alvis who abstained due to conflict of interest.

A motion to approve CARES funds awards for the Core category was offered by Commissioner Ramos and Commissioner West seconded.

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

A motion to approve CARES funds awards for the contingent upon further review/in Process category contingent upon approval by Pathway Lending was offered by Commissioner West and Commissioner Ramos seconded.

Roll call vote was taken, all members present voted, and all votes were affirmative except for Commissioner Powell and Commissioner Schmidt who abstained due to conflict of interest.

3. Americans for the Arts (AFTA) Diversity in Arts Leadership (DIAL) Partnership

Caroline Vincent gave a review of the Diversity in Arts Leadership Internship program in partnership with AFTA and presented the proposed continuation of the program with a grant from AFTA.

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

Chair Schmidt closed public comment for this agenda item.

Chair Schmidt opened the request to discussion among the Commissioners.

The Commission asked about some of the projects that came out of this program in 2020. Staff gave an overview of some of the projects and directed Commissioners to the Metro Arts page detailing the projects: <https://www.metroartsnashville.com/post/dial-ed-in-our-diversity-in-arts-leadership-fellows-inspiring-projects>.

A motion to approve a Summer 2021 DIAL internship program, which includes a \$12,000 grant from Americans for the Arts and requires a \$12,000 match from Metro Arts was offered by Commissioner Haynes and Commissioner Roberts seconded.

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

D. Project and Program Updates

The next meeting was set for Thursday, December 17th at Noon for continued consideration of CARES Act funding allocations.

Caroline Vincent reminded the Commission about the upcoming Madison on My Mind Showcase on December 12th from 1-3pm.

Chair Schmidt recognized Commissioners Whitney and Daniel who will be leaving the Commission for all their service during their term and wished them the best and that they will be missed.

E. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.