



METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

Metro Arts Commission

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

November 19, 2020

This meeting took place via teleconference.

A recording of the meeting can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MK5e8gQ09Jg>

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

Staff: Caroline Vincent, Emily Waltenbaugh, Janine Christiano, Marysa LaRowe, Van Maravalli, Anne-Leslie Owens, Tré Hardin, Atilio Murga, Ian Myers, 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 12:00 p.m.

Vice-Chair Schmidt took a roll call of all members 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 Alvis and Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion.

Vice-Chair Powell asked for any additional comments.

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

C. ARTS IN ACTION: Media Mentions

Emily Waltenbaugh presented highlights from the prior month's media mentions on Arts Commission projects and programs.

D. Action Items

1. Art WORKS Phase II Lending Library Artwork Selection Recommendations

Anne-Leslie Owens gave the Committee an overview of the Art WORKS program and the results from Phase 2: Art Lending Library, which included a slideshow of the 60 selected artworks chosen by the selection panel. She also updated the Commission on the proposed timeline for the project.

Vice-Chair Powell asked Staff if there was any public comment. There was not.

Vice-Chair Powell closed public comment for this agenda item.

Vice-Chair Powell opened the meeting to discussion among the Commissioners.

The Commission asked for clarification regarding the budgeting for additional fees in terms of framing and other related costs. Staff clarified that the budget includes artwork purchase and additional framing and installation costs although there is not a finalized amount available currently.

A motion to approve the purchase Selection Panel-recommended artwork from 60 local artists for Art WORKS II: Art Lending Library and give staff the discretion to make artwork substitutions as needed was offered by Commissioner Alvis and Commissioner Cheek seconded.

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

2. Kossie Gardener Sr. Park Advisory Council Recommendations

Tré Hardin reintroduced the Kossie Gardner Sr. Park project, a pocket park at 1606 Jefferson St. The project will feature a community canvas wall that will rotate artworks periodically. Hardin gave an overview of the Advisory Panel structure, which includes community members and residents as advisors to the project and Call to Artists. He presented the proposed selection process and selection panel make up for Committee review. He also updated the Commission on the proposed timeline for the project.

Proposed Panel:

- Shaun Giles, Assistant Director of Community Engagement at Frist Museum, Voting Member
- Tim Netsch, Assistant Director of Parks Planning Division, Voting Member
- Thaxton Waters, Visual Artist & Served on Planning Team for Kossie Gardner Sr. Park, Voting Member
- Kossie Gardner III or Keisha Gardner-Beard, Descendants of Park's Namesake Kossie Gardner Sr., Voting Member
- Student, TSU Department of Art (Courtney Adair Johnson), Voting Member
- Courtney Adair Johnson, TSU Dept of Art Gallery Director, Co-Builder of McGruder Social Practice Artist Residency, Voting Member
- Dr. Le Tonya Rodgers, Fisk University, Professor of English Literature, Voting Member
- TBD, Fisk University Gallery Intern/ Recent Graduate (Jamaal Sheats), Voting Member
- Rasheedat Fetuga, President/Founder of Gideon's Army, Voting Member
- Angel Adams, Community Organizer & Teaching Artist, Voting Member
- TBD, JUMP Representative

Proposed Timeline:

- November 2020: Panelist Invitations
- December 2020/January 2021: Project Development Meetings with Advisory Panel
- January 2021: Call to Arts Released
- February 2021: Call to Artist Deadline & Initial Review/Selection of Semi-Finalists; Semi-Finalist Interviews/Site Visits
- April 2021: Install
- Spring 2021: Unveiling/Community Event

Vice-Chair Powell asked Staff if there was any public comment via email or in person. There was not.

Vice-Chair Powell closed public comment for this agenda item.

Vice-Chair Powell opened the request to discussion among the Commissioners.

The Commission asked for clarification regarding the temporary/changing nature of the project and what that will mean for future funding. Staff clarified that the budget has only been solidified for the initial project but that conversations had been started with potential partners for future funding support.

The Commission also suggested that the Council Member for this district be contacted to suggest a representative for the Advisory Panel. Staff agreed to reach out to CM O'Connell.

A motion to approve the selection process and selection panel for Kossie Gardner Sr. Park was offered by Commissioner Ramos and Commissioner West seconded.

Staff asked for clarification regarding potential updates to the panel after discussion with CM O'Connell.

An amendment to the motion to allow staff the discretion to make additions to the panel after conversation with the Council Member was offered by Commissioner Schmidt and Commissioner Alvis seconded.

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

3. CARES Funding

Caroline Vincent gave an update on the reinstatement of Metro Arts grant funding by the Administration and Metro Finance. She noted grant payments have begun to go out to grantees. She also gave a review of the CARES Act Funding that has been allocated for non-profit arts organizations and a partnership with Pathway Lending to distribute those funds.

Caroline gave an overview of the proposed criteria for allocating the CARES Act Funding as well as a proposed timeline:

Proposed Criteria:

The Metropolitan Council directs that the **Metro Arts Commission will determine which nonprofit organizations and programs receive grants** from Pathway Lending, with the following criteria:

1. All eligible applicants must
 - a. produce, present or directly support artistic programs, projects or works;
 - b. be chartered in the state of Tennessee and tax-exempt under the IRS Code Section 501(c)(3);
 - c. have an IRS Letter of Determination with an effective date showing the applicant has been in business for a minimum of 12 months before the period ended **February 29, 2020**;
 - d. have a business address that is located in Davidson County and agrees to use funds exclusively for programs in Davidson County;
 - e. have evidence of non-discrimination employment and personnel practices in place; and
 - f. maintain a fully completed and accurate GivingMatters.com profile.
2. The following organizations and programs are ineligible for grants:
 - a. Arts organizations that focus on capacity building, technical assistance, or advocacy and do not offer direct artistic programming;

- b. “Friends of...” organizations whose primary purpose is to support government agencies or initiatives;
 - c. Requests for capital improvements or to purchase property.
 - d. The Metro Arts Commission may establish additional criteria for organizations or programs that receive these grants, including allocation of funding as described in Exhibit A.
3. Funding Amounts: Funds will cover up to two months of current operating expenses incurred between March 2020 and October 2020 (not previously covered via other federal funds). Awards will be capped based upon organizational budget size with the following maximum awards:

Operating Budget Size*	Max request
\$5M and above	\$87,500
\$1M to \$4,999,999	\$50,000
\$100,000 - \$999,999	\$20,000
Under \$100,000	\$15,000

*Pre-COVID annual budget

Proposed Timeline:

- Application anticipated to open Nov. 20 (end of day)
- Funding is first come, first served
- Commission reviews and approves awards (December)

Vice-Chair Powell asked Staff if there was any public comment. There was not.

Vice-Chair Powell closed public comment for this agenda item.

Vice-Chair Powell opened the request to discussion among the Commissioners.

A motion to approve criteria for CARES Act Funding was offered by Commissioner Bucy and Commissioner Dow seconded.

The Commission asked for clarification regarding organization’s ability to receive PPP funding and CARES Act Funding and how that would be reviewed. Staff clarified the process for reviewing financial eligibility.

The Commission also asked for clarification about how grantees had been notified. Staff clarified that notice has been sent on a variety of platforms, including via email, social media and will continue to be posted in the Arts Alert newsletter.

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

E. Project and Program updates

Janine Christiano and Commissioner Bucy gave the Commission a review of the November 12th Grants & Funding Committee meeting and the intention of the Committee to continue to review the FY22 Grant Guidelines in December.

Janine also gave short program updates for the Strategic Funding & Initiative division. Atilio Murga updated and invited the Commission to the Madison on My Mind project's Beep and Greet drive through showcase planned for 1-3 pm on Saturday, December 12th at FiftyForward in Madison.

F. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.