



METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

Metro Arts Commission

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

October 15, 2020

This meeting took place via teleconference.

A recording of the proceedings can be found here:

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

Public comment was available via e-mail and at the following address:

Nashville Room at the Metro Office Building

800 2nd Ave S, Nashville, TN 37210

Face Coverings and social distancing procedures were required.

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

Absent Commissioners: Niki Coffman

Staff: Caroline Vincent, Ian Myers, Grace Wright, Janine Christiano, Marysa LaRowe, Van Maravalli, Tré Hardin, Anne-Leslie Owens, Atilio Murga, Emily Waltenbaugh

Guests: Dontrai Buchanan (Metro ITS), Kevin Lyons (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 12:00 p.m.

Chair Ramos made a roll call of all members present.

B. Vote on Governor's Executive Order No. 60

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 60 was offered by Commissioner Bucy and Commissioner Schmidt 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. Executive Director's Evaluation, Report from Executive Committee

Chair Ramos let the Commission know that the Executive Committee voted to accept the Executive Director's performance review. She also let the Commissioners know that they could request a copy of the review via Ian Myers.

D. State of the Arts: Nashville, presentation

Caroline Vincent gave a presentation on the state of the Arts in Metro Nashville, particularly given the crises of the March 3rd tornado and the COVID-19 pandemic. She covered top concerns for art organizations, pivots arts organizations have made, and initiatives that Metro Arts has taken to support local arts organizations and artists.

Emily Waltenbaugh gave a media update on a project in the works, the Art WORKS Lending Library Collection.

E. Action Items

1. FY21 Thrive, Cycle 1 Allocations

Emily Habeck, a Vanderbilt M.Ed./M.T.S. Candidate and Metro Arts Intern, gave an update on her research and analysis of Metro Arts' Thrive program and its community engagement.

Janine presented a re-introduction to the Thrive process and gave an overview of the FY21, Cycle 1 THRIVE recommendations made by a community review panel and the Grants & Funding Committee.

- Black Lives Matter Movement Coalition Mural; Recommended Allocation: \$9,500
- Pikes Project Poetry Billboard South Nashville; Recommended Allocation: \$9,500
- Welcoming Mural; Recommended Allocation: \$9,500

- Creative Girls Rock Mural; Recommended Allocation: \$9,500
- These Colors Within: An Inner Journey through Art; Recommended Allocation: \$9,500
- Traditions and Culture of Native Peoples; Recommended Allocation: \$9,500
- Resilience Through Movement Workshops; Recommended Allocation: \$2,750
- Youth Voice Column in The Contributor: Elevating Youth Voice with Purpose; Recommended Allocation: \$9,500
- Art Writing Symposium; Recommended Allocation: \$6,700

Chair Ramos asked Staff if there was any public comment.

Grace Wright read public comments received by e-mail into the record. There were no members of the public present to make comments.

Chair Ramos allowed virtual comment from a member of the public in lieu of e-mail given technical difficulties.

Chair Ramos opened the request to discussion among the Commissioners.

Discussion included concerns about whether funding approvals should be held until Metro funding is reinstated, despite strong support of the projects on merit. Staff clarified that even with approval, applicants would be notified that approvals are contingent upon availability of funding to Metro Arts.

The point was made that approving the projects now would demonstrate the Commission's support of these projects and their worthiness even with the understanding that funding might be unavailable at this time.

Chair Ramos closed public comment for this agenda item.

A motion to approve the proposed FY21 THRIVE allocations contingent upon funding availability was offered by Commissioner Cheek and seconded by Commissioner Haynes.

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

2. Public Art Committee Slate with new Commission Appointments

Chair Ramos recognized Commissioner Coffman for her service and wished her the best on her move to a new city.

Van Maravalli proposed an updated slate for the Public Art Committee including having Commissioner Alvis take Commissioner Coffman's place as chair and renewing Donna Gilliam's term as a community member.

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

Chair Ramos closed public comment for this agenda item.

Chair Ramos opened the request to discussion among the Commissioners.

A motion to approve the renewal of Donna Gilliam's term on the Public Art Committee and the election of Jane Alvis as Chair of PAC was offered by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Schmidt.

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

3. Public Art Guidelines

Tré Hardin proposed and explained the following changes, recommended by staff and Public Art Committee, to the selection process in the Public Art Guidelines:

- Allow for panels to have up to eleven members
- Clarifying guideline language to require that at least one panelist be a current resident from the community in which the project occurs.
- Additional Panelist Responsibility: If needed, provide community input to identify specific goals and criteria for the project.

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

Chair Ramos closed public comment for this agenda item.

Chair Ramos opened the request to discussion among the Commissioners.

There was clarification that the requirement of a community member would not limit the neighborhoods served by public art projects. Staff clarified that that has not been the case and that staff feels it is a critical component of community engagement.

A motion to approve the proposed changes to the Public Art Guidelines was offered by Commissioner Alvis and Commissioner Byrd seconded.

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

4. Matthew Mazzotta/Madison Rises Concept Proposal

Atilio Murga provided the Commission with a recap of the actions and community engagement conducted for Matthew Mazzotta's *Madison Rises* project. He presented the concept proposal video and images provided by Matthew Mazzotta for the Madison Branch Library lawn.

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

Chair Ramos recognized CM Nancy VanReece, as the Council Member for this district and the Chair of the Metro Council Parks, Libraries and Arts Committee. CM VanReece expressed her support of the project as well as the support of the Madison community.

Chair Ramos closed public comment for this agenda item.

Chair Ramos opened the request to discussion among the Commissioners.

A motion to approve the Madison Rises public artwork design for the Madison Branch Library was offered by Commissioner Dow and Commissioner Bucy seconded.

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

5. Madison on My Mind projects

Van Maravalli and Atilio Murga provided the Commission with an update on the Madison On My Mind project, supported by National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding, which have the goal of emphasizing the and supporting the artistic community in Madison. Atilio gave an overview of the artist proposals selected for this project and the team project assignments (some artists were selected to work within teams). He also gave an overview of the project timeline.

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

Chair Ramos recognized CM Nancy VanReece. CM VanReece noted that 40,000 people and 5 council districts are included in Madison and that she is excited to see how this project represents them.

Chair Ramos closed public comment for this agenda item.

Chair Ramos opened the request to discussion among the Commissioners.

A motion to approve funding for recommended projects for the Madison on My Mind artist projects was offered by Commissioner Dow and Commissioner Bucy seconded.

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

F. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.