

**Metro Arts Commission**  
Minutes of the Commission Meeting  
August 17, 2017  
Metro Office Building 2nd floor, Davidson Conference Room  
800 Second Avenue South, Nashville

*Commissioners attending*      *K. Clay Haynes(Chair), Jane Alvis, Niki Coffman, Jackie Daniel, Manuel Delgado, Dr. Ruth Ross Edmonds, Mohamed Shukri Hassan, Danielle McDaniel, Joseph Presley, Marielena Ramos, Jim Schmidt, Hope Stringer, Santi Tefel, and Marcus Whitney*

*Commissioners not attending:*      *Larry Keeton*

*Staff:*      *Jen Cole, Laurel Fisher, Lauren Fitzgerald, Tré Hardin, Rebecca Kinslow, Van Maravalli, Ian Myers, Anne-Leslie Owens, Skylar Peterson, Olusola Tribble Caroline Vincent, and intern Malia Marcella*

*Guests:*

**Call to Order**

Metro Arts Commission Chair Clay Haynes called the August meeting to order at 12:00PM.

**Minutes of previous meeting**

*A motion to approve minutes from June 22, 2017 was offered by Commissioner Alvis, seconded by Commissioner Tefel, and the motion passed.*

**Operations/Policy**

Executive Director Jen Cole Introduced Carly Elliot from Metro Legal and Malia Marcella, Metro Arts new intern that will focus on branding and social media efforts.

- **Branding Update**

Cole reminded Commissioners that the brand for Metro Arts will be updated and \$40,000 in a special purpose account will be utilized for a rebranding effort for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. DVL Seigenthaler has presented a scope of work for designing a brand architecture and bringing the visual brand in alignment to be rolled out at the first of the year.

**Public Art**

- **Madison Community Center Public Artwork Design – ACTION**

Director of Public Art Caroline Vincent presented artist Brandon Donahue’s design concept for Madison Community Center. Brandon Donahue was Artist-in-Residence at the existing Madison Community Center from early June through early July. He worked more than 40 hours with more than 50 youth at the center. From the residency, Donahue proposes to create two artworks, youth identity silhouettes in vinyl along running track and an 8’ x 8’ video game, inspired by the silhouettes, which encourages movement and wellness. This project has a budget of \$100,000 in Percent for Art funds and is an interior artwork.

- **Smith Springs Community Center Design- ACTION**

Vincent also presented artist Herb Williams design concept for the Smith Springs Community Center. Artist Herb Williams has been reaching out to residents of the Smith Springs community and has hosted two public community engagement events in the neighborhood. He has taken stories and characteristics of the community and used them to develop an artwork concept for the interior lobby of the community center. Herb Williams proposes to create a hanging artwork for the interior Lobby of the community center. His concept takes inspiration from Percy Priest Lake and the history and community identity centered around the lake. This project has a budget of \$150,000 in Percent for Art funds and is an interior artwork.

- **Art WORKS: Courthouse Collection Purchase- ACTION**

Vincent reported that Metro Arts is expanding its Percent for Public Art Collection with a permanent collection of original small-scale artworks, the Art WORKS Collection. Artworks will include 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional artworks by artists who maintain a primary residence or studio in Nashville/Davidson County. The budget is \$100,000 in Percent for Art funds and the site for Phase I of the Collection is the Metro Courthouse. A citizen-based selection panel will select artists and Metro Arts staff will select artworks for purchase from those artists.

- **Temporary Public Art Exhibition – ACTION**

Vincent reported that staff will be working to hire a curator to develop a temporary art exhibition for May and early June 2018. The theme will connect to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Metro Arts, which takes place in 2018. The call is seeking creative and innovative proposals from curators for a temporary public art exhibition to take place in the spring and early summer of 2018. The budget is \$100,000 of operational funds. Local, regional, and national curators are eligible.

- **Artist in Community Visioning Roster**

Vincent stated that staff is set to release a Call to Artists for an *Artists in Community Visioning* roster. The call seeks artists interested in being a part of the visioning process for various civic projects in partnership with Metro Departments (i.e. Parks, Libraries, MDHA, etc.) The *Artist in Community Visioning Roster* will serve as tool to employ interested artists in working with community visioning and on planning teams.

*A motion to accept and approve Brandon Donahue's artwork design concept for Madison Community Center (\$100,000/Percent for Art funds/Residency); Herb Williams' artwork design concept for Smith Springs Community Center (\$150,000, Percent for Art funds/Hire Local Artists + Deeper Civic/Cultural Participation); Art WORKS: Courthouse Collection concept and budget of up to \$100,000 for Phases 1 and 2 (Percent for Art funds/Collection Acquisition); and the Temporary Art Exhibition project concept and budget (\$100,000 operational funds/Temporary Public Art Exhibition) was offered by Commissioner Coffman, seconded by Commissioner Ramos, and the motion passed.*

- **THRIVE- ACTION/CONSENT**

Lauren Fitzgerald reported that Metro Arts received 24 THRIVE proposals to be reviewed for the July 31, 2017 deadline. Staff recommends that seven proposals are funded:

**Public Art (\$8,000 max. funding)**

**Impressions Temporary Mural**

**Neighborhood & District:** Woodbine community in district 16; **Staff Recommendation:** \$8,000; **Project Partners:**

Flatrock Café and the Coleman Park Community Center; **Artists Involved:** Daniel Arite and Lakesha Moore

**Project Description:** *Impressions Temporary Mural Project* is a collaborative visual art project that highlights the history, diversity and rich cultural make-up of the Woodbine neighborhood. The mural will consist of 30 wooden panels (24" x 24") painted with acrylic paint, arranged on a wall at Flatrock Coffee, Tea and More, as a large-scale collage. The project will be produced by Daniel Arite and Lakesha Moore in collaboration with Woodbine community members in six art making session to take place over four months at Coleman Park Community Center, the project's organizational partner.

**Community Co-design and Collaboration (\$4,000 max. funding)**

**Celebrating 100 Years of Old Hickory**

**Neighborhood & District:** Old Hickory in district 11; **Staff Recommendation:** \$4,000; **Project Partners:** Lakewood Theatre and the Old Hickory; **Artists Involved:** Creighton and Dawn Irons

**Project Description:** For Old Hickory's 100th birthday, Dawn and Creighton Irons will create and perform an original musical about the founding of the town in collaboration with youth from the community. The writing of the musical will begin at a week-long camp in October 2017 over the MNPS Fall Break. They will also be interviewing older residents and use transcriptions of those previously conducted by local historian Kris Brummet as primary source material. Their story will center around Earlene Jenkins, a living Old Hickory resident born in 1918, the DuPont factory's first year of operation. Once the show is created, they will cast the production with members of all ages from the community.

**Blackbird**

**Neighborhood & District:** North Nashville in Districts 19 and 21; **Staff Recommendation:** \$4,000; **Project Partners:** Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church, Hadley Park Community Center, Fisk University; **Artists Involved:** Cameron Mitchell

**Project Description:** This theater project, *Blackbird*, is a one man show that will dramatically document the Southern Black Male experience. The project will encompass elements of historical events such as the story of Ota Benga, a Congolese Pygmy who in September of 1906 was kept in the Bronx Zoo as an exhibit. The Benga display lasted throughout the month of September. The one man show will be set in a modern day zoo, and draw parallels to current and not too distant historic events. This project will include research and interviews in the community and include the audience member voices as part of the performance, Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church.

### **Global Nashville: Building Bridges of Compassion**

**Neighborhood & District:** East Nashville, West Nashville, and Centennial Park in Districts 6, 17, and 21; **Staff**

**Recommendation:** \$4,000; **Project Partners:** Global Education Center, T.I.R.R.C., Catholic Charities, The Office of New Americans, N.I.C.E., TN Foreign Language Institute, Metro Human Relations Commission; **Artists Involved:** Amanda Cantrelle Roche

**Project Description:** *The Global Nashville: Building Bridges of Compassion Project* will collect individual stories and concerns of immigrants and refugees living in Nashville, weave these into an audio score, blend them with original music composition, and set contemporary dance on the score. The performance will be at the Global Education Center in Early Spring. Staff will send updates as information becomes available.

### **Old Hickory Village Centennial Celebration Time Capsule**

**Neighborhood & District:** Old Hickory in District 11; **Staff Recommendation:** \$4,000; **Project Partners:** The Old Hickory Village Neighborhood association and the Old Hickory Centennial planning committee; **Artists Involved:** Wayne Brezinka

**Project Description:** Local resident and nationally-acclaimed artist, Wayne Brezinka is a mixed media artist who incorporates era-specific ephemera that tell a story into his art projects. Through the use of historic artifacts and memorabilia that will be incorporated into this project, those who view the completed artwork will have an idea of the life and times in Historic Old Hickory Village not only during the past 100 years, but they will also understand the vision moving forward. The artwork will be displayed at the Old Hickory Community Center.

### **Village Records**

**Neighborhood & District:** Antioch in districts 28 and 32; **Staff Recommendation:** \$4,000; **Project Partners:** Youth Villages; **Artists Involved:** Bobby Elliott

**Project Description:** Bobby "The Drum Major" Elliott, will be working with 24 youth residents of the Youth Villages program in Nashville. He will bring a 12-2 hour songwriting workshops directly to the three homes that each house eight residents. One residence is home to eight girls and sixteen boys live in the other two homes. The residents are in the state's custody and attend Glencliff High School. The youth participants will be writing music from youth music composers at the Nashville Public Library.

### **Community Sharing and Celebration (\$3,000 max. funding)**

#### **Africa is...**

**Neighborhood & District:** Hadley Park in District 21; **Staff Recommendation:** \$3,000; **Project Partners:** The African American Cultural Association; **Artists Involved:** F.S. Suso and Henry Jones

**Project Description:** *Africa Is...* is a graphic arts exhibit of visual images, accompanying information, and related poetry that depicts some of the positive aspects of African heritage. This visual artwork will feature images of and from nations, cities, towns, and/or villages where Africa is represented, along with photos of African descendants who live around the African Diaspora including those who live in Nashville. The artworks will be seven to eight feet in height and at least 24 inches in width. They may vary in shape and size to create more visual appeal and interest. The exhibition will happen at the African Street Festival.

### **Special Project: Collaboration with MDHA**

#### **Napier-Sudekum Community Vision- Identity**

**Neighborhood & District:** Napier-Sudekum, District 19; **Staff Recommendation:** \$9,500; **Project Partners:** Metropolitan Development and Housing Authority; **Artists Involved:** Stephanie Pruitt and Lexander Bryant

**Project Description:** The artists in collaboration with community members will produce a photography exhibition of the community, a mural project, and engage the community in writing and mask-making workshops. Through art-making, workshops and events, the voice of the community and the community's identity will be well more positively projected and shared with city planning stakeholders and the greater Nashville community. This project will bring awareness to the

positive historic identity of the neighborhood and serves as an opportunity to leverage this identity for ongoing representation in the planning process of Envision Napier-Sudekum.

*A motion to approve the awards of THRIVE funds in the amounts recommended by staff was offered by Commissioner Tefel, seconded by Commissioner Coffman, and the motion passed.*

**Community and Organizational Development**

• **FY18 ABC Grants- ACTION**

Grants Manager Laurel Fisher reported that Metro Arts hosted the ABC grant panel review meeting on Wednesday, August 9. Four community panelists and one TAC Commissioner reviewed the twenty eligible applications. Allocations for this program are as follows:

<b>ABC FY18 Applicants</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville	\$2,500.00
Rejoice Ministries, Inc.	\$1,200.00
Nashville Public Radio	\$2,350.00
Salama Urban Ministries	\$2,350.00
Intersection	\$2,350.00
The Porch Writers' Collective	\$1,930.00
ALIAS Chamber Ensemble	\$2,200.00
Rockettown of Middle Tennessee	\$2,025.00
chatterbird	\$2,000.00
Adventure Science Center	\$1,950.00
Chinese Arts Alliance of Nashville	\$1,850.00
Tennessee Women's Theater Project	\$1,800.00
African American Cultural Alliance	\$1,750.00
National Museum of African American Music	\$1,625.00
Grand Master Fiddler Championship, Inc.	\$1,500.00

*A motion to accept staff recommendations for ABC Grant funding was offered by Commissioner Whitney, seconded by Commissioner Schmidt, and the motion passed.*

• **FY18 Racial Equity Strategy and Work plan**

Director of Community & Organizational Development Rebecca Kinslow reported as part of the ongoing work towards building equity and embracing antiracist policies and procedures, Metro Arts is engaging in deeper institutional work with Crossroads Antiracism Organization this coming fiscal year. One major goal in FY18 is to form a Transformation Team of Metro Arts staff, board members and community stakeholders. The Transformation Team's main goal is to create structural interventions and developing strategies to break down barriers and create antiracist and anti-oppressive structures, policies, practices, services and procedures for our agency. The Transformation Team will participate in an intensive training process, working together through historical analysis of persistent challenges to apply a comprehensive definition of systemic racism as it relates to the agency's policies and practices. As a result of the training process, the team will be equipped with strategic organizing skills to lead the agency toward long-term and ongoing antiracist and anti-oppressive transformation.

The work of the Transformation Team will first begin with an ad hoc Planning and Design Task Force (PDTF) who will to carry out five specific tasks with the assistance of Crossroads organizers: Develop a project description, including a statement of purpose and objectives, historical background regarding the institution's involvement in this issue, a timeline for the training process, a plan for selecting the team, and a budget and funding plan.

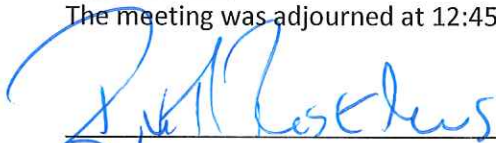
1. Present the project description to organizational or institutional leadership, requesting approval and a decision to create the Transformation Team.
2. Ensure funding for the completion of the team training process.

3. Recruit and select the Transformation Team in accordance with the process developed in the project description.
4. Support the Transformation Team and the institution while the team is being trained

The PDTF is comprised of Jen Cole, Rebecca Kinslow, Olusola Tribble, Caroline Vincent, and Lauren Fitzgerald. Their work began with an orientation session with Crossroads on August 15 and will continue over the next two months with the goal to identify people to serve on the Transformation Team by the end of October. Cole reported that this team will be tasked with recommendations for dismantling systemic racism.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45PM



Dr. Ruth Ross Edmonds (Secretary/Treasurer)

9-21-17

Date

Prepared by Skylar Peterson

