

Metro Arts Commission
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
June 22, 2017
Metro Office Building 2nd floor, Davidson Conference Room
800 Second Avenue South, Nashville

Commissioners attending K. Clay Haynes, Jane Alvis, Niki Coffman, Jackie Daniel, Manuel Delgado, Dr. Ruth Ross Edmonds, Mohamed Shukri Hassan, Larry Keeton, Jim Schmidt, Hope Stringer, Santi Tefel, Marcus Whitney

Commissioners not attending: Danielle McDaniel, Joseph Presley, Marielena Ramos

Staff: Jen Cole, Rebecca Berrios, Caroline Vincent, Anne-Leslie Owens, Van Maravalli, Ian Myers, Laurel Fisher, Lauren Fitzgerald, Skylar Peterson, Tré Hardin, Olusola Tribble, Sydney Lewis

Guests:

Call to Order

Metro Arts Commission Chair Clay Haynes called the June meeting to order at 12:04PM.

Minutes of previous meeting

A motion to approve minutes from May 18, 2017 was offered by Commissioner Keeton, seconded by Commissioner Coffman, and the motion passed.

Operations/Policy

- **Budget Update**

Executive Director Jen Cole reported that Metro Arts budget passed. This includes a \$275,000 increase to the grants budget, and \$225,000 to Neighborhood Projects Improvements.

- **Branding Update**

Cole also stated 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 40th 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 during December. Commissioner Alvis, Commissioner Whitney, and Commission Tefel have been appointed as board representatives for the rebranding effort. Cole stated that kickoff discussions for the rebrand will be held in July.

Intern Sydney Lewis reported on the conditions assessment of Public Art. She stated a final report will be presented. Cole stated once the conditional analysis is complete, finding of conservation project will be explored by Metro Arts.

Community Arts

- **FY18 Grants Allocations- ACTION**

Grants Manager Laurel Fisher directed Commissioners to a Power Point that detailed FY18 Grant Allocations. The revised Grants Program included new Guidelines, new application, a monitoring aspect, and a new scoring rubric. Fisher reported a shift in the Basic 1 category; this year Watkins College of Art was not be eligible for operating support funding. This change shifted the category from six major arts institutions to five. The biggest shift occurred in the Basic 2 category, three new applicants entered the category. A slight shift in Basic 3 included three organizations entering the pool. With the new averaging revenue to determine eligibility, some organizations went down into the core support category.

Fisher noted an Arts Access to Youth Arts shift. Arts access received 12 applications totaling \$82,000 in requests; Youth Arts received 20 applications totaling \$127,000 in requests. In Youth Arts 7 of 20 applicants are not operating support grantees. In Arts Access 5 of 12 applicants are considered to be non-arts organizations. 8 applications reviewed, \$105,000 in requests were received for the new grant category, Catalyst as well as 8 applications reviewed for \$133,000 in requests in the creation category.

Fisher stated that the panel review focused on organizational health, programs and service to community. The rubric forced conversations about equity, inclusion and authentic partnerships and caused CEO's + Executive Directors to take notice of application material. It also revealed issues of governance, lack of diversity in leadership, and the absence of several organizational policies and procedures. Financial Review scores and comments were completed by professionals familiar with nonprofit financials.

Fisher presented the Allocation Philosophy. This year, in the Basic Operating pool, there was no divisions for Basic 1-3, rankings were honored, and right size award amounts were determined. The Core Operating support category provides foundation support for young and culturally specific NPOs. These organizations will be allowed re-evaluation in FY19. The project support category now rewards high quality project proposals, encourages innovation, and is disconnected from operating support award amounts.

There was discussion of organizations being inclusionary and diverse.

FY18 Basic Operating Support Awards

Allocations recommended by staff totaling \$2,134,825 include:

B1- Cheekwood- \$145,500; Tennessee Performing Arts Center- \$142,500; The Frist Center- \$141,000; Nashville Symphony- \$138,000; Country Music Foundation- \$116,700

B2- National Museum of African American Music- \$53,700; Nashville Children's Theatre- \$150,000; Belcourt Theatre- \$149,500; Nashville Ballet- \$138,000; Humanities Tennessee- \$94,500; Nashville Opera- \$117,000; Nashville Repertory Theatre- \$88,250; OZ Arts Nashville- \$45,000

B3- Southern Word- \$60,350; Global Education Center- \$51,250; W.O. Smith Music School- \$87,700; Nashville Jazz Workshop- \$74,000; Music For Seniors- \$20,750; Tennessee Craft- \$70,675; Actors Bridge Ensemble- \$19,500; The Nashville Shakespeare Festival- \$75,700; Nashville Film Festival- \$107,500; Nashville in Harmony- \$14,850; Street Theatre Company- \$16,000; and Senior Center for the Arts- \$16,900

Applicants not funded in this category: N/A

A motion to approve the FY18 recommended grant awards for applicants in the Basic Operating Support category with additional monitoring of 3 grantees was offered by Commissioner Alvis, seconded by Commissioner Coffman, and the motion passed with Commissioner Whitney, abstaining from Basic 1; Commissioner Alvis, Commissioner Schmidt, and Commission Haynes abstaining from Basic 2; and Commissioner Keeton and Commissioner Alvis abstaining from Basic 3.

FY18 Core Operating Support Awards

Allocations recommended by staff totaling \$157,775 include:

The Porch Writers' Collective- \$14,125; New Dialect- \$11,600; Music City Youth Orchestra- \$8,850; Chinese Arts Alliance of Nashville- \$7,050; Healing Arts Project, Inc.- \$10,500; ALIAS Chamber Ensemble- \$10,150; The Theater Bug- \$12,600; Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra- \$3,100; Intersection - \$9,200; Choral Arts Link- \$4,500; YEAH!- \$16,600; Circle Players- \$15,500; Nashville Cultural Arts Project- \$6,300; abrasiveMedia- \$9,000; Poverty & the Arts- \$8,600; and Tennessee Women's Theater Project- \$10,100

Applicants not funded in this category: Nashville Community Darkroom; Nashville Jazz Orchestra; Grand Master Fiddler Championship; Vox Grata; and Metro Nashville Chorus

A motion to approve the FY18 recommended grant awards for applicants in the Core Operating Support category was offered by Commissioner Schmidt, seconded by Commissioner Keeton, and the motion passed with no abstentions.

FY18 Creation Project Support

Allocations recommended by staff totaling \$66,600 include:

Nashville Symphony Association- \$18,000; Nashville Children's Theatre- \$16,600; New Dialect- \$15,000; and The Frist Center for the Visual Arts- \$17,000

Applicants not funded in this category: Intersection; Global Education Center; Nashville Ballet; and Chinese Arts Alliance of Nashville

A motion to approve the FY18 recommended grant awards for applicants in the Creation project support category was offered by Commissioner Alvis, seconded by Commissioner Keeton, and the motion passed with Commissioner Haynes and Commissioner Schmidt abstaining.

FY18 Catalyst Project Support

Allocations recommended by staff totaling \$25,500 include:

Choral Arts Link- \$9,500 and National Museum of AA Music- \$16,000

Applicants not funded in this category: Nashville Jazz Workshop; Humanities Tennessee; Healing Arts Project, Inc; YEAH!; Actors Bridge Ensemble; Music for Seniors

A motion to approve the FY18 recommended grant awards for applicants in the Catalyst project support category was offered by Commissioner Alvis, seconded by Commissioner Delgado, and the motion passed with no abstentions.

FY 18 Youth Arts Project Support

Allocations recommended by staff totaling \$51,750 include:

Salama Urban-\$6,500; Rocketown of Middle Tennessee-\$6,500; Choral Arts Link- \$6,000; Dancing Through the Curriculum- \$5,750; Actors Bridge Ensemble- \$5,500; Boys & Girls Clubs (Notes for Notes)- \$5,500; Conexion Americas- \$5,500; Global Education Center- \$5,250; Tennessee Performing Arts Center- \$5,250

Applicants not funded in this category: Southern Word; Nashville Children's Theatre; East Nashville Hope Exchange; Nashville Symphony; Intersection; Moves & Grooves; The Theater Bug; Street Theatre Company; YEAH!; Nashville Opera; ALIAS Chamber Ensemble

A motion to approve the FY18 recommended grant awards for applicants in the Youth Arts project support category was offered by Commissioner Delgado, seconded by Commissioner Whitney, and the motion passed with Commissioner Alvis abstaining.

FY18 Arts Access Project Support

Allocations recommended by staff totaling \$33,750 include:

National Museum of AA Music-\$6,500; Native American Indian Assc.- \$6,000; Nashville Public Television- \$5,500; Belcourt Theatre- \$5,000; Healing Arts Project, Inc.-\$5,500; Music For Seniors- \$5,250

Applicants not funded in this category: Watkins College of Art, Deisgn, & Film; New Dialect; Nashville Ballet; Friends Life Community; Nashville in Harmony; First Steps

A motion to approve the FY18 recommended grant awards for applicants in the Arts Access project support category was offered by Commissioner Stringer, seconded by Commissioner Whitney, and the motion passed with Commissioner Alvis abstaining.

• **Updates – Restorative Justice & the Arts, REAL, Opportunity NOW**

• **Restorative Justice**

The training series has been completed and artists have submitted their revised ideas and budgets to start programming later in the spring. Nine projects are moving forward to date in various places within the system including Juvenile Detention, Gang Court, Youth Overcoming Drug Abuse, and several projects in neighborhoods.

• **Opportunity NOW**

Cole reported that beginning May 30, sixty-three youth (ages 14-16) led by local artists and 7 Near Peer Coaches will begin work readiness training that will result in participation in 6-week project-based work experiences that are centered in the arts.

• **REAL**

The 2017 Cadre completed at the beginning of May. Metro Arts continues to work with Crossroads to look at our internal processes and practices in support of racial and cultural equity. Plans for the FY18 program are currently under development.

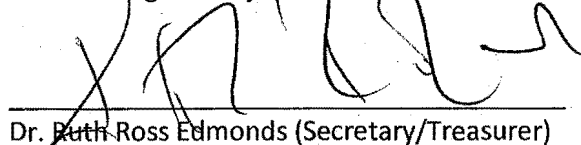
Public Art

• **Project Updates**

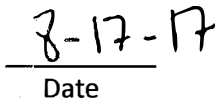
Vincent reminded Commissioners that Brandon Donahue began his residency on June 6, 2017 and will continue until July 6, 2017 for the new Madison Community Center. Neighborhood and Artist Development Coordinator Lauren Fitzgerald reported that THRIVE outreach is continuing and eight informational sessions are scheduled at various locations around the city.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:44PM



Dr. Ruth Ross Edmonds (Secretary/Treasurer)



Date

Prepared by Skylar Peterson