

Metro Arts Commission
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
March 16, 2017
Metro Office Building 2nd floor, Davidson Conference Room
800 Second Avenue South, Nashville

Commissioners attending *Larry Keeton, Jane Alvis, Dr. Ruth Ross Edmonds, Manuel Delgado, Joseph Presley, Jim Schmidt and Mohamed Shukri Hassan, Marielena Ramos, Niki Coffman, Santi Tefel, Jackie Daniel, Danielle McDaniel*

Commissioners not attending: *K. Clay Haynes, Hope Stringer, Marcus Whitney*

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

Guests: *Mark Murray, Teri Alea*

Call to Order

Metro Arts Commission Vice-Chair, Larry Keeton called the January meeting to order at 12:02PM.

Minutes of previous meeting

A motion to approve minutes from January 19, 2017 and February 16, 2017 was offered by Commissioner Tefel, seconded by Commissioner Coffman, and the motion passed.

Operations/Policy

• **Budget Review/Process/PIP**

Executive Director Jen Cole reported that the capital and operating budget requests have been submitted to the Mayor's Office and are under review. Cole reported that there has been good feedback about budget requests. Mayor Barry will announce the budget at State of Metro on April 26⁸. Metro Council will negotiate budgets in May or June. Cole informed Commission that Metro Council hearing will be held on a date to be announced, in May. Cole also stated that she released a media statement addressing the President's proposed budget to eliminate NEA. Cole explained the benefits and value of the NEA to the arts ecosystem in Nashville. There was discussion about funding sources, federal and local. Cole reported that last year, Metro Arts was awarded a PIP for Juvenile Justice, which is being considered as part of budget request this year. This year's PIP is related to Public Art Plan. The plan includes an idea for an art and private development resource center in partnership with planning and codes, a planning process to result in online portal for private organizations and public art, and a mural assistance center. The timeline is a projected 18-24 months.

Public Art

• **Smith Springs Artist Recommendation—ACTION**

Public Art Coordinator Tre Hardin reported that Smith Springs selection process was headed by PAC member, Katie Delmez. There were 50 applicants for the project. 35 of the 50 artists were eligible. The selection panel was comprised of 7-9 people including artists and community members. The selection process ended with four semi-finalists being interviewed by the panel. Semi-Finalists included:

- Amelie Guthrie, Nashville
- Camille Engel, oil painter, Nashville
- Charlotte Paul, stained glass, Bloomington
- Herb Williams, Nashville

Panelists selected Herb Williams as the artist to complete an interior public artwork for Smith Springs Community Center with a budget of \$150,000 to support community engagement and design, fabrication, and installation of artwork.

A motion to accept the recommendation of Herb Williams as the Smith Springs Community Center project artist was offered by Commissioner Tefel, seconded by Commissioner Delgado, and the motion passed.

• **Madison Public Art Project—ACTION**

Director of Public Art Caroline Vincent reported that with the previously approved \$350k budget for Madison Community Center, PAC recommends an artist residency at the existing Madison Community Center. the artist will be asked to engage the community in a co-design and creation process that will inform and support a permanent artwork to be installed at the new Madison Community Center to begin in June 2017. Artist will work with between 100-150

youth, ages 6-14 in addition to other Madison community members. Staff recommends a budget of up to \$10,000 for engagement process and up to \$90,000 for permanent public artwork following design development and approval. Staff have chosen direct selection of a local artist. The staff recommended artist is Brandon Donahue, a Nashville Based Artist (13 years) that specializes in painting, sculpture, and mixed media. Vincent also reported that PAC recommends releasing the remaining funds of \$250,000 from Madison budget from the physical Madison Community Center site to be allocated to other work in the Madison community.

A motion to accept PAC recommendations of a budget up to \$10,000 for engagement process and up to \$90,000 for permanent public artwork (following design development and approval), the direct selection process of Brandon Donahue, and the release of remaining funds (\$250,000) from Madison budget from physical Madison Community Center site was offered by Commissioner Alvis, seconded by Commissioner Schmidt, and the motion passed.

- **Learning Lab projects-ACTION**

Public Art Project Manager Van Maravilli presented project-funding recommendations. Relationship & Partnership Development with a funding range up to \$2,500. A timeline of 2-3 Months. This funding opportunity allows artists to cultivate relationships, identify key stakeholders and immerse themselves in a particular Nashville community. At the end of this development phase, artists will determine, in collaboration with their partner and Metro Arts, if implementing a project is desired and/or viable. If so, they may apply for Project Implementation funding. Proposals for R&D Project implementations:

Lead Artist: Robin Paris

Community Partner: Urban Housing Solutions

Artist Partners: Tom Williams & Ariel Lavery

Amount Requested: \$8,500 (received \$1,000 for R&D)

Robin Paris & team will partner with Urban Housing Solutions in the creation of an artist residency program for their newest property at 26th & Clarksville. Paris will work with local artists and residents of the adjacent Cumberland Gardens neighborhood to determine how an on-going artist residency program could sustainably foster community in and around the housing complex.

Lead Artist: Elizabeth Williams

Community Partner(s): Salahadeen Center

Artist Partner(s): TBD

Amount Requested: \$7,000 (received \$2,500 R&D)

Williams seeks funding for a advocacy project which will be co-designed with members of the Kurdish Community based on their culturally rich, food focused customs and traditions.

A motion to approve PAC recommendations awarding Robin Paris \$8,500 and Elizabeth Williams \$7,000 for Learning Lab project implementation was given by Commissioner Schmidt, seconded by Commissioner Coffman, and the motion passed.

- **PA Plan and Project Updates**

Vincent reported that the Public Art Plan is on website and is open for public comment until April 7. A live webinar is also on the website. Staff is working with Public Works to come up with guidelines for community initiated projects in right of way.

- **Witness Walls Update**

Public Art Project Manager Anne-Leslie Owens reported that *Witness Walls* is in the final stages of construction. Fountains are being installed next week. The public dedication event is set for April 21 and will include a special afternoon reception the day before (April 20th) at the Library's Nashville Room for veterans and other who have assisted on the project. Project updates are going out every few weeks to Metro Departments impacted by the project.

Community Arts

- **THRIVE Project—APPROVAL**

Lauren Fitzgerald presented one THRIVE proposal:

Moral Lines Project

Neighborhood & District: West Nashville in District 24

Staff Recommendation: \$3825

Project Partners: Faith and Cultural Center and the Global Education Center

Artists Involved: Sarah Bozaan

Project Description: FCC is commissioning an artist to help develop a “Moral Lines” public art tool and curriculum to help engage the Islamic and Arabic Communities in Nashville with other Nashville residents through community art making and social discourse. The art making process that the artist has developed gives community a chance to create art by taking turns drawing lines, while having discussions around social issues. This facilitated process will enlighten residents about other cultures and celebrate those immigrant communities and stories within our city.

A motion to approve staff recommended funding of Moral Lines Project for \$3825 was offered by Commissioner Coffman, seconded by Commissioner Tefel, and the motion passed.

- **Restorative Justice & the Arts Update**

Cole reported that 13 artists were selected to participate in the training that began January 28. The training series has been completed and artists are submitting their revised ideas and budgets to start programming later in the spring. Staff is working with Juvenile Court to place the trained artists in various places within the system including Juvenile Detention, Gang Court and alternate schools.

- **Opportunity NOW**

In alignment with Mayor’s youth employment initiative, Opportunity NOW, Metro Arts is acting as a coordinating function. Cole reports that there are 7 applicants for community projects in which 8 young people at a time will be employed throughout the summer. These opportunities range from Public Art apprenticeships to music productions Youth, ages 14-16, will work in conjunction with teaching artists or cultural organizations and learn job skills. The arts experience represent a wide range of locations throughout Davidson County.

- **REAL Update**

Cole reported that REAL’s second cohort is underway.

- **Grants**

Grants Manager Laurel Fisher reported that the Operating support grant deadline passed yesterday. 48 applications were received, of those, 3 organizations returned to pool that weren’t in pool last year. Fisher noted that there were 8 first time applicants, 2 entering basic operating support and 6 entered core operating support. Fisher reported that there is an additional panel day for review for Core Operating support.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55

Dr. Ruth Ross Edmonds (Secretary/Treasurer)

Date

Prepared by Skylar Peterson