

Metro Arts Commission
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
May 18, 2017
Metro Office Building 2nd floor, Davidson Conference Room
800 Second Avenue South, Nashville

Commissioners attending K. Clay Haynes, Jackie Daniel, Mohamed Shukri Hassan, Danielle McDaniel, Joseph Presley, Jim Schmidt, Hope Stringer, ,Marcus Whitney

Commissioners not attending: Jane Alvis, Niki Coffman, Dr. Ruth Ross Edmonds, Manuel Delgado, Marielena Ramos, Santi Tefel
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:

Call to Order

Metro Arts Commission Chair Clay Haynes called the May meeting to order at 12:05PM.

Minutes of previous meeting

A motion to approve minutes from March 16, 2017 was offered by Commissioner Tefel, seconded by Commissioner Hassan, and the motion passed.

Operations/Policy

- **Budget Update**

Executive Director Jen Cole reported that Metro Arts received a budget increase from the Mayor's Office. This includes a \$275,000 increase to the grants budget, and \$225,000 in Neighborhood Projects Improvements. She also informed Commission that the budget hearing for the council would be held Tuesday at 4:45. Commissioner Haynes acknowledged that this is the first time in a decade that Metro Arts has received an increase in funds. 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.

Public Art

- **Public Art Community Investment Plan—ACTION**

Cole presented the Public Art Community Investment Plan. The plan signals an important new direction for public art in Nashville, advancing the vision that every Nashvillian experiences a creative city. In developing this plan, Metro Arts initiated a public input process that consisted of survey, interviews, benchmarking study, advisory groups: equity/access and public art ecosystem, synced information with other metro plans, and a 6 week public sharing and input process. The values of Nashville's public art were defined through this input process and included a commitment to equity, commitment to artistic practice, and commitment to the public realm.

The goals of the plan are: Strengthening the public art ecosystem; fostering deeper cultural and civic participation; catalyzing vibrant, creative neighborhoods; and supporting a vital public realm. Cole stated the plan presents new tools and types of public art, strengthening community relationships and exploring new resources.

Existing approaches such as Learning Lab, Thrive projects, and Percent for Art projects will continue under the new plan, while new approaches such as public art residencies, community based studios, artist involvement on planning teams, curated temporary exhibitions, private developer resources, and the development of a mural assistance center will be initiated. The plan also seeks to develop new, more robust partnerships with Metro departments, nonprofit organizations and for profit organizations. If adopted by the Commission, the plan outlines first year priorities as: launching a portable collection, establishing a public art track in THRIVE, creation of projects geared to local artists, the development of a mentorship program, and a mural assistance center; priorities will also include piloting Artist residencies, Learning Lab 2.0, Collections Assessment and Maintenance Recommendation, and Transportation Guidelines "Kit of Parts"; other priorities include seeding a Private Developer Resources Center and Artist Residencies in Community/External Organizations.

A motion to approve and adopt the Public Art Community Investment Plan was offered by Commissioner Stringer, seconded by Commissioner Schmidt, and the motion passed.

- **Madison Neighborhood Residency**

Director of Public Art Caroline Vincent informed Commission that Metro Arts received a NEA grant to work with The Metro Affordable Housing Trust Commission (Barnes Fund), the Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity & Empowerment and the Financial Empowerment Centers to fund a series of temporary public art interventions, and artist-led community planning and workshops focused on affordable housing and production spaces, wealth building practices, and creative economic neighborhood policies within Madison. This project will provide input for the Percent for Art project in Madison. Staff recently presented to the All Together Madison community group and attended a groundbreaking the Community Center. Parks has requested an artist in residence program this summer at the existing Madison Center that would inform a permanent artwork at the new Center. The Metro Arts Commission approved concept, budget, and Brandon Donahue as the artist for this project. Staff requests approval of a Direct Selection of artist Matthew Mazzotta for a neighborhood residency in Madison with a budget of \$250,000. Mazzotta creates socially-engaged, participatory public interventions; provokes conversations that explore "local" questions of ecology, public involvement, community building, artist sensibilities, science and space; allows citizens from all walks of life to participate, exchange ideas and work together toward a final goal; oftentimes, this includes working with local laborers, academics, engineers, builders, community members, activists, & artists; and allows citizens to contribute in a tangible way to their own environment.

A motion to approve the direct selection of artist Matthew Mazzotta for a Neighborhood Residency in Madison with a budget of \$250,000 was offered by Commissioner Ramos, seconded by Commissioner Schmidt, and the motion passed.

THRIVE FY2018 Guidelines—ACTION

Neighborhood and Artist Development Coordinator Lauren Fitzgerald presented FY2018 THRIVE Guidelines for approval:

Funding Categories:

Community Art Sharing and Showcase- Fundable up to \$3000; Community Co-design and Collaboration- Fundable up to \$4000; and Public Art- Fundable up to \$8000

Changes in Eligibility

Businesses or organizational applicants must be established in Davidson County to be eligible to apply for THRIVE- This guideline is recommended to align with Granting practices. Individual Artist applicants can reside outside of the county but, must conduct THRIVE funded programming within Davidson County.

Changes in Funding Guidelines and Restrictions

Funds maybe used for artist fees and direct project management costs

Changes in Application and Application Procedure

Applicants must receive pre-coaching via online webinar, in person workshop or meeting, or Phone Consultation Applications will be reviewed after the following deadlines: July 31, 2017; September 30, 2017; November 30, 2017, and February 28th 2017. If funding is not fully allocated by final deadline, THRIVE will continue to receive application monthly until funding is fully allocated.

Application is completely online and there will be no pre-approval process. This process has been replaced with the pre-coaching process.

Applications must be accompanied with support materials that fit to their medium of art.

Applicants in the Public Art Category must submit final rendering for staff approval prior to receiving first payment

Scoring Criteria Changes

Scoring Categories will be equally weighted- Artistic Excellence (25 points); Neighborhood Placemaking (25 points); Community Engagement and Participations (25 points); and Project Feasibility and Logistics (25 points)

A motion to approve FY18 THRIVE Guidelines as presented was offered by Commissioner Tefel, seconded by Commissioner Ramos, and the motion passed.

Updates

- **Grants**

Cole reported that Grant allocations will be voted on next month in June.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12

Dr. Ruth Ross Edmonds (Secretary/Treasurer)

Date

Prepared by Skylar Peterson