



METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

MINUTES

Metro Art Board of Commissioners

December 16, 2021 12-1:30 p.m.

Metro Southeast Building

Green Hills Auditorium

1417 Murfreesboro Pk.

Nashville, TN 37217

Commissioners Present: Will Cheek (Sec. /Treasurer), Ellen Angelico, Marianne Byrd, Bonnie Dow, Sheri Nichols Bucy, Paula Roberts, Hope Stringer, and Campbell West

Commissioners Absent: Jim Schmidt (Chair), Matia Powell (Vice Chair), Jane Alvis, Dexter Brewer, Clay Haynes, and Marielena Ramos

Staff: Caroline Vincent, Ian Myers, Janine Christiano, Marysa LaRowe, Van Maravalli, Tré Hardin, Atilio Murga

METRO ARTS MISSION:

Drive an Equitable and Vibrant Community through the Arts

A. Call to Order & Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes: November 18, 2021

Commissioner Cheek asked if there were any questions or proposed changes to the minutes.

A motion to approve Arts Commission minutes from November 18, 2021 was offered by Commissioner Byrd, Commissioner Bucy seconded, and the motion passed.

C. Arts in Action

Emily Waltenbaugh presented to the Commission highlights from the previous month including:

- Disaster relief resources on the Metro Arts website
- Media Mentions about Emerald Mitchell of Moves and Grooves and Elisheba Mrozik
- Upcoming FY21 Annual Report

Commissioner Cheek asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

D. Action Items:

1. FY23 Grant Guidelines

Janine Christiano presented the proposed changes to the FY23 Grant Guidelines including:

- Making administrative updates
- “Activities & Programs with Religious Content” updated to “Activities & Programs with Religious Practices or Intent” to clarify restrictions
- Clarifying policies regarding fundraising activities
- Adding an honorarium for community review panelists

Commissioner Cheek asked if there was any questions or discussion.

The Commission expressed their approval for adding in the honorarium.

A motion to approve FY23 Grant Guidelines was offered by Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Dow seconded, and the motion passed.

2. FY22 Thrive Cycle 2 Allocation

Marysa LaRowe presented an overview of the Thrive Cycle 2 Scoring Criteria including the addition of 1 point for artists that have never applied before to encourage emerging artists. Using the scoring criteria, the Community Review Panel recommended the following projects for funding:

| Project Name | Lead Artist/Partner | Award Amount | Description |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| A Bending of Its Own Kind 2.0 | Rebekah Hampton Barger/VUMC | \$5,000 | Dance and photography inspired by those with chronic pain |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------------------|
| Branches of PoeTREE* | Cameron Mitchell /NPL | \$5,000 | Poetry Art Trail |
| Buchanan Arts(BA) Mural* | Alex Lockwood/BA | \$5,000 | Found object mural |
| Caravanserai: A New Year, A New Home | Reza Filsoofi/Global Education Center | \$5,000 | Teaching Middle Eastern music to new Americans |
| Growing Together in Nashville/Connecting Roots | Ayumi Bennett/Nashville Food Project | \$5,000 | Graphic food journey map |
| PYDANCE Performance | Asia Pyron/Centennial Art Center | \$5,000 | Dance performance + civil rights history |
| The Evolution Art Show | Amanda Downs/NPL, MOB | \$5,000 | Multi-genre art show with youth |
| The Living Legacy of College Heights Elders | Mark "Kwesi" McClendon/Vanderbilt Religion and Arts | \$4,995 | "Living Stories" kiosks |

Commissioner Cheek asked if there was any questions or discussion

The Commission asked for clarification about the other four projects that were not recommended for funding. Staff clarified that there was a scoring gap that suggested the projects needed further development and that there were concerns about space for all the projects at the Parthenon.

A motion to approve FY22 Thrive Cycle 2 allocations was offered by Commissioner Bucy, Commissioner Dow seconded, and the motion passed.

3. FY22 REAL Project Guidelines and budget increase

Janine Christiano updated the Commissioners on the results of the planning year for the Racial Equity in Arts Leadership (REAL) program and feedback from various stakeholders. She also gave an overview of the FY21 REAL curriculum.

She also presented an update to the project that includes an implementation project. Janine presented an overview of the Racial Equity in Arts Leadership (REAL) project guidelines and timeline:

- REAL Application due: February 7, 2022
- REAL Projects Funding Announcements: March 18, 2022
- REAL Project Implementation: March 19, 2022- August 15, 2022
- REAL Participant Project Closeout Report: Friday August 26, 2022
- REAL Project Showcase: September 2022 (date TBD)

It was noted that the projects would be funded through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The guidelines and eligibility were created based on Metro Arts' Mission Statement, Cultural Equity Statement, and REAL program guidelines. Staff is also recommending that an additional \$15,000 in other program funds is added to the available project funds.

Commissioner Cheek asked if there was any questions or discussion

The Commission asked for clarification about attendance. Staff clarified that attendance is a mandatory part of the program and that it will play into funding decisions as well.

The Commission asked for clarification about the possibility of funding more Thrive projects with the proposed funds. Staff clarified that they were planning to review the budget at the first of the year and see what would be feasible with staff capacity. Staff will bring the available funds back to the Commission then to decide about allocations.

The Commission asked for clarification on why there are multiple representatives from an organization. Staff clarified in the past that alumni had expressed a sense of isolation when they were the sole representative so part of the changes in the relaunch were to allow multiple representatives from the same organizations if desired.

A motion to approve of FY22 REAL Project Guidelines and allocation of \$15,000 in unused Thrive Funds for additional REAL projects was offered by Commissioner Angelico, Commissioner Stringer seconded, and the motion passed.

4. Donelson Library Semi-Finalist (Exterior & Interior)

Van Maravalli gave the Committee an overview of the two Donelson Library Public Arts projects as well as the architectural plans and budgets. She presented the Committee with the proposed semi-finalists suggested by the Community Review panel:

- Donelson Library Exterior Public Art Project Semi-Finalists
 - Andy Dufford
 - Cliff Garten
 - Matthew Geller
 - Joshua Wiener
 - WOWHAUAS (Ene Osteraas-Constable and Scott Constable)
- Donelson Library Interior Public Art Project Semi-Finalists
 - Michael Allison
 - Lanie Gannon
 - Legacy Team (Jamal Jenkins, Christian Greene)
 - Thomas McDougal
 - Amber Lelli

Commissioner Cheek asked if there was any questions or discussion

The Commission asked for clarification about next steps for artist selection. Staff let the Commission know that if the semi-finalists are approved, staff will set up interviews for January with the community selection panel and bring a proposed final artist back to the Arts Commission.

The Commission asked for clarification about compensation for these panelists. Staff clarified that there was a stipend for the panelists.

The Commission asked for clarification about national artists selected as the exterior semi-finalists and how Metro Arts would ensure that there is intentional diverse, local input. Staff clarified that this question and community engagement practices are a significant portion of the interview process and final decision. Additionally, staff put out a request for qualifications instead of a request for proposals so that not only could the selection panel see their track record with community engagement but also that Metro Arts could ensure that was part of the actual artwork design.

The Commission appreciated this response and suggested that some Commissioners might want to attend the interviews. Staff offered to follow-up with information about the January selection panels.

The Commission thanked staff for this insight and highlighted importance of Metro Arts' focus on our local communities.

A motion to approve the 5 semi-finalist artists/artist teams – Andy Dufford, Cliff Garten, Matthew Geller, Joshua Wiener, and WOWHAUAS (Ene Osteraas-Constable and Scott Constable) – identified by the citizen selection panel for the Donelson Library Exterior Public Art Project was

offered by Commissioner Dow, Commissioner Angelico seconded, and the motion passed.

A motion to approve the 4 semi-finalist artists/artist teams –Michael Allison, Lanie Gannon, Legacy Team (Jamal Jenkins, Christian Greene, and Thomas McDougal), and Amber Lelli – identified by the citizen selection panel for the Donelson Library Interior Public Art Project was offered by Commissioner West, Commissioner Bucy seconded, and the motion passed.

5. Strategic Planning Task Force Slate

Caroline Vincent presented a proposed Strategic Planning Task Force to work with the Strategic Planning consultant team on stakeholder engagement. The slate consists of:

- **Matia Powell**, Commissioner, Strategic Planning Chair
- **Joseph Clark**, Just Us – Oasis Center, LGBTQIA+ Youth Program
- **Donna DeStefano**, Tennessee Disability Coalition
- **Ray Emanuel**, Native American Indian Association of Tennessee
- **Rahelah Filsoofi**, Artist, Vanderbilt Faculty
- **Joseph Gutierrez**, API Mid TN & Maddox Fund
- **Teree McCormick**, CARE representative, Nashville Jazz Workshop (board)
- **Nicole Minyard**, Poverty in the Arts – now Daybreak Arts
- **Monique Odom**, Metro Parks
- **Ellen Pryor**, Frist Arts Museum and Convention and Visitors Corp. Board
- **Jon Royal**, artist, Restorative Arts, CARE representative, theatre

Caroline clarified that there were still a few spots available if Commissioners had any suggestions. The goal is to start meeting by the end of January and have a plan to proposed by September or October.

Commissioner Cheek asked if there was any questions or discussion.

The Commission asked if there was anyone that staff felt was not represented in this task force. Staff noted that would be interested in including representation from Latinx, Kurdish, and Muslim-American communities as well as a representative from the business community.

The Commission asked for clarification about the time commitment for this role. Staff clarified that task for members would be expected to attend a

meeting every 4-6 weeks, help identify stakeholders for focus groups, and lend their voices and representation.

A motion to approve the Strategic Planning Task Force Slate was offered by Commissioner Byrd, Commissioner Bucy seconded, and the motion passed.

E. Executive Director's Report

1. Recognition of Commissioner Service

Caroline recognized Commissioner Stringer and Ramos for their many years of service and let them know they will be missed when their terms end this January.

2. Hiring Update

Caroline also gave the Commission an update on the hiring processes for the ASO2 and ASM positions.

F. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.