



METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

MINUTES

Metro Art Board of Commissioners

May 19, 2022 12 p.m.

Metro Southeast Building

Room: Green Hills Auditorium

1417 Murfreesboro Pk.

Nashville, TN 37217

Commissioners: Jim Schmidt (Chair), Will Cheek (Sec. /Treasurer), Jane Alvis, Ellen Angelico, Dexter Brewer, Sheri Nichols Bucy, Clarence Edward, La’Kishia Harris, Clay Haynes, Paul Polycarpou, Campbell West, Diana Perez

Commissioners Absent: Matia Powell (Vice Chair), Marianne Byrd

Staff: Emily Waltenbaugh, Atilio Murga, Van Maravalli, Natalie Alfaro Frazier, Janine Christiano, Chuck Beard, Anne-Leslie Owens, Marysa LaRowe, Derrick Smith

Guest Presenters: Ellen Gilbert (CARE Committee Member)

METRO ARTS MISSION:

Drive an Equitable and Vibrant Community through the Arts

A. Call to Order & Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes: April 21, 2022

Chair Schmidt asked if there were any questions or proposed changes to the minutes.

A motion to approve Arts Commission minutes for April 21, 2022 was offered by Commissioner Alvis. Commissioner Angelico seconded, and the motion passed.

C. Action Items:

1. Arts Programming for Court Involved Youth Guidelines (Restorative Arts)

Equity + Restorative Practices Manager Natalie Alfaro Frazier discussed how the “Restorative Arts” programming and guidelines will continue while in a reverification year, what has worked well and how can it all be better aligned moving forward towards restorative justice. Commissioners asked for clarification as to what the reverification year process means and how it works, and why it is only open to past participants why the program is on pause. Staff explained how it is necessary for current staff and the nature of the reverification of the programs and trainings need a pause and a bridge year so current programming doesn’t stop while a bridge is made into next year.

Commissioner Cheek offered a motion to approve the updated FY23 guidelines for Arts Programming for Court Involved Youth that allows for a continuation of arts programming during a program development year through a reverification process for current providers. Commissioner Haynes seconded. All approved, and the motion passed.

2. Updated Summer 2022 POWER Youth Guidelines and Allocations

Equity + Restorative Practices Manager Natalie Alfaro Frazier shared that increased funding for 2022 POWER Youth program now provides for up to \$25,000.

Commissioner Bucy offered a motion to update the POWER Youth Guidelines to allow for up to \$25,000 of funding per host organization, an increase from the original \$20,000. Commissioner Brewer seconded. All approved and the motion passed.

Commissioner Bucy offered a motion to approve updated POWER Youth Host organization allocations totaling an additional \$16,000. Commissioner Brewer seconded. All approved and the motion passed.

3. FY23 Thrive Guidelines

Strategic Funding + Initiatives Manager Janine Christiano introduced process improvements based on Community Feedback. This includes one application deadline for better planning period, improve staff workflow, and expand coaching period as well as changes to background check documentation so that background check monitoring will be verified after application during planning period and not before for better equitable purposes for applicants. Metro Legal’s Derrick Smith asked to take another look at all of this to verify the legal aspects of the process. Commissioners suggested that Metro Arts take the initiative to pay for the initial/official background checks for the artists in the similar process established now. Commissioners asked for Metro Legal’s view of background checks. Smith explained it’s a case-by-case basis. It would be more of a finance question than a

legal question for how staff moves forward. Commissioners noted that this is a conversation about the process of how we do it and also how we use information about the background checks with programs. Christiano presented the motion but won't include updated language for youth this year.

Commissioner Alvis offered the motion to approve the FY23 Thrive Guidelines with background changes not included. Commissioner Harris seconded. All approved, and the motion passed.

4. Fairgrounds Public Art Project Budget Amendment

Public Art Project Coordinator Atilio Murga presented the quotes received for the Fairgrounds project and explained the research that has gone into the proposed new budget for the Fairground public art project. In response to rising material costs, staff are proposing a not to exceed budget of \$2,000,000. The alternative would be a complete redesign. Public Art Manager Van Maravalli provided additional information on funding available and dedicated to percent for public art projects. Commissioners spoke about the need for urgency to move on these quotes while we can.

Commissioner Alvis offered a motion to approve an amended Fairgrounds public art budget not to exceed \$2,000,000. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All approved, and the motion passed.

C. Discussion: HR Investigation Reports

Commissioner Schmidt provided an overview of the recent HR reports for open discussion and indicates that he wants another open discussion to occur after the pending HR report is completed. Commissioners asked for the public comment section and process of Metro Arts to be more accessible for everyone. Commissioners acknowledged that people have not had a voice or been heard effectively, and he was hopeful the joint meeting will be a solid beginning for positive change and better communication.

D. CARE (Committee for Antiracism and Equity) Report & Discussion

Commissioner Angelico introduced Ellen Gilbert (CARE Committee Member) and reminded Commissioners of CARE's creation and purpose. Ellen Angelico also reminded the Commission to watch the Beyond Diversity training video as well. Gilbert shared about her extensive background equity work and encouraged the Commission, CARE, and staff to come out of the silos in order to come together. Commissioner Schmidt noted that Commissioner La'Kisha Harris will be the second Co-Chair to CARE moving forward.

E. Staff and Chair Reports

Communications Manager Emily Waltenbaugh recognized the recent community engagement with artist team Wowhaus for Donelson Public Library public art and shared that the Metro Council Budget Hearing will be Monday, May 23, 2022. She also gave staff vacancy updates and encouraged attendance at the June 1st Joint Arts Commission CARE & staff meeting. Commissioner Schmidt acknowledged Emily Waltenbaugh's transition to her next employment opportunity at Vanderbilt.

F. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.