



METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

MINUTES

Metro Art Board of Commissioners

November 17, 2022 12 p.m.

Metro Southeast Building

Antioch Room

1417 Murfreesboro Pk.

Nashville, TN 37217

Commissioners: Ellen Angelico (Vice Chair), Jane Alvis, Sheri Nichols Bucy, Marianne Byrd, Clarence Edward, Clay Haynes, Diana Perez, Jim Schmidt, Campbell West, and Daniel Singh (*ex-officio*)

Commissioner Absent: Matia Powell (Chair), Paul Polycarpou, Dexter Brewer (Secretary)

Metro Staff: Daniel Singh, Anne-Leslie Owens, Jonathan Saad, Chuck Beard, Marysa LaRowe, and Vivian Foxx

METRO ARTS MISSION:

Drive an Equitable and Vibrant Community through the Arts

A. Call to Order, Welcome, and Land Acknowledgement

Vice Chair Angelico called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

B. Public Comment

Alan Fey spoke on the following agenda item: H. 1. Grants and Funding

C. Approval of Minutes: September 15, 2022 and October 22, 2022

A motion to approve Arts Commission minutes from September 15 and October 22 was offered by Vice Chair Angelico. Commissioners Cheek seconded and the motion passed.

D. Featured Artist: Trenton Wheeler

Artist Trenton Wheeler provided a demonstration of grass dancing and shared about the work of the Native American Indian Association of Tennessee.

E. Arts in Action

Organizational and Artist Support Coordinator Chuck Beard gave a recap of the very successful Thrive Showcase event held at The Parthenon in cooperation with Metro Parks.

F. 2022-2023 Committee Appointments

Executive Director Daniel Singh went over Committee placements that he and Chair Powell had discussed. He clarified that Chair Powell is the one to appoint Commissioners to Committees. This is an initial list; appointments to Public Art Committee and Committee for Anti-Racism and Equity will be made at a future meeting. We want to ensure that Commissioners are attending meetings and that they are not missing 20% of the meetings. Commissioners noted that, in the past, there was an email sent out regarding attendance record and it was helpful. Commissioners asked if Grants and Funding Committee would be able to have community members.

G. Public Art

1. Nolensville Transit Shelters Designs (ACTION)

Public Art Project Manager Anne-Leslie Owens explained that this project was originally designed for custom, sculptural bus shelters but, after ongoing conversation with WeGO about safety and maintenance, we decided to shift the design to 2-D vinyls installed on glass. Artists were able to work with this change and are providing modified designs. Two artists' designs were approved last month. This month, Owens shared designs from Jairo and Susan Prado, Daniel Arite and Thandiwe Shiphrah, and Tony Sobota design for bus shelter public artwork.

A motion to approve designs from Jairo and Susan Prado, Daniel Arite and Thandiwe Shiphrah, and Tony Sobota design for bus shelter public artwork was made by Commissioner Schmidt. Commissioner Bucy seconded and the motion passed.

2. Donelson Library Design, Exterior Public Art Project (ACTION)

Public Art Project Manager Anne-Leslie Owens provided the design proposed by Wowhaus (artist team of Ene Osteraas-Constable and Scott Constable) for the greenspace in front of the new Donelson Library under construction. From comments received during community engagement this spring, their design provides for 5 sculptural seats. The design is inspired by Mid-Century Modern styling of the library design, constructed of Tennessee marble, and will have LED lights from below. Commissioners asked about sealing the artwork being that is to marble. Owens will make sure the artists are taking steps to ensure the marble's long-term durability.

A motion to approve artwork design from artist team Wowhaus (Ene Osteraas-Constable and Scott Constable) for greenspace in front of new Donelson Public Library. made by Commissioner Cheek. Commissioner Byrd seconded and the motion passed.

3. Arthur Avenue Underpass Lighting Public Art Project/NEA Grant (ACTION)

Public Art Project Manager Anne-Leslie Owens provided some background on the project that has been in development. Conversations from 2020-2021 between Metro Arts, NDOT, Project Return, and community organizer Simone Boyd resulted in development of a successful NEA grant for \$75,000. The purpose of project grant is to promote public safety, foster community belonging, and assist Nashville citizens returning to the community from incarceration. The project will result in permanent artist-designed public art lighting installation and temporary artist-designed public awareness campaign at the Arthur Avenue Underpass (at I-65). Depending on approved scope of project, staff are proposing artist budgets of up to \$400,000 for both the permanent temporary artworks

A motion to approve NEA grant with \$75,000 project match for the Arthur Avenue Underpass public art projects offered by Commissioner Schmidt. Commissioner Byrd seconded and the motion passed.

A motion to approve an additional project budget of \$400,000 for the Arthur Avenue Underpass public art projects offered by Commissioner Schmidt. Commissioner Byrd seconded and the motion passed.

Commissioners had questions about the budget and priority of this location over other North Nashville locations that could benefit from activation through public art. They expressed interest in learning more about the early project planning and data that supported this site. Executive Director Daniel Singh agreed to reach out to neighborhood organizer Simone Boyd to see if she can present at a future Commission meeting and provide more context.

H. Executive Director's Report

1. Grants and Funding

We are working closely with consultant Dana Parsons. The editing process will take place November 29-30th and will be open to the Commission as well as the public.

2. CARE update

We recognize that there is a need to have a more in-depth conversation about the future of CARE and a better understanding of the expectations of the committee.

3. Positions Application

We are working closely with Metro Human Resources. Currently we have been able to get 3 Metro Arts staff positions posted. We expect a few other positions to be approved and posted soon.

I. New/Old Business

None

I. Adjourn Meeting

Vice Chair Angelico adjourned the meeting at 1:44 p.m.