



METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

MINUTES

Metro Art Board of Commissioners

December 15, 2022, 12 p.m.

Metro Southeast Building, Antioch Room

1417 Murfreesboro Pk.

Nashville, TN 37217

Commissioners: Matia Powell (Chair), Ellen Angelico (Vice Chair), Dexter Brewer (Secretary), Jane Alvis, Sheri Nichols Bucy, Marianne Byrd, Will Cheek, Clarence Edward, Clay Haynes, Diana Perez, Paul Polycarpou, Jim Schmidt, Campbell West, and Daniel Singh (*ex-officio*)

Metro Arts Staff: Ian Myers, Anne-Leslie Owens, Chuck Beard, Jonathan Saad, Marysa LaRowe, Mollie Berliss, Atilio Murga, Karissa Coady, Vivian Foxx

Metro Legal: Alexandra Rivera

METRO ARTS MISSION:

Drive an Equitable and Vibrant Community through the Arts

A. Call to Order, Welcome, and Land Acknowledgement

Chair Matia Powell call the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. She welcomed everyone and directed members of the public to sign in. Those wishing to make a public comment should sign in and pick up an information sheet. Chair Powell led the reading of the land acknowledgement.

B. Comments from grant editors

Executive Director Daniel Singh introduced Metro Arts' recent community-led effort to simplify the grants application process for next year. The goal is to remove barriers that previously prevented underserved communities from applying for Metro Arts grants. Part of this process involved community editors who completed 4 hours of guided research independently, participated in a small group professional development session, and actively engaged in the public editing process during one of two panels. Several of these grants' editors provided video comments.

C. Public Comment

Chair Powell expressed appreciation for the public's interest and commitment to Metro Arts. She acknowledged that Commissioners received written public comment in their packets. Additionally, members of the public were invited to make public comment in-person at today's meeting. Those addressing the Commission on proposed changes to grants and funding process (Agenda Item F) included:

- 1) Celine Thackston
- 2) Lee Carol
- 3) Christine Hall
- 4) Joseph Gutierrez
- 5) Stephanie Silverman
- 6) Drew Osle
- 7) Jesse Strauss
- 8) Kimberly Macklemore
- 9) Daniel Jones
- 10) Megan Jordan
- 11) Mark Murphy
- 12) Amanda Jamerson
- 13) Emma Supica

D. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for November 17, 2022 was offered by Commissioner Edward. Commissioner Schmidt seconded and the motion passed.

E. Featured Artist: Abby Whisenant

Organizational & Artist Support Specialist Chuck Beard introduced artist Abby Whisenant. Whisenant shared about her artistic practice and led Commissioners in an arts activity.

F. Grants and Funding

Grants and Funding Committee Chair Sheri Bucy and Executive Director Daniel Singh explained that committee and staff have been working closely with our facilitator Dana Parsons to move towards a thoughtful and equitable grant making process. This new direction has been the priority for the grants commission for several years, and the work we've done is built on the feedback and research from final reports we've received for the past several years. The Grants Committee started this process three months ago, and most recently met for 2 and ½ hours this past Monday and thoroughly vetted all aspects. The Grants Committee is unanimously recommending these proposed changes to the full commission. We are going to assume you have read through the packet and will mostly be answering your questions. Grants consultant Dana Parsons, joining the meeting virtually, led the Commission through the proposed changes. Commission engaged in discussion.

1. Proposed Changes (ACTION)

A motion to approve the proposed changes to the grants program, pending approval by Metro Legal and Metro Procurement, was offered by Commissioner Haynes and seconded by Commissioner Edward. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed.

- a. ***Commissioner Haynes - Aye***
- b. ***Commissioner Angelico – Aye***
- c. ***Commissioner Perez - Aye***
- d. ***Commissioner Edward - Aye***
- e. ***Commissioner Schmidt - Abstain***
- f. ***Commissioner Polycarpou – Aye***
- g. ***Commissioner Cheek - No***
- h. ***Commissioner Brewer – Aye***
- i. ***Commissioner Byrd - Abstain***

- j. **Commissioner West - Aye**
- k. **Commissioner Bucy - Aye**
- l. **Commissioner Powell – Aye**

A motion requesting an Impact Report in July 2023 from Executive Director Daniel Singh was offered by Commissioner Schmidt. Commissioner Haynes seconded and the motion passed.

- 2. Transition Support: Grant Orientation, Clinics, Phone/Online Support, Video option for Micro Organizations, Translation services

In the interest of time, this discussion moved to future Commission Meeting.

G. Public Art

- 1. Old Hickory Community Center (ACTION)

Public Art Project Manager Anne-Leslie presented a recommendation from the Public Art Committee for public art project for the new Old Hickory Community Center.

A motion to approve the new public art project at Old Hickory Community Center for an interior suspended artwork with a budget of \$250,000 and a national call to artists was offered by Commissioner Schmidt. Commissioner West seconded and the motion passed.

- 2. Madison Library/Matthew Mazzotta Public Art Project Update

In the interest of time, this discussion moved to future Commission Meeting.

- 3. Bordeaux-North Nashville Participatory Budget Public Art Projects Update

In the interest of time, this discussion moved to future Commission Meeting.

- 4. Arthur Avenue Underpass Public Art Lighting Project/NEA Grant Update

In the interest of time, this discussion moved to future Commission Meeting.

H. Advocacy

In the interest of time, this discussion moved to future Commission Meeting.

I. Executive Director's Report

- 1. Hiring Update
- 2. Anti-Racism and Equity
- 3. 2023 Arts Commission and Committee Meeting Schedule

In the interest of time, Executive Director's Report moved to future Commission Meeting.

J. New/Old Business

No New/Old Business to discuss.

K. Adjourn Meeting

Chair Powell adjourned the meeting at 2:17 p.m.