



METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

MINUTES

**Metro Arts Board of Commissioners
and
Committee for Anti-Racism and Equity
October 22, 2022 10:30 a.m.
Pruitt Branch Library
117 Charles E. Davis Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37210**

Commissioners: Matia Powell (Chair), Marianne Byrd, Ellen Angelico

Commissioners Absent: Jane Alvis, Dexter Brewer, Sheri Nichols Bucy, Will Cheek, Clarence Edward, La’Kishia Harris, Clay Haynes, Diana Perez, Paul Polycarpou, Jim Schmidt, Campbell West

CARE Community Members Present: Teree McCormick (Co-Chair), Ellen Gilbert, Fathiyah Shepard-Suso, Jon Royal

CARE Community Members Absent: Dr. Robyn Henderson-Espinoza, M Kelley, LaKeisha Thomas, Isabel Tipton-Krispin

Metro Staff: Daniel Singh, Ian Myers, Anne-Leslie Owens, Mollie Berliss, Chuck Beard, Vivian Foxx, Marysa LaRowe, Macy Amos (Metro Legal)

Metro Staff: Daniel Singh, Ian Myers, Jonathan Saad, Chuck Beard, Karissa Coady, Andrea Blackman (Metro Finance/DEI)

Guests: Daniel Marshall, Ciona Rouse, William “Dooby” Tomkins, LaTonya Potter

METRO ARTS MISSION:

Drive an Equitable and Vibrant Community through the Arts

A. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Powell called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. Executive Director Daniel Singh welcomed participants by thanked them for dedicating their Saturday to this important work.

B. Artist Performance

Andrea Blackman introduced artist Ciona Rouse. Rouse described her artistic practice and shared several original poems.

C. Large and Breakout Group Discussions

Blackman had everyone introduce themselves, saying their names, titles, and what color they are relating to and feeling today. She introduced DEI Consultant Daniel Marshall and had the group create a group covenant in an activity to help everyone express what we need for this space today. Blackman shared the DEI self-assessment packet and the “Common Language to Foster Common Understanding” sheet. This resource for examining and expressing our personal identities (and how we bring those identities into every situation and group we engage) was used in breakout groups. Everyone shared at least one individual identity label from breakout groups.

D. Lunch and Artist Collaboration

During lunch, artist “Dooby” Tompkins led the group in a creative activity with paper and leaves. Everyone showed their final artwork with the entire group.

E. Large and Breakout Group Discussions

Blackman discussed the importance of alignment, collectively and individually inside Metro Arts. She directed everyone get into groups of 4-5 for breakout group discussion regarding what Metro Arts needs to “stop”, “start”, and “continue” doing as a group going forward. Every group reported one or two things from the exercise. The main “stop” was “believing this is the way it’s always been done and this is the way we always do it.” The main “start” was “thinking of challenges as opportunities instead of barriers.” The main “continue” was to “question everything.” Daniel Marshall gave a few takeaways from the meeting today. Those gathered agreed to start making plans to do more meetings like this sooner than later together.

F. Check In and Next Steps

Blackman gave a recap of all the exercises, ideas, and notes on the wall from the group exercises. She thanked everyone for actively participating and engaging in the process. Blackman provided some handouts to complete after the meeting which will assist our work at the next meeting.

G. Adjourn Meeting

Chair Powell adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.