



MINUTES
Metro Arts Board of Commissioners
April 20, 2023, 12 p.m.
Metro Southeast Building, Green Hills Auditorium
1417 Murfreesboro Pk.
Nashville, TN 37217

Commissioners: Matia Powell (Chair), Ellen Angelico (Vice Chair), Dexter Brewer (Secretary), Darek Bell, Sheri Nichols Bucy, Marianne Byrd, Will Cheek, Clarence Edward, Janet Kurtz, Leah Dupree Love, Carol McCoy, Diana Perez, Jim Schmidt, Campbell West, and Daniel Singh (*ex-officio*)

Commissioners Absent: Paul Polycarpou

METRO ARTS MISSION:
Drive an Equitable and Vibrant Community through the Arts

- A. Call to Order, Welcome, and Land Acknowledgement** 12:00—12:05
1. Chair Matia Powell called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. She welcomed everyone present, including the new Commissioners, and the Metro Arts Staff.
 - i. The new Commissioners and Metro Arts Staff gave brief introductions to familiarize themselves with the attendees.
- B. Public Comment** 12:05—12:10
1. Alan Fey
 - i. Expressed his concerns regarding the allocation of grants and funding among the 88 applicants. He requested clarification on how the funds will be distributed.
 - ii. Also expressed his concern about the lack of meetings held since January, emphasizing the need for regular communication and updates.
 2. Daniel Jones
 - i. Provided input on the topic of grants and funding, highlighting its significance for discussion and consideration.
- C. Approval of Minutes: January 19, 2023** 12:10—12:25
1. *A motion to approve January 19, 2023, made by Commissioner West and seconded by Commissioner Angelico.*
- D. Featured Artist: The House of Ebony** 12:25—12:35
1. Representatives from the local chapter of House of Ebony delivered a captivating presentation on the historical significance and values embodied by House of Ebony. The

attendees were treated to an exceptional performance that showcased their talent and artistry.

E. Chair/Committee Appointments 12:35—12:45

1. Chair's Appointments to Committee
 - i. Darek Bell was appointed to the Advocacy Committee.
 - ii. Leah Dupree Love was appointed to the Advocacy Committee
 - iii. Janet Kurtz was appointed to the Public Art Committee
 - iv. Carol McCoy was appointed to the Grants and Funding Committee
2. Public Art Committee Appointments
 - i. Stacey Irvin was appointed as a Community Member for a 3-year term.
 - ii. Lakesha Moore was appointed as a Community Member for a 3-year term.

F. C.A.R.E Committee Updates 12:45—12:50

1. Currently working on onboarding procedures for new committee members to address the need for additional Community Members.
2. Conducting a comprehensive review of the Equity lens to ensure its effective implementation.
3. C.A.R.E members will attend other committee meetings to ensure that equity goals are being met across various initiatives.
4. The committee explored the potential use of an online tool called *Bang the Table*.
 - i. Macy Amos from Legal clarified that the use of this tool is restricted by state law, which permits only Metro Console and Metro School Board to utilize it.
5. Macy Amos Highlighted the relevance of the Opens Meeting Act DCA844109
 - i. She suggested that the Commission Board familiarize themselves with the law and its limitations to ensure compliance and understanding of its implications.

G. Public Art Committee Updates 12:50—1:05

1. Action Item #1: Donelson Library Final Design for Interior Public Artwork
 - i. *A motion to approve the proposed to approve artist Amber Lelli's design for a suspended sculpture for the Donelson Library Interior Public Art Project., was offered by Commissioner Angelico, Commissioner Byrd seconded, and the motion passed.*
2. Action Item #2: Old Hickory Community Center, Semi-Finalist Artists
 - i. *A motion to approve the proposed to approve to approve of Ben Butler, Freeland Buck, Cliff Garten, and Gordon Huether as artist semi-finalists for the Old Hickory Community Center public art project, was offered by Commissioner Nichols Bucy, Commissioner Byrd seconded, and the motion passed.*

H. Grants and Funding Committee Updates 1:05—1:15

1. Operating Grant current updates
 - i. Currently, there have been a total of 92 submissions for the Operating Grant, out of which 88 have qualified for review.
 - ii. For FY23, there have been 58 submissions, with 54 qualifying for review.
 - iii. The Large, Midsize, and Medium panel review is scheduled for April 27, 2023.
 - iv. The Small and Micro panel review will take place on April 28, 2023.

2. The committee announced the community-led grant-editing process for FY25 and encouraged active participation in the entire process, scheduled for July 10th and 11th

I. Updates on Metro Arts Projects

1:15—1:20

1. Thrive – Call for Artist Services updates
 - i. There have been a total of 155 submissions
 - ii. For FY23, there have been 22 submissions received.
 - iii. The total amount requested for Thrive is \$2,644,067.
 - iv. The panel review for Thrive is scheduled for May 1 & 2, 2023.
 - v. There were inquiries about the budget for Thrive, which was \$200,000 last year.
2. FY23/24 Cultivate
 - i. Cultivate is an initiative aimed at providing emergency artist support and fostering their development.
 - ii. It was established in response to the urgent needs of artists affected by the tornado and the ongoing pandemic.
 - iii. Cultivate aims to provide timely assistance, with a quick turnaround of 60 days to address the immediate challenges faced by artists.
3. American for the Arts – Arts & Economic Prosperity
 - i. Currently, there have been 642 surveys conducted as part of the Arts & Economic Prosperity program.
 - ii. The survey collection process is ongoing and expected to conclude in May.

J. Advocacy Committee Update

1:20—1:25

1. Comparison Study
 - i. The Advocacy Committee presented the findings of a comparison study and proposed a significant request of 1% of the budget. The committee plans to ask the mayor for a total of \$12 million, with \$6 million allocated for general operating purposes, \$3 million for the Thrive program, and an additional \$3 million for other grants.
 - ii. The committee emphasized the need for increased funding, as there have been no funding increases in recent years, except for the previous year's allocation due to the impact of COVID-19. The committee highlighted the importance of the funding received thus far and expressed the desire for continued support to sustain and enhance their initiatives.

K. Daniel Singh's Evaluation Process

1:25—1:30

1. The review will be conducted by Chair Powell, with contributions from the executive committee.
2. Chair Powell expressed the intention to include Commissioner West and Commissioner Nichols Bucy in the evaluation process.
3. Additionally, staff members will have the opportunity to provide feedback as part of the evaluation process.

L. Executive Director's Report

1:35—1:45

1. Hiring
 - i. We have successfully hired 2 Public Art Coordinators, and another staff member is scheduled to join in late May.
 - ii. The hiring process has presented challenges, particularly in achieving greater equity, and we have encountered limitations regarding salary limits.

- iii. Our aim is to have a full staff on board by July 1.
- 2. Operations
 - i. We are actively working on collapsing the internal/external divide within our operations.
 - ii. A planning document and update have been sent to the Commission for their review and consideration.
 - iii. Council/Mayor advocacy needed for budget
 - iv. Americorps project application moving forward
 - v. Partnership with Metro Workforce expected to launch in January 2024
 - vi. Mayor's office recommended a Friends of Metro Arts partner non-profit to fundraise
 - vii.
- 3. Project Delays
 - i.
- 4. Capacity Issues
 - i.
- 5. Cultural & Strategic Planning
 - i. We recently launched a Cultural Planning initiative, and you will receive further information about it soon.
 - ii. Kick-off meeting launched April 11. Missing representation from the Hispanic Community.
- 6. Disparity Study
 - i. We are currently conducting a Disparity Study, and the results will be presented during the May Commission meeting.

M. New/Old Business

1:45—2:00

- 1. Partnership with Ameri Core
 - i. We are establishing a partnership with AmeriCore to facilitate a teacher training and certification process in collaboration with MNPS (Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools). AmeriCore will provide a stipend of \$1500, as well as a living and food subsidy through their VISTA program.
- 2. Partner with Workforce
 - i. We are exploring a partnership with Workforce to provide trade learning opportunities for individuals aged 18–24. This program is anticipated to have a duration of approximately one year.
- 3. Participatory Budget
 - i. The implementation of the Participatory Budget has presented challenges, but we continue to work towards finding effective solutions. We are considering how the arts can contribute to addressing a city-wide problem, particularly in relation to lighting and other beautification issues.

N. Adjourn Meeting

2:00

Chair Mattia Powell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 PM.