



## **METRO ARTS**

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

### **Minutes**

#### **Metro Arts Commission**

#### **Budget and Administrative Oversight Committee**

**1417 Murfreesboro Pike**

**Nashville, TN 37217**

**Wednesday, March 27, 2024**

**12:00 PM-2:00PM**

**Commissioners:** Beverly Watts (Chair), Campbell West, John Nefflen, and Timothy Jester

**Metro Legal:** Macy Amos and Tessa Marsh-Ortiz

**Metro Arts Staff:** Christiana Afotey and Vivian Foxx

### **METRO ARTS MISSION**

**Drive an Equitable and Vibrant Community through the Arts**

#### **A. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Beverly Watts at 12:00 p.m.

#### **B. Public Comment**

1. **Michael Lacy:**
2. **Lydia Yousief:**

#### **C. Committee Organization: Beverly Watts**

Commissioner Watts outlined the current status and organization of the committee:

- Acknowledged the committee is still in the process of addressing ongoing issues.
- Thanked fellow commissioners for their patience and contributions.
- Mentioned the anticipation of additional appointments to the committee.
- Discussed the need for greater oversight and transparency in financial matters.

#### **D. Financial Overview & Updates**

##### **1. Financial Status:**

- Commissioner Watts provided an update on financial oversight, mentioning collaboration with Director Crumbo and others.
- Discussed the importance of rectifying accounting issues and providing detailed budget oversight.

##### **2. Director Crumbo's Memo:**

- Discussed the memo issued by Director Crumbo and its implications for the committee.
- Emphasized the need for a clear timeline for payment distribution and financial audits.
- **Christiana Afotey (Finance and Administration Director):**
  - Discussed the need for timely payments to artists and arts organizations.
  - Proposed setting a target date for payments and aligning fund distribution with Metro Finance.
  - Highlighted the importance of customer service in following up with recipients to ensure payments are received and to discuss the impact of funding.
  - Addressed the need for detailed budget oversight and rectifying accounting issues with the help of Metro Finance.

#### **E. Legal/HR Topics Updates: Metro Legal**

1. **FMLA and HR Issues:**
  - Macy Amos and Tessa Ortiz Marsh provided updates on ongoing legal and HR matters.
  - Discussed Director Singh's FMLA request and the ongoing interactive process.
  - Addressed concerns about the leadership vacuum and the potential need for administrative leave for Director Singh.
2. **Luther Wright's HR Report:**
  - Highlighted the importance of addressing the issues raised in the HR report.
  - Emphasized the need for standard operating procedures and proper training for Metro Arts staff.

#### **F. Questions & Answers: Committee Members**

- **Commissioner Nefflen & Commissioner West:**
  - Inquired about the timing and status of the financial audit.
  - Discussed the implications of the audit on artist payments and overall financial health.
- **Commissioner Jester:**
  - Emphasized the need for regular financial oversight and detailed budget reports.
  - Raised concerns about the capacity and autonomy of Metro Arts staff to perform their duties effectively.

#### **G. Next Steps: Beverly Watts & Committee Members**

- Commissioner Watts outlined the next steps for the committee:
  - Continue working on financial transparency and oversight.
  - Ensure timely payment to artists and arts organizations.
  - Address the leadership and HR issues raised during the meeting.
  - Schedule follow-up meetings to discuss progress and updates.

## **H. New/Old Business**

- No new business was introduced.
- Old business related to previous financial and HR issues was briefly reviewed and will be revisited in future meetings.

## **I. Adjournment**

*Commissioner Chair Watts adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.*