



**Minutes
Public Art Committee
January 11, 2024, 11:00AM-1:00PM Lindsley Hall, Peabody Room
730 President Ronald Reagan Way/730 2nd Ave S Nashville, TN 37210**

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

Committee Members: Campbell West (Chair), Vacant (Commissioner), Sara Lee Burd, Shaun Giles, Stacey Irvin, Cara Robinson, Carlton Wilkinson, Leah Dupree Love (*ex-officio*), Daniel Singh (*ex-officio*)

Metro Staff present: Daniel Singh, Jessica Ingram, Anne-Leslie Owens, Atilio Murga, Jesse Ross, Daryn Jackson, Vivian Foxx

- A. Welcome and Call to Order
 1. Chair Commissioner West called meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.
- B. Public Comments
 1. No Public Comments submitted.
- C. Approval of Minutes: November 9, 2023

A motion to approve Public Art Committee Minutes from November 9, 2023 was offered by Community member Shaun Giles and seconded by Community member Dr. Cara Robinson.

- D. Action Items:

Action Item: Public Art Guidelines Amendment Recommendation

- **Public Art Committee Composition Changes. In Section IV, C:**
 - Proposal to increase PAC members from seven to nine.

- Proposal to have three Metro Nashville Art Commission members on PAC instead of two.
- Proposal for six community members on PAC instead of five, with a requirement for two visual artists instead of one.

Discussion:

Committee Members Sarah Lee Burd and Shaun Giles have renewed their terms. Director Singh and staff will craft criteria for an open call for new committee members. Shaun Giles raises concern about difficulty involving visual artists due to ineligibility to apply for MA grants, and Jessica Ingram and Daniel Singh agree this needs to be evaluated. Exploring ways to address capacity issues, including one-year appointments. More active involvement of MA managers in panel facilitation.

Commissioner West's Input:

Discussion on artist eligibility after completing a project. Mention of past issues and changes to contract terms. Need for legal approval for potential conflicts.

Future Actions:

Commitment to ongoing discussion and research on identified issues. Proposal to present a case for artist involvement without conflicts. Recognition of concerns raised by artists benefiting from programs.

- **Public Art Committee Responsibilities Change. In Section IV, D:**
 - Remove requirement that PAC approves selection panels.

Discussion:

- The committee discussion centers around a proposed change to the responsibilities of the public art committee, specifically the removal of the requirement for the committee to approve selection panel members recommended by the public arts staff. The rationale behind this change is the difficulty in scheduling selection panel members in a timely manner. The idea is to expedite the process by allowing the public arts staff to have full control over selecting panel members without requiring approval from the committee or the Commission. The conversation explores different perspectives on whether the selection panel process should remain open to the public or include closed sessions. Some members express a preference for transparency, while others consider the potential discomfort for artists and panelists during open discussions. There is also a suggestion for a hybrid approach, allowing public observation at certain stages but having closed sessions for sensitive deliberations. The discussion highlights the importance of professional development for panelists and artists and the need to find a balance between transparency and the practicalities of the selection process. Additionally, there is a suggestion to seek legal input on the matter. Members discussed hesitancy of artists to share proposals openly during the request for proposals process. The action item involves reaching out to legal experts to understand the implications and potential solutions for protecting artists' ideas while maintaining transparency. The

conversation included exploring practices in other cities to gain insights into how they handle the sharing of artist proposals.

- **Public Art Selection Panels. In Section V:**
 - Increase the number of visual artists serving on selection panels from one to two.

A motion to approve an update to Section IV, C: Public Art Committee so that it reads “The PAC will have a total of nine members: three Commissioners, one who serves as committee chair, and six community members. At least two committee members will be visual artists.” Motion by Sara lee Burd and seconded by Shaun Giles. Motion was approved.

A motion to approve an update to Section IV, D: Public Art Committee that removes the requirement that PAC approve selection panel members. Motion by Shaun Giles and seconded by Dr. Cara Robinson. Motion was approved.

A motion to approve an update to Section 5: Selection Panels so that it reads “At least two panel members will be visual artists.” Motion by Dr. Cara Robinson and seconded by Shaun Giles. Motion was approved.

Action Item: Lending Library Selection Panel Approval

This was not voted on since the Public Art Committee Responsibilities was amended, and PAC no longer needs to approve selection panels.

E. Project and Program Updates:

- Lending Library has received great press: [WKRN news](#) and [WKRN articles](#)
 - Positive press coverage for Lending Library
- New Project Coordinator hire
 - A new project coordinator is set to start at the end of January, with excitement about her involvement from the February meeting onward.
 - Arthur Avenue: Anne-Leslie provided an update on the contract negotiation for Arthur Ave. The draft has been agreed upon, reviewed by legal, and is now awaiting the artist's signature after adding certificates of insurance. The delay is due to the artist obtaining proof of general liability insurance. The contract will go through the DocuSign process once all requirements are met. The timeline is slightly behind, but a community meeting is planned for early February. Anne-Leslie mentioned a meeting with legal to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MU)

between Metro Arts and N DOT, addressing technical complexities and ensuring Metro Arts control over the public art portion. An external evaluator will be involved to assess the project independently. The project's complexity, funding details, and the need to protect the artist's time were emphasized. Updates will be provided to NEA despite challenges in direct communication.

- Looby Mural in contract negotiation
- Permanent Supportive Housing in contract negotiation

- Mural Program Updates: Daniel discussed the challenges and considerations surrounding murals and invited Amina Cooper to join the meeting remotely. They highlight the need to address questions such as project success, staff preparation, control measures, and differentiation from other art forms. He emphasized the increasing demand for murals, potential issues with neighborhood input, budgeting concerns, and the questions around using percent funds to manage murals not on metro property. Daniel wants to use external consultants, which Commissioner West agreed with since PAC has already approved this. Singh is navigating varying opinions within the commission and wants to align the project with anti-racism goals. Daniel acknowledged pressure from artists and the upcoming Thrive deadline. Daniel anticipates a significant percent fund budget increase from construction bonds for the stadium. Commissioner West discussed the current status of mural projects, emphasizing the percent fund requirement of work being on public property, permanent, with MA staff project management, and maintenance plans. She said changing an ordinance is not up to PAC, it will need to go to council, which will be a long process. There is no objection to funding murals from percent funds as long as they meet the required criteria. Commissioner West expresses concerns about the communication to Thrive applicants and limits to funding murals in the Thrive program and feels we are walking back into the situation we were in last year. The Chair recommends Director Singh take this question about using percent funds to fund projects on private property to Metro Finance and Metro Legal. There is a recognition of the challenges faced by the department in terms of capacity, and a desire to discuss the matter further in February.
 - Old Hickory Community Center: in design phase
 - Nashville Fairgrounds: installation projected for mid-February
- New Business/Old Business
 - N/A
- Adjourn
 - Chair Commissioner West adjourned meeting at 12:35 p.m.