



METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

Minutes

Public Art Committee

April 11, 2024, 11:00AM-1:00PM

Metro Office Building, Davidson Room

800 President Ronald Reagan Way/800 2nd Ave S

Nashville, TN 37210

METRO ARTS MISSION:

Drive an Equitable and Vibrant Community through the Arts

Committee Members: Campbell West (Chair), Arlene Nicholas-Phillips (Commissioner), Beverly Watts (Commissioner), Sara Lee Burd, Stacey Irvin, Dr. Cara Robinson

Absent: Shaun Giles, Carlton Wilkinson, Leah Dupree Love (MNAC Chair, *ex-officio*), and Daniel Singh (Executive Director, *ex-officio*)

Staff: Anne-Leslie Owens, Masonya Osei, Jesse Ross, and Vivian Foxx

A. Welcome and Call to Order

- Chair West opened the meeting and welcomed new Commissioners Nicholas-Phillips and Watts.
- Chair West announced that Director Singh is on leave and addressed related challenges:
 - "I'd like to address that the executive director will not be attending. As you may have heard, Director Singh is on leave, and it's unclear when he will be returning. In his absence, along with HR, finance, legal concerns, and ethical concerns related to the department and the Board of Commissioners, it makes for a very challenging time for Metro Arts right now. I know that the Commission is working hard to address all these issues. We'll be meeting next week and hopefully have more updates. I just wanted to open that up and see if anybody had any questions about that aspect of things. Just wanted to update everybody on where we are."
- Anne Leslie gave a quick update on status of the public art work as it relates to Metro Finance review. We have several multi-year projects with schedules and commitments in process and we hope can keep all projects on schedule. Questions have arisen about Metro operating expenditures and it's important to note that public art projects are paid primarily from the Percent Fund and not operating. We have 3 contracts making their way through the Finance review process.

B. Public Comments

- No public comments were made.

C. Approval of Minutes

- Approval of the minutes from the February 8, 2024, meeting was postponed to the May meeting.

D. Action Items

1. Bordeaux Gateway Project Budget Increase

- Discussion on the need to increase the Bordeaux Gateway project budget from \$185,000 to \$300,000 due to projected costs.
- Key points included:
 - Participatory budget underfunded and the need to increase substantially is necessary.
 - Question on how the additional \$115,000 was determined. Addressed by referencing similar projects and educated estimates.
 - Consideration of infrastructure issues, like drainage, and additional costs for site work.
- ***Motion to approve the increase the Bordeaux Gateway project artist budget from \$185,000 to \$300,000 made by Commissioner Watts and seconded by Commissioner Nicholas-Phillips. Vote was unanimous and motion approved.***

2. Celestial Falls Budget Increase

- Artist Amber Lelli requested an increase of \$76,845.48 for the Celestial Falls project due to increased material and labor costs.
- Discussion points included:
 - The project has been ongoing for about 2.5 years, with cost increases attributed to inflation and other unforeseen factors.
 - Emphasis on the local economic impact, with 90% of labor from Davidson County and extensive use of local vendors.
 - The project is complex and involves significant community engagement, benefiting local artists and craftsmen.
- ***Motion to approve the increase the budget for Amber Lelli's Celestial Falls project at Donelson Library by \$76,845.48 to account for increased material and labor costs was made by Community member Dr. Cara Robinson and seconded by Community member Sara Lee Burd. Vote was unanimous and motion approved.***

E. Project and Program Updates

- **Lending Library Phase Two**
 - Expressed excitement about Phase Two of the Lending Library program.
 - Noted the program's support for the creative economy by allowing the public to check out local artworks.
 - Mentioned the increase in the purchase price for artworks to \$2,000 to better support artists.
 - Highlighted the accessibility and community impact of the program.

- **Public Art Contract Template Update**
 - Collaboration with finance and procurement to update the public art template.
 - Three contracts making their way through DocuSign:
 - Permanent Supportive Housing: Artist Omari Booker
 - Z. Alexander Looby Community Center Mural: Artist Creative Girls Rock with Elisheba Israel Mrozik
 - Arthur Avenue I-65 Underpass in Elizabeth Park Area: Artist Alexander Braden
 - Clarified that the delay due to the signing authority of the executive director's absence has been resolved.
- **Fairgrounds Project - *Loqui* by Blessing Hancock**
 - Fabrication is underway, with local vendors involved.
 - The project features a 32-foot high structure with community-contributed words.
- **Donelson Library Project - *Reverie* by Wowhaus**
 - A Tennessee marble bench installation creating a civic space for community gathering.
- **Old Hickory Community Center Project**
 - Update on the architect's inclusion of clerestory windows to provide ambient light, addressing previous concerns from committee about interior lighting for the artwork.
- **Lending Library Phase Two Artworks**
 - Update on the 53 artworks selected for the next phase of the Lending Library.
 - Emphasized the importance of supporting local artists and the community.

F. New and Old Business

- Commissioners' Role:
 - Highlighted the importance of supporting staff and deliberating in committee before taking matters to the full Commission.
 - Emphasized the economic impact of public art on both the creative and overall economy.
- Acknowledgment:
 - Commissioners expressed appreciation for staff efforts.

G. Adjournment

Commissioner Chair West adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.



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