

**MINUTES  
Metro Art Board of Commissioners**

**August 19, 2021 12-1:30 p.m.**

**Metro Southeast Building**

*Green Hills Auditorium*

1417 Murfreesboro Pk.

Nashville, TN 37217

**Commissioners Present:** Matia Powell (Vice Chair), Will Cheek (Sec. /Treasurer), Jane Alvis, Ellen Angelico, Dexter Brewer, Marianne Byrd, Clay Haynes, Hope Stringer

**Commissioners Absent:** Sheri Nichols Bucy, Bonnie Dow, Marielena Ramos, Jim Schmidt, Paula Roberts, and Campbell West

**Staff:** Caroline Vincent, Ian Myers, Emily Waltenbaugh, Janine Christiano, Tre Hardin, Anne-Leslie Owens, Grace Wright

**Guests:** Derrick Smith (Metro Legal),Dr. Yog Nepal

**METRO ARTS MISSION:**

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

1. Call to Order & Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m.

1. Arts in Action

Emily Waltenbaugh gave the Commission an update on summer youth programs including DIAL and Opportunity NOW, the launch of the Metro Arts Lending Libraries, and the new Racial Equity in Arts Leadership Cohort.

Vice-chair Powell asked if there were any questions or comments.

1. Executive Director’s Report

Caroline updated the Commission on the Racial Equity in Arts Leadership (REAL) program, a Crossroads training opportunity on October 2nd, and the Strategic Planning progress.

Vice-Chair Powell let the Board know that in advance of the Strategic Planning process

Chair Schmidt would like to undertake some preparation for the process. As part of that, at the September meeting, he has invited Andrea Blackman, Chief Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Manager, and Razel Jones, Workforce Diversity Manager, to speak on their roles and goals.

1. Approval of Minutes: June 17, 2021

Vice-chair Matia Powell asked if there were any questions or proposed changes to the minutes.

***A motion to approve Arts Commission minutes from June 17, 2021 was offered by Commissioner Brewer, Commissioner Byrd seconded, and the motion passed.***

1. Action Items:
   1. FY22 ABC Allocations

Janine Christiano presented to the Commission the recommended allocations for the Arts Build Communities grants, a pass-through grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission. The statistics for FY22 are:

* Metro Arts receives a 15% administration fee for operating the grant program in Nashville-Davidson County;
* There were 21 applicants and 16 were recommended for funding;
* There was $58,043 in total requests and $41,973 in funding available.

Staff and the Grants and Funding Committee recommend with the Tennessee Arts Commission’s approval the following allocations:

* Chinese Arts Alliance of Nashville, “Arts Link”: $2,425.00
* Rejoice Ministries, Inc., “After-School Ballet Class and Youth Development Program for Underserved Youth at Hadley Park Community Center”: $3,412.00
* Walk Bike Nashville, “Artist Programming for Open Streets Nashville”: $3,470.00
* Nashville Youth Jazz Ensemble, “Nashville Youth Jazz Ensemble": $3,430.00
* Conexion Americas, “'Comunidades Floreciendo' (Flourishing Communities): Conexión Américas’ Latin American Flower Project”: $3,430.00
* Theater Bug, “Birthday Wishes for Emilia-A student play”: $3,430.00
* Intersection “Free Contemporary Chamber Music Concerts in Metro Nashville Parks”: $3,367.00
* Turnip Green Creative Reuse, “The Turnip S.E.A.T.: Sustainability, Education, Arts, Transformation Leatherworking Artist Residency”: $3,360.00
* Verge Theater Company, “Black Future Month”: $3,360.00
* Porch Writers' Collective, “Literature and Music - Collaborative Programs by The Porch”: $2,688.00
* Numinous Flux Dance Company, “Numinous Community Workshops and Film Screenings”: $3,290.00
* Chatterbird, “JayVe Montgomery Creative Residency”: $3,255.00
* Unscripted “Improv in Communities Tour”: $3,056.00

Vice-chair Powell opened the floor for discussion.

The Commission asked for clarification about the scoring criteria and how the panelists scored each organization. Staff clarified that the community panelists were given the following scoring criterion for reviewing applications:

* Artistic & Cultural Merit (35 points)
* Community Engagement & Participation (35 points)
* Budget and Financial Support (20 points)
* Operational Practice (10 points)

***A motion to approve the FY22 ABC Awards was offered by Commissioner Angelico, Commissioner Brewer seconded, the motion passed. Commissioner Powell abstained due to conflict of interest.***

* 1. Opportunity NOW Guidelines Revision

Janine Christiano presented the Commission with a proposed update to the FY21 Opportunity NOW Guidelines. Due to unforeseeable circumstances, enrollment for Opportunity NOW was much lower than expected. Due to this, staff is recommending the following language change:

* Current Language: The panelist’s scores will inform funding recommendations. **The funding amount awarded per project is set at $950 per youth served.** This amount will also be based on the number of proposals received and the amount of funds available.
* Proposed Language: The panelist’s scores and final applicant rankings will inform funding recommendations. The award amount will also be based on the number of proposals received and the amount of funds available.

Staff is also working the Metro Action Commission to make sure that future guidelines align with Metro Arts and Metro Action policies and priorities.

Vice-chair Powell opened the floor for discussion.

The Commission asked about the scope of this update. Staff clarified that this action would only affect the FY21 Opportunity NOW Guidelines.

The Commission asked for clarification about how the student-based funding works with organizational planning and budgeting. Staff clarified that they will be in discussion with the Metro Action Commission to determine goals and metrics for FY23.

***A motion to approve a retroactive update of FY22 Opportunity NOW Guidelines was offered by Commissioner Angelico, Commissioner Brewer seconded, the motion passed.***

* 1. Mill Ridge Park Redesign

Tré Hardin presented the Committee with the proposed redesign of the Mill Ridge Park project from Daily Tous Les Jours. He gave an overview of the project scope, the proposed design, budget adjustments, and technical needs.

Vice-chair Powell opened the floor for discussion.

The Committee ask about whether multiple people interacting with the proposed project would be overwhelming. Staff clarified that Daily Tous Les Jours will design specific programming to help keep the various sounds in rhythm and harmony.

The Commission asked for more information regarding the ongoing maintenance of the piece particularly with all of the technical elements. Staff is working with Daily Tous Les Jours, Metro Parks, and the construction team to make sure that there are proper resources for virtual and physical maintenance. Daily Tous Les Jours will be providing a maintenance manual, and Metro Arts also has a fund put aside to take care of permanent public art maintenance.

The Commission asked if the design would be accessible to wheelchair traffic in both directions. Staff clarified that the design should allow but that further clarification about that interaction can be sourced from Daily Tous Les Jours.

The Committee asked for clarification about the source of the music and whether royalties would be paid to artists involved. Staff will discuss this with project partners and update the Commission. The next steps in the process would be clarifying various aspects of the project such as that.

The Committee asked about the cost of maintenance and whether or not it had the potential for an undue financial burden and if Daily Tous Les Jours would be able to provide a projected cost for maintenance. Staff clarified that with previous technology-based artworks, Metro Arts has negotiated extended maintenance agreements with the artists, and if there are catastrophic issues over $5,000 MA would have the ability to use the Percent for Public Art Fund.

The Commission asked if there was an anticipated lifespan. Staff clarified that the piece was considered permanent but that there was a limited lifespan to all public artworks. Daily Tous Les Jours is very experienced with this work and have previous projects that demonstrate longevity.

***A motion to approve DTLJ's design concept and increase budget by $80,000 for Mill Ridge Park was offered by Commissioner Cheek, Commissioner Alvis seconded, the motion passed.***

* 1. Donelson Branch Library Public Art

Anne-Leslie Owens presented the Committee with a new public art proposal for Metro Arts with the new Donelson Public Library construction and renovation. After review, the Public Art Committee recommended that Metro Arts pursue two public art installations.

If approved, the proposed timeline would be:

* Release RFQ – September 2021
* **Selection Panel Approval – September 2021**
* Close RFQ – Mid-October 2021
* Convene Selection Panel – Late October/Early November 2021
* **Approval of Final Artists – November 2021**
* Contract Negotiations – Dec 2021
* Begin Community Engagement and Design Development – Jan 2022

Vice-chair Powell opened the floor for discussion.

The Committee asked for clarification regarding local and national calls. Staff clarified that local calls only included artists in Nashville, Davidson County, and sometimes Middle Tennessee. National calls include that scope but also widen it to include artists from other locations.

***A motion to approve public art projects for the new Donelson Library: 1) a suspended interior public artwork with $150,000 artist budget and a local call to artists and 2) a public artwork for the greenspace with a $250,000 artist budget and a national call to artists was offered by Commissioner Brewer, Commissioner Angelico seconded, the motion passed.***

* 1. Temporary Art Guidelines Revision

Anne-Leslie Owens presented the Commission with a proposed, revised Temporary Art Policy, which covers temporary art (18 months or less) on Metro property. The policy aims to:

* Verify professional artist and fair compensation
* Ensure community engagement and support
* Incorporate maintenance plan with funds and plan for removal

Vice-chair Powell opened the floor for discussion.

The Commission asked for clarifications on any specific changes and if there was a redline document for them to review. Staff clarified that give the number of revisions this is more like a new document.

The Commission requested a redline document for further review before approval.

***A motion to table this action item until the next meeting was offered by Commissioner Powell, Commissioner Cheek seconded, the motioned passed.***

* 1. Artwork Donation to Metro: Kevin Crumbo Collection

Anne-Leslie Owens presented a proposed donation to the Metro Arts Public Art Collection from Metro Finance Director Kevin Crumbo of 8 oil paintings by Lauren Ossolinki. General Services is happy for the paintings to remain where they currently are in the Finance department or to help find a new location for them.

Vice-chair Powell opened the floor for discussion.

The Commission discussed the pros and cons of Metro Arts accepting donations of artwork in terms of human and financial resources and ongoing maintenance. Staff clarified aspects of the Artwork Donations to Metropolitan Nashville policy.

The Commission requested to review the policy and discuss the nuances of artwork donation as a part of strategic planning.

***A motion to approve donation from Kevin Crumbo of 8 oil paintings by artist Lauren Ossolinki was offered by Commissioner Alvis, Commissioner Haynes seconded, the motion passed with 7 in favor and 1 opposed (Brewer).***

The Commission requested that this issue was further discussed during strategic planning.

* 1. Public Art Committee Nomination: Raheleh Filsoofi

Anne-Leslie Owens presented Raheleh Filsoofi to the Commission as the person nominated to take up Alejandro Acierto’s position on the Public Art Committee.

Vice-chair Powell opened the floor for discussion.

***A motion to approve Raheleh Filsoofi to the Public Art Committee for a term of 1 year with the option to extend 2 additional years was offered by Commissioner Angelico, Commissioner Brewer seconded, the motion passed.***

1. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

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Will Cheek (Secretary/Treasurer) Date

Prepared by Grace Wright