



## MINUTES

**Metro Arts Board of Commissioners**

**July 20, 2023, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Metro Southeast Building, Green Hills Room**

**1417 Murfreesboro Pk.**

**Nashville, TN 37217**

**Commissioners Present:** Matia Powell (Chair), Ellen Angelico (Vice Chair), Sheri Nichols Bucy, Marianne Byrd, Will Cheek, Clarence Edward, Janet Kurtz, Leah Dupree Love, Carol McCoy, Diana Perez, Paul Polycarpou, Jim Schmidt, Campbell West, and Daniel Singh (Executive Director, non-voting, *ex-officio*)

**Commissioners Absent:** Dexter Brewer (Secretary), Darek Bell

**Metro Staff Present:** Metro Arts: Chuck Beard, Mollie Berliss, Erika Burnett, Vivian Foxx, Ian Myers, Atilio Murga, Anne-Leslie Owens, Jesse Ross, Jonathan Saad, Nyamal Tuor; Metro Legal: Tessa Ortiz-Marsh; Consultants: Dana Parsons, Justin Laing

**Guests:** Alan Fey, Jess Strauss, Louisa Glenn, Isabel Tipton-Krispin, Janet Yavez, Seth Feman, Jane MaCleod, Alan Valentine, Robyn Majors, Bridget Bailey, Jennifer Haston, Sharon Cheek, Waverly Ann Harris, Laura Amonl, Lee Carrol, Vill Palm, Dexter Evans, Joseph Gutierrez, Nina Adell, Drew Ogle, Sandy Obodzinski, Reverend Venita Lewis, Mike Floss, Kaki Friskics-Warren, Celine Thackston, Amber Banks, William "Bill" Jeffries, Bannin Bouldin, Councilmember Delishia Porterfield

### METRO ARTS MISSION:

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

#### A. **Call to Order, Welcome, and Land Acknowledgement**

- a. Chair Matia Powell called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. She welcomed all in attendance and led those gathered in reading the land acknowledgment.

## B. Public Comment

- a. **Joseph Gutierrez:** Joseph Gutierrez, Executive Director at API Middle Tennessee, addressed the funding scenarios, emphasizing the vital role of arts and culture in the thriving liberation of his community. He urged the commission to prioritize small and BIPOC organizations, pointing out that only 20 cents of every \$100 is allocated nationally to Asian Pacific Islander organizations. He stressed the significance of directing funds towards small and BIPOC organizations that require financial support to achieve broader objectives.
- b. **Nina Adell:** Nina Adell, representing the Immigrants Writes Program in Nashville, advocated for a focus on small and BIPOC organizations in funding allocation. She highlighted the importance of recognizing that within midsize organizations like hers, there are programs serving immigrant communities. She emphasized that neglecting funding for midsize organizations could lead to missing out on supporting immigrant communities. Nina stressed the need for transparency and a holistic approach, urging the council/commissioners not to be shortsighted and to consider the potential impact on smaller programs within midsize ones. She shared her concern about potential losses, such as their creative writing program, and appealed for a comprehensive and transparent funding strategy.
- c. **Drew Ogle:** Drew Ogle, Executive Director of the Nashville Repertory Theatre, referred to the commission meeting in December, where the new funding method was approved. He hired various positions based on the policy but expressed concern that only 2 out of the 12 funding scenarios align with the published policy. Changing directions midway through a grant cycle after the fiscal year has started would have significant negative implications for non-profit organizations. Drew urged the commission, as a major funder, to adhere to the original policy adopted in December, emphasizing the importance of maintaining trust in funders' commitments. He highlighted the potential impact on artists' jobs due to the scenario endorsed by the grant committee.
- d. **Sandy Obodzinski:** Sandy Obodzinski, the Development Communications Director for Humanities Tennessee, located in East Nashville, discussed their prominent literary arts event, the Southern Festival of Books, which benefits 10,000-15,000 attendees with free literary programming. The organization expressed support for equitable policies and funding scenarios. Sandy advocated for aligning the funding policy with the original December commitment. The scenarios presented could substantially reduce funds, potentially up to \$60,000 less for their organization. Acknowledging the challenges faced by BIPOC and smaller organizations in funding, Sandy recognized the advantages of midsize and larger organizations in terms of capacity, reach, and resources. Despite the difficulties, they viewed the presented funding scenarios as initial steps toward necessary radical policies for equality and pledged acceptance and support for these measures.
- e. **Reverend Venita Lewis:** Reverend Venita Lewis, President of the NAACP in Nashville and Executive Director of KEVA Inc. (Keeping Every Vision Alive), echoed previous speakers'

sentiments regarding small organizations' challenges in accessing Metro Arts. Both organizations, integral to Nashville's fabric, find it challenging to engage with Metro Arts. Reverend Louis emphasized that KEVA, a small 501(c)(3) nonprofit, has not received funding in the past two years, reflecting a broader trend within the arts commission. She highlighted the issue of African American applications being rejected and called for urgent consideration of kindness towards minority nonprofits. Reverend Louis urged the arts commission to address the ongoing difficulty in obtaining funding, emphasizing the need for change.

- f. **Mike Floss:** Mike Floss, an artist, rapper, and the Arts and Culture Director for the Southern Movement Committee, an NPO organization in Nashville, introduced their Black Nashville Assembly program, a participatory democracy community organizing project. He emphasized their use of art to support a public safety model and explained the significance of funding for small Black organizations that apply arts within a context of liberation and community engagement. Mike stressed the importance of prioritizing smaller and Black organizations to sustain and expand their impactful work, which involves enriching lives and fostering community connections. He urged the commission to consider these priorities for funding to ensure the continuation and growth of their meaningful initiatives.
- g. **Kaki Friskics-Warren:** Kaki Friskics-Warren, associated with the Maddox Fund, expressed commendation to the arts commission for reevaluating their funding and partnership approaches, acknowledging the inspiring yet challenging nature of this endeavor. She shared a conversation with an executive director her organization had funded for several years, wherein they discussed exploring new relationships and engaging new populations. The director's willingness to cast a broader net was appreciated. Kaki highlighted how the arts expand our imagination and envision the future we strive for, contributing to community growth. She emphasized the positive impact of welcoming new partners, especially smaller ones, to enhance resilience and bring fresh ideas. Kaki encouraged the commission to embrace new perspectives, ideas, and individuals that would facilitate reaching and impacting new communities.
- h. **Celine Thackston:** Celine Thackston, Founder and Artistic Director of Chatterbird, a Nashville-based chamber music ensemble, commended Metro Arts for their efforts and acknowledged the potential benefits for her organization in several funding scenarios. She appreciated Metro Arts' dedication to the process but noted concerns about the limited time provided to the public for informed decision-making, leading to variables and uncertainties. Celine mentioned her participation in the first community editing panel by Metro Arts and expressed disappointment that the assurance of no funding reduction was not upheld for all organizations. She urged the commission and community to reject any scenario that violates this promise in the current year. Drawing from her experience in philanthropy, she emphasized the importance of funding consistency and scalability, supporting both Black work and smaller organizations. Celine encouraged finding a solution that strikes a balance between these priorities.

- i. **Amber Banks:** Amber Banks, a Nashville resident, and parent, expressed her support for funding initiatives that benefit small and Black organizations. She shared her experience with her 6-year-old son's interest in breakdancing and how she found a specialized small organization offering vibrant dance opportunities. Amber emphasized the significance of these small organizations in nurturing a pipeline for creative youth and adults, contributing to Nashville's vibrant multicultural community. She regarded these organizations as essential for the city's future and stressed the importance of adequately funding multicultural artists. Amber underscored the need for fair access to funding to empower all artists within this diverse landscape.
- j. **William "Bill" Jeffries:** Bill Jeffries, Vice President of Development at the National Museum of African American Music, highlighted the unique position of their museum within the funding scenarios. Despite being categorized as large, they have distinct characteristics as a BIPOC-led organization that recently started during the pandemic, and they contribute to rebranding Nashville as a national music hub. Bill emphasized that any reduction in their funding would directly impact two exhibitions, one focusing on historic singers and the other highlighting black composers. He underscored that the funding cut would affect their exhibitions and their efforts in supporting emerging black artists, conducting music therapy research, and their overall organizational sustainability. Bill emphasized the potentially devastating consequences of cutting operating funding for their large yet BIPOC-based organization.
- k. **Banning Bouldin:** Banning Bouldin, a Nashville native, artist, choreographer, and founding member of New Dialect, a contemporary dance organization celebrating its 10th anniversary, shared their experience. New Dialect, based in Nashville, was established by Banning Bouldin to create a sustainable environment for contemporary dance artists in the city. With a 9-year grant history from the arts commission, Banning highlighted the impact of THRIVE funding, enabling the organization to expand its team, framework, and capacity for larger projects. New Dialect's reputation has grown beyond local recognition, becoming a national presence through contemporary dance training, performances, and residencies. Banning referred to the disparity study that revealed the funding and visibility gaps for BIPOC organizations. Supporting THRIVE, Banning emphasized, would be a decisive step towards equity, promoting the growth of BIPOC organizations and enhancing the broader artistic landscape.
- l. **Delishia Porterfield:** Delishia Porterfield, District 29 Council Member representing Southeast Nashville and Antioch communities and Chair of the Minority Caucus for the past 2 years, addressed the commission. Through the disparity study, she emphasized the confirmation of long-known disparities within the Nashville Metro Arts community. The study underscored the urgent need for equity-based funding for BIPOC-led organizations, highlighting that the limited sample size prevented a T-test analysis, yet still revealed the disproportionate funding towards white organizations. Delishia called upon the commissioners to rectify historical injustices by directing funding toward Micro, Small, and Medium cohorts and supporting thrive awards, given the recent advocacy that secured \$2 million for the arts commission. She urged the prioritization of

BIPOC organizations and active efforts to recruit, support, and fund them. Delishia referenced the lingering impact of the highway division in North Nashville and the unfulfilled recognition of Fisk Jubilee Singers in the "Music City" moniker, stressing the need to address current harms to the BIPOC community. She implored the commissioners to focus on equity, using their privilege to uplift others and make a morally just investment. Delishia concluded by requesting funding for the Morris Building, supporting Metro Arts Staff and the CARE committee, and rewriting historical wrongs to establish true equity.

**C. Approval of Minutes: April 20 and May 18, 2023**

*Chair Commissioner Matia Powell offered a motion to approve the April 20th minutes amendment with the correction of Commissioner Janet Kurtz's committee membership, seconded by Commissioner Sheri Nichols Bucy. The motion passed.*

*Chair Commissioner Matia Powell offered a motion to approve the April 20th minutes, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ellen Angelico. The motion passed.*

*Chair Commissioner Matia Powell offered a motion to approve the May 18th minutes, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Campbell West. The motion passed.*

*Commissioner Jim Schmidt made a motion to reconsider the action to approve the last minutes in lieu of asking for an amendment to add Commissioner Carol McCoy's name to the correct committee (Grants & Funding), Chair Commissioner Matia Powell seconded the motion. The motion passed.*

*Chair Commissioner Matia Powell offered a motion to make an amendment to the minutes to correct the committee assignments for Commissioner Janet Kurtz (Public Art Committee) and Commissioner Carol McCoy (Grants & Funding Committee); the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ellen Angelico. The motion passed.*

*Chair Commissioner Matia Powell offered a motion to approve the minutes for April 20, seconded by Commissioner Carol McCoy. The motion passed.*

**D. ACTION ITEM: Bylaws Change to Align with Tennessee Open Meetings Act**

- a. Item D, involving a Bylaws Change to conform with the Tennessee Open Meetings Act, has been postponed to the August Meeting per Metro Legal's advice.

**E. Public Art Committee**

- a. Public Art actions moved to end of meeting to allow for review of grants allocations. See Section I.

**F. Committee on Anti-Racism and Equity**

- a. Grants Allocation Introduction: Overview
  - i. Presented by Executive Director Daniel Singh and CARE Committee Chair Commissioner Ellen Angelico, a strong emphasis was placed on inter-committee collaboration and the significance of the work carried out by the CARE Committee on Anti-Racism and Equity since its inception in 2016. The current funding situation was acknowledged as a challenging outcome stemming from the Metro budget constraints, leading to the need for difficult decisions in grant allocations. The central focus highlighted for commissioners, and all involved was the imperative of bolstering advocacy efforts to prevent a similar funding shortfall in the future. The possibility of additional funding was mentioned, expressing a willingness to establish a capital grant program following a community-led proposal development phase.
  - ii. Efforts made to provide data, comparison studies, and increased advocacy were noted, although the Arts were not prioritized in the recent budget. The commitment to transparency regarding priorities around equity and anti-racism was underlined. The Grants Committee explored various options, with a critical consideration being the allocation of funding to organizations with budgets under \$500K. While progress was seen in the increased number of BIPOC-led arts organizations applying, there is still work to be done to reflect the Metro Nashville population fully.
  - iii. The declaration of racism as a health crisis in other cities and Metro Nashville's establishment of an office of health equity underscored the importance of addressing racism's broader implications. The path forward was equitable funding, aligning with CARE's work and reflecting the organization's commitment to equity. Public input was emphasized throughout various Commission meetings, editing processes, and community engagements, informing the Grants Committee's recommended scenarios which aimed to address identified disparities and move towards a more equitable distribution of funding.
- b. Trickle Down
  - i. The discussion centered on addressing concerns about the "trickle-down effect," where larger-budget arts organizations advocate for individual artists, potentially perpetuating power and funding distribution imbalances. The focus shifted towards not endorsing patron-class or sizable budget arts groups seeking exclusive support without considering existing disparities within the arts community. Equity and transparency remained the guiding principles, with the intent to fund all organizations at FY23 levels contingent on entire city funding.
  - ii. Challenges arose due to incomplete funding in the FY24 budget, necessitating tough choices while upholding equity. The question of who bears the burden, particularly BIPOC individuals and smaller organizations, was raised. The broader context of national movements like Black Lives Matter and MeToo underscored the importance of addressing systemic inequities.

- iii. An amendment involving \$2 million earmarked for the Morris building purchase was discussed, with implications for BIPOC artists and THRIVE initiatives. The necessity for systemic change and confirmation of disparities from various sources reinforced the clear path forward. The potential disbursement of \$2 million depended on final bond sales, and it was highlighted that future funding requirements, estimated at least \$4 million, would need careful consideration. Strategies such as advancing grant applications earlier to support advocacy were suggested, recognizing commissioners' pivotal role in advocacy endeavors.
  - c. In the meeting, equity consultant Justin Laing was introduced, and it was noted that he has been collaborating with the CARE committee and helping to align with recommendations from Andrea Blackman's office. Justin spoke briefly for a minute. Prior to passing the floor to CARE, there was a request for open Commissioner discussion. The floor was then passed to CARE, with Vice Chair Commissioner Ellen Angelico providing context. It was mentioned that anti-racism has been a core priority of CARE since its inception in 2016, with a focus on bringing it into practical application. CARE is supported by the Anti-Racism Transformation Team (ARTt). Commissioner Diana Perez shared her appreciation for improved immigrant community representation in Metro Arts funding. CARE Co-Chair Teree McCormick's recent comment from a CARE meeting was highlighted, noting that staff's efforts were recognized in meaningfully centering community voices and aligning around equity. Justin was asked if he had any additional insights on his collaboration with CARE and Staff. Commissioner Sheri Nichols Bucy then shared recommendations from the Grants and Funding Committee.

**G. Grants and Funding Committee**

- a. Grants and Funding Chair Commissioner Sheri Nichols Bucy put forth a recommendation for the consideration of Scenarios A and B to the entire commission. Furthermore, Scenario J was proposed as an additional option during the full commission meeting.
- b. The next step involved consultant Dana Parsons providing an equity-focused review of these scenarios:
  - i. **Scenario A:** Highly equitable, closes identified disparity, maximize impact for BIPOC applicants, redistributes general operating funds for Micro, Small, and Medium organizations from 24% (in FY23) to 54%.
  - ii. **Scenario B:** Equitable, closes identified disparity, increases impact for BIPOC applicants, redistributes general operating funds for Micro, Small, and Medium organizations from 24% (in FY23) to 52%.
  - iii. **Scenario J:** Highly equitable, closes identified disparity, maximize impact for BIPOC applicants, redistributes general operating funds for Micro, Small, and Medium organizations from 24% (in FY23) to 57%, excludes funding for orgs operating over \$5M, significant mid-size funding increase.
  - iv. **Scenario J2:** Equitable, closes identified disparity, increases impact for BIPOC applicants, redistributes general operating funds for Micro, Small, and Medium

organizations from 24% (in FY23) to 56%, excludes funding for orgs operating over \$5M, significant mid-size funding increase.

- c. Before discussions began, a reminder is given about conflicts of interest. All participants in Metro Arts allocation processes must annually declare affiliations with organizations they or their household members are associated with as employees, board members, or stakeholders. Commissioners with conflicts of interest regarding FY24 applicants are required to recuse themselves from relevant grant allocation deliberations and votes for Thrive and/or General Operating funds. After remarks, the floor opened for conversation, aiming to lead to votes. Straws will be polled, and scenarios will be presented for approval, with denied scenarios requiring amendments for reconsideration. Motions for approving funding scenarios, Thrive, and General Operating funds are sought. A message emphasizes the path towards equity and future progress, culminating in a call for collective equity efforts.

***Chair Commissioner Matia Powell made a motion for a straw poll about moving forward with Scenario A or B.***

***Vice Chair Commissioner Ellen Angelico made a motion to approve Scenario A, and Commissioner Janet Kurtz seconded the motion.***

***There is a call to question to vote.***

***Commissioner Marianne Byrd made a motion to call for the question to vote, and Commissioner Sheri Nichols Bucy seconded the motion, leading to a direct vote to approve Scenario A.***

***No Discussion.***

***Yay: Based on hand raises (Commissioners Paul Polycarpou, Ellen Angelico, Matia Powell, Sheri Nichols Bucy, Marianne Byrd, Clarence Edward, Diana Perez)***

***Nay: Janet Kurtz, Will Cheek, and Campbell West***

***Abstain: Carol McCoy, Leah Dupree Love***

***Recused: None.***

***The Scenario A motion passed.***

Tessa Ortiz-Marsh (Metro Legal) confirmed conflicts of interest relationships.

***Vice Chair Ellen Angelico made a motion to approve Thrive funding in alignment with Scenario A. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheri Nichols Bucy.***

***Yay: By hands (Commissioners Paul Polycarpou, Ellen Angelico, Matia Powell, Leah Dupree Love, Sheri Nichols Bucy, Marianne Byrd, Diana Perez, Campbell West)***

***Nay: Commissioner Will Cheek***

***Abstain: Commissioner Carol McCoy***

***Recused: Commissioner Clarence Edwards and Commissioner Janet Kurtz***



***Commissioner Marianne Byrd made a motion to approve funding for the micro-organizations in alignment with Scenario A, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheri Nichols Bucy.***

***Discussion: With the additional 2M coming in January, the prioritization would be Thrive due to the nature of project funding. First payments for general operating would be reduced and final payments would be sent in January.***

***Yay: Commissioners Leah Dupree Love, Marianne Byrd, Campbell West, Sheri Nichols Bucy, Paul Polycarpou, Clarence Edward, Ellen Angelico, Diana Perez, Matia Powell***

***Nay: Commissioner Will Cheek***

***Abstain: Commissioner Carol McCoy***

***Recused: Commissioner Janet Kurtz***

***Vice Chair Commissioner Ellen Angelico made a motion to approve funding for the small organizations in alignment with Scenario A, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Leah Dupree Love.***

***No discussion.***

***Yay: Commissioners Marianne Byrd, Leah Dupree Love, Campbell West, Diana Perez, Ellen Angelico, Paul Polycarpou, Matia Powell, Clarence Edward***

***Nay: Commissioner Will Cheek***

***Abstain: None***

***Recused: Commissioner Sheri Nichols Bucy and Commissioner Janet Kurtz***

***Vice Chair Commissioner Ellen Angelico made a motion to approve funding for the medium organizations in alignment with Scenario A, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Marianne Byrd.***

***Yay: Commissioners Diana Perez, Campbell West, Marianne Byrd, Matia Powell, Ellen Angelico, Sheri Nichols Bucy, Paul Polycarpou, Leah Dupree Love, Clarence Edward***

***Nay: Commissioner Will Cheek***

***Abstain: Commissioner Carol McCoy***

***Recused: Commissioner Janet Kurtz***

***Vice Chair Commissioner Ellen Angelico made a motion to approve funding for the mid-size organizations in alignment with Scenario A, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheri Nichols Bucy.***

***Discussion: Amounts for each organization are forthcoming.***

***Yay: Commissioners Campbell West, Matia Powell, Sheri Nichols Bucy, Diana Perez, Marianne Byrd, Ellen Angelico, Paul Polycarpou, Clarence Edward, Leah Dupree Love, Matia Powell***

***Nay: None***

***Abstain: Commissioner Carol McCoy***

***Recused: Commissioner Janet Kurtz and Commissioner Will Cheek***

***Vice Chair Commissioner Ellen Angelico made a motion to approve funding for the large organizations, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Leah Dupree Love. No discussion.***

***Yay: Commissioners Campbell West, Leah Dupree Love, Clarence Edward, Diana Perez, Paul Polycarpou, Ellen Angelico, Matia Powell***

***Nay: None.***

***Abstain: Commissioner Carol McCoy***

***Recused: Commissioners Marianne Byrd, Sheri Nichols Bucy, Will Cheek, and Janet Kurtz***

#### **H. Advocacy Committee**

- a. Executive Director Daniel Singh presented: We have an essential action item to approve, which involves the approval of a bylaws change to designate the Advocacy Committee as a Standing Committee. As per the Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission Bylaws, specifically in ARTICLE VII, COMMITTEES, AND TASK FORCES; Section 2. Standing Committees, It is mandated that the Commission shall have certain Standing Committees, including the Executive Committee, Nominating Committee, Grants & Funding Committee, Public Art Committee, and a Committee for Antiracism and Equity. The executive committee has already made the recommendation, so now we just need the commission to make the vote on it.

***Vice Chair Commissioner Ellen Angelico made a motion to designate Advocacy Committee as a standing committee. Commissioner Janet Kurtz seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.***

#### **I. Public Art Committee**

- a. ACTION ITEM: Bordeaux Gateway (Budget, Recruitment, Selection Panel)
  - i. Public Art Collections Manager Anne-Leslie Owens presented a recap of the Bordeaux Gateway project, one of the 2022 Participatory Budget projects. The site of the \$200,000 project budget is a traffic triangle located at Clarksville Highway and Rosa L. Parks Boulevard. In addition to PAC and Commission approval, the artist's design will undergo Nashville Department of Transportation and Tennessee Department of Transportation approval before fabrication. Meetings with stakeholders and neighborhood leaders have taken place and community meetings are in development. A call to artists is set to launch on July 28 and be open for 6 weeks. An artist budget of \$185,000 is proposed to cover design, materials, fabrication, and transportation. This will be an open RFQ/RFP process for artists from Davidson County and adjoining counties with connections to North Nashville and Bordeaux.
  - ii. For the selection panel, 30 applicants have been received, reflecting a diverse mix of ages, backgrounds, and districts. A voting panel of 5-9 members will be selected, each receiving a stipend of \$700 for three scheduled meetings at the

Looby Library. The final selection panel meeting will involve the presentation of design concepts.

- iii. In the discussion, the topic of insurance coverage was raised, particularly regarding incidents on the road. Anne-Leslie confirmed collaboration with Metro Insurance, with general insurance coverage in place. Ian Myers added that Metro has an insurance policy for general issues for use in catastrophic scenarios. Executive Director Daniel Singh appealed to the Commission for increased staffing to expedite project completion for the upcoming year.

***Chair Commissioner Matia Powell made a motion to approve the selection panel slate and public art gateway project at Clarksville Highway and Rosa L. Parks Blvd with \$185,000 artist budget open to artists in Nashville-Davidson County and adjoining counties. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Janet Kurtz and passed unanimously.***

- b. ACTION ITEM: Looby Mural (Budget, Recruitment, Selection Panel)
  - i. Public Art Collections Manager Anne-Leslie Owens presented the Lobby Mural Public Art Project, a second project to come out of the 2022 Participatory Budget. To be located at the Looby Community Center and Library, this initiative will include a prominent mural, a community garden, and new outdoor seating. Detailed investigations involving parks maintenance, art handling, and budget considerations were undertaken, particularly focusing on the mural's textured wall. The launch of an artist call is scheduled to commence tomorrow and will remain open for six weeks. After careful assessment, the decision was made to utilize poly tab, a durable cloth material, for the mural to ensure its longevity. To ensure proper installation, Metro Arts art handling vendor, will oversee the installation process, aligning with our commitment to maintaining commissioned artwork.
  - ii. The artist budget for this project was based on square footage starting at 8 feet from the ground to deter tagging and vandalism. It also factors in that Metro Arts is purchasing polytab, completing wall prep, and installing the completed murals. The \$60,000 artist budget will cover design, painting, materials including UV resistant paint (except for Polytab Mural Cloth), workspace (including rental if needed), community engagement, and project oversight. The project is open to artists from Davidson County and adjoining counties. 26 applicants applied to be selection panelists who would attend three meetings. Ambria Berryhill, manager of Looby Community Center is ready to serve as the Metro Arts representative. Commissioners emphasized the importance of clarifying to potential applicants that the artist's budget from Metro Arts could be allocated towards renting studio space for their creative work and storage.

***Chair Commissioner Matia Powell made a motion to approve the selection panel slate and public art mural project at Looby Library and Community Center with \$60,000 artist budget open to artists in Nashville-Davidson County and adjoining counties. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Will Cheek and the motion passed unanimously.***

- c. ACTION ITEM: Permanent Supportive Housing (Location, Budget, Recruitment)
  - i. Public Art Collections Manager Anne-Leslie Owens introduced the new Metro project under construction for Permanent Supportive Housing. The 5-story structure will provide affordable housing downtown. After considerable review with the design team, staff recommend public art at the retaining wall at Jo Johnston and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and which may extend to the planters at the front and side of the building's entrance. There will be opportunities for an artist to engage with the community, particularly those who have struggled with housing stability. Jesse Ross, our new Public Art Project Coordinator, will be managing this project.
  - ii. During the discussion, Secretary Commissioner Dexter Brewer inquired about the funding model, questioning whether it is a government-funded building and if the art expenses will be covered. Anne-Leslie clarified that the art budget would come from the Metro Percent Fund while Metro General Services is overseeing the construction of the facility and working with other Metro departments to identify what agency will manage it.

***Vice Chair Commissioner Ellen Angelico made a motion to approve the proposed retaining wall and planters' location for public art at Permanent Supportive Housing with \$200,000 artist budget open to Tennessee artists. The motion was seconded by Chair Commissioner Matia Powell and the motion passed unanimously.***

- d. ACTION ITEM: Pilot Mural Project (Budget)
  - i. Discussion regarding this project has been postponed to our August meeting.
- e. ACTION ITEM: Bloomberg Grant Final Application and Site Visits (Budget)
  - i. Executive Director Daniel Singh provided an update: In an effort to enhance our chances of securing the grant, we have allocated a budget of under \$10,000 for consulting services to streamline the extensive application process, which has been notably extensive. This is the extent of the current progress on this matter.
- f. Update: Mill Ridge Park Public Art Project

- i. Public Art Project Manager Atilio Murga provided an update on the Mill Ridge Park Public Art Project. He reported that while it nears completion, some adjustments are necessary to complete the project before the dedication. Power was not available to the artwork when the artists were scheduled to complete their final programming test of the artwork. An additional \$6,300 is required to cover artist flights and additional site work. Please disregard the dedication date mentioned in your materials, as a slight delay may push it to August or later.

**L. Executive Director's Report**

- a. Updates on various matters, including Hiring, Capacity, Cultural Planning, and others, which were to be presented by Daniel Singh in the Executive Director's Report, have been postponed to the August Meeting.

**L. New/Old Business**

- a. The Joint Meeting is August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- b. The deliberation regarding the Chair's appointment for the Nominating Committee has been rescheduled to the August meeting.

**M. Adjourn Meeting**

- a. Chair Matia Powell adjourned the meeting at 2:53 PM, with Vice Chair Commissioner Ellen Angelico seconding the motion for adjournment.