

Raleigh Arts Commission
January 13, 2015
5:30 p.m., Room 237

Present: Chanda Branch, Jason Craighead, Linda Dallas, Gene Davis (by phone), Laurent de Comarmond, Clyde Lundy, Andy Martin, Nancy Novell and Sarah Powers

Absent: Joe Cebina, Joanne Sullivan and Stan Williams

Staff: Jerry Bolas, Executive Director, Office of Raleigh Arts
Scott Payne, Assistant Director, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department
Cassie Schumacher-Georgopoulos, Senior Planner, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department

Call to Order

Chair Lundy called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Approval of December 9 Minutes

Chair Lundy invited review of the minutes of the December 9 meeting. Laurent de Comarmond moved and Nancy Novell seconded approval of the minutes, and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

Raleigh Arts Plan

Cassie Schumacher-Georgopoulos reported that the Arts Plan Steering Committee met on December 18 for a Community Conversation at Bida Manda. Members of the Steering Committee (as well as members of the Arts Commission) are implored to convene Community Conversations within their areas of influence at venues of their choice – there is no need to use a city facility or have city staff present. The deadline to complete Community Conversations is March 31.

The Steering Committee will meet again on January 28, when David Plettner-Saunders, from CPG, will be returning to facilitate separate focus groups with the executive directors, artistic directors, education directors and board presidents of our funded arts partners. Linda Dallas noted that his trip was funded with arts partner capacity-building funds in part because there is a benefit to convening the arts partners so that they may share concerns and ideas with peers whom they may not otherwise encounter.

Engagement Week is scheduled for March 9-12. The consultants will facilitate focus groups and conduct interviews during the days, town hall meetings will be held on three evenings, with a kickoff by Mayor McFarlane on March 9, and the Steering Committee will meet again on March 12.

Cassie also reported that Terri Dollar, from Artsposure and also a member of the Steering Committee, engaged Myriad Media in gathering input at First Night. More than 40 folks offered views of the arts in Raleigh on camera. The resulting videos will be edited into a short presentation for screening during Engagement Week.

Sarah Powers asked about the Community Conversation held at the last Commission meeting and shared her experience hosting several Community Conversations – they are interesting and fun!

Cassie continued by reporting on the statistically valid survey for the arts plan that will be undertaken by Ron Vine, the same vendor who managed a comparable survey for the PRCR System Plan. The survey will be mailed in late January.

Block Art Gallery

Jerry Bolas reported that the National Arts Project exhibition will be deinstalled on January 16. Selections from the Municipal Art Collection and Art-On-the-Move posters will be installed the following week. Meanwhile, the Block Gallery Coordinator consultant position was posted January 9 with an application deadline of January 23. The short-term focus after hiring a consultant will be to mount shows with the artists previously selected for exhibitions. Brochures will be downsized, if published at all; there will be no educational programming like the “Enlighten Me!” collaboration with the Pullen Art Center. The Art Centers will program the 2nd floor display cases. The consultant will assist Kim with public art projects as needed. The long-term vision is to establish the full-time position of Curator of Exhibitions and Collections that will incorporate responsibility for the Municipal Art Collection.

Gene Davis reported that this plan advanced in the direction desired by the Art, Education and Collections Committee and thanked Scott for his help moving forward.

Committee & Board Reports

Executive Committee

Chair Lundy reported that the January 6 meeting was cancelled.

Advocacy & Communications

Andy Martin encouraged Commissioners to attend the State of the Arts and Culture event, sponsored by the United Arts Council, at the North Carolina Museum of Art on Wednesday (January 14). James Maxey, the new Piedmont Laureate, will be introduced at that event. Andy also encouraged attendance at the Gifts of Gold exhibition of student art at Memorial Auditorium on March 3 (reception at 4:30 and presentation at 5:00). He also reported that Stan Williams, Joanne Sullivan and he would be contacting Commissioners to assist them in committing to holding Community Conversations during February.

Art, Education & Collections

Gene Davis reported that the Committee did not meet in December; the next meeting will be January 29.

Grants Committee

Linda Dallas reported that 31 grant applications were received by the January 5 deadline: 1 requesting innovation support, 12 requesting program support, and 18 requesting operating support. She explained that this was fewer than previous years because of the change in requirements that an organization must choose to apply for either program support or operating support. One new organization has applied, Peace University, and two did not reapply due to changes in their circumstances, Raleigh Review and Raleigh Dance Theatre.

Linda updated Commissioners on strategies developed to use capacity building funds for arts partners. The first investment is to bring David Plettner-Saunders to Raleigh to conduct four focus groups with the executive directors, artistic directors, education directors and board presidents of arts partners.

Two other capacity building initiatives that are being explored address ADA accessibility (assessment of arts partners' websites and the development of a working group around an accessibility conference in Washington, D.C.) and support for arts partners to obtain and learn how to better understand and use participation statistics.

Public Art & Design Board

Laurent de Comarmond reported that the PADB approved the artist selection panel as well as the RFQ for public art at the Sandy Forks Road Widening project. A national call to artists is live and will close on February 27. Artwork will focus on the bioretention areas and stories of Raleigh's water history and modern water conservation methods.

This month Douwe Blumberg will present concept designs for art at Fire Station 12 and Andy Dufford will present new concept designs for art at the Critical Public Safety Facility.

Executive Director Report

Jerry Bolas reminded Commissioners of the State of the Arts and Culture event, sponsored by the United Arts Council, at the North Carolina Museum of Art on January 14.

Public Comments

None.

New/Other Business

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Submitted by Jerry Bolas