

**Raleigh Arts Commission**  
**March 26, 2015**  
**5:30 PM, RMB 303**

Present: Chanda Branch, Joe Cebina, Jason Craighead, Linda Dallas, Gene Davis, Laurent de Comarmond, Clyde Lundy (Chair), Andy Martin (by conference call), Sarah Powers, Joanne Sullivan (by conference call)

Absent: Nancy Novell (Vice-Chair), Stan Williams

Staff: Jerry Bolas, Executive Director, Office of Raleigh Arts  
Sarah Corrin, Arts Grant Coordinator  
Joyce Munroe, Budget Management Service Director, Budget Office  
Scott Payne, Assistant Director, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department  
Sandi Sullivan, Administrative Assistant, Office of Raleigh Arts

**Call to Order**

Chair Lundy called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM and thanked everyone for their flexibility in rescheduling.

**Approval of February Minutes**

Gene Davis made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Joanne Sullivan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Action Items**

**Grants Capacity Building (CB) Initiatives for 2014-2015:**

Linda reported the following:

- We spent a portion of the money set aside for CB on the four focus groups for arts partners held in January. The Grants Committee is submitting for consideration a proposal to allocate the remaining funds.
- CB is geared toward helping arts organizations that struggle to learn and become stronger.
- Goals of CB are:
  - To benefit all arts partners
  - To identify and address weaknesses common to all arts partners
  - To encourage learning by doing
- The two main areas of concentration for the initiatives are ADA Accessibility and Market & Arts Participation Demographics.
- The breakdown of all components was reviewed and a budget was provided for each proposal. Linda reminded the Commissioners that Phase III of Market & Arts Participation Demographics, which involves conducting a workshop on data collection at festivals, is on the wish list for the future and not included in this proposal.
- Regarding the ADA Learning Community proposal, the Duke Energy Center is sponsoring a participant from their organization to attend the LEADS conference in addition to the arts partners we may fund, and the city's ADA coordinator plans to be a part of the learning community initiative. CB is already becoming a collaborative effort.

Clyde asked what the timeline for implementation of the CB initiatives is. Linda indicated the initiatives would begin this fiscal year, but in order to ensure maximum participation of our arts partners, we intend to spread events out over time. An exact timeline has yet to be determined. Jerry Bolas stressed the importance of encumbering the funds this fiscal year. Gene Davis made a motion to approve the expenditure of the Capacity Building funds set aside last year, for use in fiscal year 2015, in the way set forth in the distributed document. Joe Cebina seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Grants Committee FY 16 Funding Allocation Recommendations:**

Linda reported the following:

- We have \$1,753,971 available for grants this year, \$33,482 more than last year.
- We received \$30,000 in additional requests for funding in this year's applications.
- The Committee is recommending \$1,660,515 in allocations, which is comparable to funding recommended last year.
- We had one new applicant this year, William Peace University. The Committee recommends they not be awarded funding this year, but encourages them to apply next year.

- The Committee is recommending \$93,456 in Capacity Building for FY16, and would like to designate a substantial portion of that money as Technical Assistance Grants, which would occur on a mid-year cycle. Organizations would be able to apply for these special grants which would help them to address areas of scoring weakness, for example: finance, marketing, board training, diversity, or strategies for reaching new audiences. Linda stressed that we want to help our organizations address problems and thrive.

Gene Davis thanked the Committee and Sarah Corrin for doing an extraordinary job. He expressed concern that the per capita budget is growing and yet the funding allocated to grants organizations is decreasing. He urged Commissioners to reach out to organizations to encourage those not being funded to apply and to encourage those receiving funding to step up their game.

Gene proposed an amendment to funding recommendations: that the line item labeled “Capacity Building & Education for Nonprofits” be changed to “Special Grant Programs, Capacity Building, and Technical Assistance Grant Programs” and further that the Grants Committee reconvene to determine how to spend the money and offer recommendation to the full Commission, for approval by the Commission, of how the \$93,456 will be spent. Laurent de Comarmond seconded and the amendment passed unanimously.

Gene made a motion to approve the 2015-2016 Grant Funding Allocations with the approved amendment. Joe Cebina seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Linda added that it was a huge honor to lead the grants process.

### **FY 16 Funding Reallocation Contingency Plan**

Tabled for discussion until next month.

### **Committee/Board Reports**

#### **Executive Committee**

Clyde Lundy reported that he held his first Community Conversation last night with Commission alumni. Many participants expressed a desire to see a partnership between the city and the state. Jerry Bolas added that the deadline for Community Conversations has been extended until the end of April, but the online survey will conclude at the end of the month.

#### **Advocacy & Communications**

Andy Martin reported the following:

- Encourage people to hold Community Conversations through the end of April.
- He held a Community Conversation a few weeks ago that more than 30 people attended.
- Artspllosure will be held over three days this year, May 15-17. Art-On-The-Move buses and the *Before I Die* wall are both back. Volunteers are needed. Email Belva regarding shift availability.
- The Piedmont Laureate has programs upcoming at the Sertoma Art Center and Wake County Public Libraries.
- We received excellent proposals for the Pullen Arts Center expansion/renovation project.
- The Sertoma Art Center is undergoing renovations.
- Thank you to Laurent and Clyde for attending Pieces of Gold.

#### **Art, Education & Collections**

Gene Davis reported the following:

- They discussed Block II with David McConnell, and considered options for screen size and whether to run projections both day and night, or only at night. They agreed that the day/night option using a larger screen was preferable.
- They discussed Bland Hoke’s Banjostand at IBMA and will bring a recommendation to the full Commission next month to approve his proposal for 2015, which will include reinstallation and improved lighting.
- The Art-On-The-Move buses will be unveiled at Artspllosure.
- Joe Cebina and Kim Curry-Evans have been working with the Glenwood South Neighborhood Association on their crosswalks project on Glenwood South. The City has agreed to allow three crosswalks, but we do not have official approval yet.

### **Grants Committee**

Linda Dallas reported that during the grant interview process we received a letter from NC Master Chorale indicating they had concerns about their interview. Linda has contacted them and offered to meet with them at the conclusion of the process. The city of Houston has been in consultation with the arts office seeking more information on innovation grants.

### **Public Art & Design Board**

Laurent de Comarmond reported that the Board approved the revised design for the Critical Public Safety Facility presented by artist Andy Dufford. Tomorrow, Laurent will be chairing the Sandy Forks Rd. Widening Project selection committee, where they will have 42 proposals to consider.

Clyde added that Thomas Sayre needed to resign from PADB due to a conflict of interest with Clearscapes. A few members will be rotating off PADB soon. Please send suggestions for new members to Clyde, as he will be appointing them.

### **Executive Director Report**

Raleigh Arts Plan report is deferred until next month, but engagement week went very well.

Sandi Sullivan reported that the per capita budget is up to date, balanced, and has been reconciled with the figures in the City's budget system. Jerry said we will discuss the budget in more detail at the next meeting.

### **Public Comments**

None.

### **Other Comments**

Gene informed the Commissioners that four of our public art projects have been submitted for a national award.

Sarah Powers reiterated the success of Raleigh Arts Plan engagement week and the incredible effort that went into it. Scott Payne added that Cassie Schumacher-Georgopoulos and Jerry prepared a brief update on the Engagement week that went to City Council over the weekend.

### **New/Other Business**

None.

### **Adjournment**

Gene made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joe seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Submitted by Sandi Sullivan