

Raleigh Arts Commission
August 11, 2015
5:30 PM, RMB 305

Present: Joe Cebina, Jason Craighead, Linda Dallas, Gene Davis (Vice-Chair), Clyde Lundy, Andy Martin, Nancy Novell (Chair), Gail Perry, Sarah Powers, Stan Williams

Absent: Chanda Branch, Laurent de Comarmond, Joanne Sullivan

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

Call to Order

Chair, Nancy Novell, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM. Nancy recognized Clyde Lundy for his service on CORAC and presented him with a certificate of award. Nancy introduced our newest Commissioner, Gail Perry, and asked her to provide a brief background bio. The Commissioners then introduced themselves.

Approval of June 9 Minutes

Gene Davis made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Sarah Powers seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

Raleigh Arts Plan (RAP) Draft Recommendations

Cassie Schumacher-Georgopoulos reported the following:

- We have entered the second phase of the process and CPG is now taking all the data gathered and formulating draft recommendations.
- CPG was here July 20-21 and held workshops with Raleigh Arts staff, PRCR staff, and the Steering Committee to review draft recommendations and identify top priorities.
- Over 4,000 participated in engagement events during the data collection process.
- Top priorities were identified from the surveys conducted:
 - More public art
 - More connectivity and collaboration
 - More arts and cultural events in neighborhoods
 - Inclusion-opportunities to expose more residents to the arts
 - Overwhelming call for a one-stop information source on the arts
 - More venues and performance spaces
 - Artist spaces conducive to collaborationOverall the community was highly satisfied with the quality of arts and cultural offerings.
- What do residents/respondents want more of?
 - Live performances in non-traditional venues
 - Festivals
 - Live performances at concert halls or theatres
 - Creative co-working or making spaces.
- Top three priorities for the City of Raleigh action items were:
 - Support for non-profit and cultural organizations
 - Support and development of artists
 - To provide more art in public spaces
- There was overwhelming support from the public for the City to play a major part in supporting and expanding arts and cultural events. CPG found this to be unique to Raleigh.
- The following was developed as the RAP Vision: "Every person in Raleigh has the opportunity to lead an expressive and creative life on their own terms."

Based on the outcomes of meetings with CPG in July, a draft of RAP Recommendations and Starting Points was compiled. Jerry Bolas reviewed the handout in detail and grouped the recommendations into five major categories:

- Community Initiated Projects
- Universal exposure to the arts for youth
- Public Art
- Marketing and branding
- Funding, including a philanthropy initiative
- Jerry suggested the Commissioners keep two questions in mind as they review the recommendations:
 - Where is your enthusiasm?
 - What might be missing?
- Planned timeline is as follows:
 - CPG will compile input and deliver a revised draft of the plan in September.
 - Public review of full draft plan begins October 5, 2015 for 30 days.
 - A town hall meeting will be held in October.
 - The Steering Committee will recommend the draft RAP in November.
 - CORAC and PADB will recommend the draft RAP in December.
 - City Council will have a work session on January 19, 2016.
 - City Council could adopt the RAP as early as February 2, 2016.

FY 15 & FY16 Budget Update

Jerry reported that we closed out FY 15 with less than \$200 remaining in per capita. It is the best closeout to a fiscal year we have had in several years. Review of the FY16 budget was deferred to the next meeting due to time constraints.

Action Items

Cool Walkings Artist Selections

Gene Davis reported that Crosswalks on Glenwood South is the first Citizen Initiated Art Project to go through our newly implemented system. Participants had nothing but good things to say about the process. He thanked Joe Cebina and Kim Curry-Evans for their leadership on the project. Three finalists and two alternates were chosen by the selection committee and AEC strongly recommended them for acceptance by CORAC.

Andy Martin made a motion to accept the designs as presented. Stan Williams seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Joe Cebina added that we received strong support and participation from the Public Works Department.

Bland Hoke, *Banjostand* 2015 Concept

Gene Davis reported the following:

- Last year *Banjostand* at IBMA was hugely successful.
- This year, the plan is to re-install the sculpture with enhancements.
- Bland Hoke submitted a detailed plan which includes integrated spotlights and LED diffusers, illuminating the pot arches from within. There will also be feathers added to enhance the lighting effects.
- There will be a local professional photographer on site 2-3 hours/day taking pictures using *Banjostand* as the backdrop and a free props/costumes station during the day as well.
- The FY16 budget for the project is \$25K.

Andy Martin made a motion to approve the enhanced *Banjostand* as presented. Sarah Powers seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Ilan Averbuch, *Communicating Vessels*, Acquisition Recommendation

Gene Davis shared images of the completed sculpture, located at the Downtown Remote Ops facility. Both PADB and AEC recommend the piece for acceptance into the Municipal Art Collection (MAP).

Jason Craighead made a motion to accept *Communicating Vessels* into the MAP. Linda Dallas seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Technical Assistance Grant Program

Linda Dallas reported the following:

- The Committee met twice since the last CORAC meeting. The first meeting was to determine the focus for FY16 Capacity Building.
- Based on the review of the grant applicant comprehensive scores, three key areas of need were identified.
 - ADA Accessibility: Need to continue capacity building efforts initiated in FY 15.
 - Cultural Diversity (board, staff, and participants): An area of weakness for many organizations.
 - Evaluation: The City took a look at the entire grants program two years ago and set the goal of connecting funding outcome-based evaluations.
- The Committee came up with an outline overview for Technical Assistance (TA) Grants. Specific grant guidelines are still being written and the goal is to have the first round of applications due for these grants by October 15.
- For FY 16, total Capacity Building funds are \$93K. The Committee is suggesting a breakdown of \$42K for TA Grants, leaving \$51,466 for programs, which is slightly less than what was spent in FY15.
- The proposed TA Grant breakdown is as follows:
 - \$12K for Professional Development (\$500 per grant)
 - \$14K for Organizational Development (\$2000 per grant)
 - \$16K for ADA Accessibility (\$750 cap per grant)
 - Organizations can apply for up to four TA grants in any combination of categories for up to a total of \$3500.
- The Committee wanted to offer as many grants as possible while providing enough money to actually accomplish tangible goals. The cap amounts in each category will be mutable depending on the number and type of applications received. The City's cap will still be in effect and no organization will receive more than 25% of their total budget.
- There will be two opportunities during the year to apply for TA Grants, fall and spring. These grants will be open to all non-profit arts organizations, not just current arts partners. They may serve as an entry into the larger grants program, especially for smaller organizations.

Joe Cebina made a motion to accept the Technical Assistance Grant Program as presented. Gene Davis seconded and the motion carried unanimously, with Sarah Powers abstaining from the vote.

Committee/Board Reports

Executive Committee

Nancy Novell reported that she had spoken with everyone regarding Committee assignments. Linda will serve as Chair of the Grants Committee. Jason and Chanda will also serve on Grants. Gene Davis will serve as Chair of Art, Education, & Collections Committee (AEC). Joe Cebina, Andy Martin, and Stan Williams will also serve. Sarah Powers will serve on the RAP Steering Committee and when that work is completed, she will serve on AEC. Laurent de Comarmond is the Public Art & Design Board representative. Advocacy and Communications is now an ad hoc committee and will convene as needed. Andy Martin will serve as chair. Gene Davis and Joanne Sullivan will also serve.

Art, Education & Collections

Gene Davis reported the following:

- Art Along Blount Street was a huge success.
- The Block Gallery selection committee convened and selected 17 artists from 65 submissions for the 2016-2017 exhibitions.

Grants Committee

Linda Dallas reported FY15 Capacity Building Initiatives updates:

- There was a *Getting to Know Your Participants* workshop held in June. Fourteen organizations participated and 85% of them took a survey in which the majority rated both workshop and instructor excellent. 100% of participants said they would recommend the workshop to others. The last part of this initiative is the data collection project that five organizations are participating in. NC Theatre had to drop out of the project and has been replaced by Arts Together.
- The ADA Learning Community just returned from the LEAD Conference in Washington, DC. Sarah Corrin reported that the group was extremely enthusiastic. We had one of the largest groups in attendance. The group had breakfast with the JFK Center Director of Accessibility and she had not heard of the learning community concept before. She asked if the group would come back and make a presentation about their experiences at next year's conference.

- The Web Accessibility 101 webinar is coming up in September. All ADA Learning Community members will be participating. All arts partners have also been notified. The webinar program is already half full and has not yet been announced to the public.

Public Art & Design Board

Jerry Bolas reported the following for Laurent de Comarmond:

- The Board reviewed the list of new CIP projects and chose two projects to allocate the half percent for public art funds to, Chavis Community Center and Lake Johnson.
- Eric Lamb, from Transportation and Planning, is working with NCDOT on the rebuilding of the Peace St. and Wade Ave. bridges over Capital Blvd. He is trying to persuade NCDOT to add design enhancements to the bridges rather than erecting only the usual concrete structures. The City would pay for the enhancements. He presented ideas to the Board for endorsement and solicited input.
- The Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts project has been reactivated. There is a small amount of money available for public art. The idea is to use the concrete pedestal site on the corner of Salisbury and South Streets as a new site for the Acorn sculpture. The sculpture will need to be relocated anyway due to the Moore Square renovations. The public art funds would be used to commission a new setting for the Acorn with enhanced lighting, etc.
- The Southeast Raleigh Tennis Center project is on permanent hold due to lack of funding.

Executive Director Report

None.

Public Comments

None.

New/Other Business

Nancy announced that Bob Rankin will be inducted into the Raleigh Hall of Fame at an event to be held in October. She passed around a copy of the invitation and encouraged representation from CORAC at the event.

Scott Payne distributed copies of the PRCR Annual Report and thanked the Commissioners for their volunteer service to the City. He also reported that the planning process for Dix Park will commence in the near future.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM

Submitted by Sandi Sullivan