

**Raleigh Arts Commission**  
**March 29, 2016**  
**5:30 PM, RMB 305**

Present: Chanda Branch, Jason Craighead, Linda Dallas, Gene Davis (Vice-Chair), Laurent de Comarmond, Andy Martin, Nancy Novell (Chair), Gail Perry, Sarah Powers, Stan Williams

Absent: Joe Cebina, Joanne Sullivan,

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

**Call to Order**

Chair, Nancy Novell, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM.

**Approval of February 9 Minutes**

Laurent de Comarmond made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Sarah Powers seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Action Items**

**Municipal Art Collection Donation and Purchases**

Gene Davis presented a piece by Gail Stott Lowry, pastel on pastel paper, offered as a gift to the city. He reported that the AEC Committee was recommending it for acceptance into the Municipal Art Collection (MAP). Linda Dallas made a motion that the piece be accepted into the collection. Chanda Branch seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Gene presented two pieces from the Block Gallery exhibition, *Excavations from Nothingness: Ibis Again* by Harriet Hoover and *Functional Shift #11* by Wendy Collin Sorin. He reported that the AEC Committee recommended both pieces for purchase and addition to the MAP. Sarah Powers made a motion to purchase both pieces and accept them into the MAP. Andy Martin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Gene reported that Artspace commissioned fifty sets of eight works each, created by local artists for a stipend, to be sold for \$350 each as a fundraising effort for Artspace. Images of the work were distributed as part of the meeting packet. Sarah Powers made a motion to purchase the set (eight pieces). Laurent de Comarmond seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**FY17 Grants Committee Allocation Recommendations**

Linda Dallas reported the following:

- Total per capita allocation for FY 17 is \$2,199,480. Total allotted for grants is \$1,792,930, an increase over last year.
- Ratings were up for grant applicants across board by 3%. The Grant Committee believes the increase is due in large part to capacity building efforts.
- Several of the arts organizations are growing, as are their budgets, so they were able to request more funding.
- The Grants Committee is recommending allocating \$130,000 more than last year.
- Four new organizations applied for funding, but that was not the cause for the increase, as the Committee voted not to fund three of them due to poor scores.
- Triangle Lebanese Society and Meredith College both submitted substantially incomplete applications. Raleigh St. Patrick's Day parade did not provide sufficient information regarding the artistic merit of their performers. They also did not submit a clear budget. It was not possible to determine which funds were being used for the parade and which ones were being used for the festival.
- There will be no funds available for capacity building next year due to increased demand.

Following a detailed discussion, Gene Davis made a motion to approve the FY17 grant allocation recommendations. Stan Williams seconded and the motion carried with Sarah Powers abstaining from the vote.

### **FY17 Arts Grant Contingency Plan**

A copy of the contingency plan was distributed and reviewed. Linda discussed last year's plan and explained why changes were made this year. Since no money is available for capacity building for FY17, the Committee decided that any grant funds returned to the city would be used for that purpose.

Gene Davis made a motion to approve the FY17 Arts Grant Reallocation Contingency Plan. Laurent de Comarmond seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **FY16 Capacity Building Initiatives**

Linda reported that the first initiative for this fiscal year was the technical assistance grants (TAG's). \$10K was awarded during the fall cycle. The deadline for the spring cycle is April 1. The goals for capacity building are to develop programming that benefits all Raleigh arts partners and to focus on areas of comparative weakness for all arts partners, namely ADA Accessibility and Cultural Equity/Diversity.

Handouts detailing proposed initiatives and a complete budget breakdown were distributed and reviewed.

There are two initiatives that fall under ADA Accessibility component of capacity building:

1. Universal Access and the Arts Week
2. Arts Access Cohort II
  - a. 2016 Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD) Conference
  - b. Extend the ADA Learning Community for another year and double participation

There are three initiatives that fall under the Cultural Equity component of capacity building:

1. Professional Development-Arts Partners. The North Carolina Theatre Conference will be held for the first time in Raleigh in July of this year and has an "Equity in the Arts" theme.
  - a. NCTC Convention Key Note speech-Teresa Eyring
  - b. Engaging Diverse Communities Workshop-build upon concepts covered by Teresa Eyring
2. Professional Development-Theatre Organizations.
  - a. Professional development grants would be made in order to allow each organization to send up to six staff or board members to NCTC in July.
3. Arts equity presentation for CORAC, PADB, and Office of Raleigh Arts Staff by Teresa Eyring.

Linda reviewed each of the components in detail, which included comprehensive schedules and projected costs. The total projected cost of all initiatives is \$44,500. After the spring TAG's are awarded and funding balance can be determined, there are other tentative programs that are currently under review for possible implementation.

### **Committee/Board Reports**

#### **Executive Committee**

Nancy Novell reported that due to a City Council work session conflict, Kay Crowder, CORAC council liaison, is currently unable to attend Commission meetings. Nancy suggested moving both CORAC and Executive Committee meetings one week to enable Councilwoman Crowder to participate in meetings. The new schedule would move Executive Committee meetings to every second Tuesday at noon beginning April 12 and move CORAC meetings to every third Tuesday at 5:30 beginning April 19. It was agreed to try the new schedule for six months.

Nancy also reported the following:

- Funding implementation for the Raleigh Arts Plan requires Commission advocacy. Arts staff is currently crunching numbers and advocacy will be discussed at the next Executive Committee and CORAC meetings.
- The Block Gallery opening for *Navigating To + Fro* will be Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00, which will also be Jerry's retirement party.
- Jason Craighead and Nancy Novell's terms on the Commission have been extended for another year.
- Nancy Olson, owner of Quail Ridge Books, passed away. She was a former Medal of Arts winner.
- Belva Parker is convening the Medal of Arts Committee. Gene Davis, Chanda Branch and Nancy Novell have been asked to serve.

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

Gene Davis reported that the new Block Gallery Exhibition, *Navigating To + Fro*, has been installed and will be up for April and most of May.

### **Grants Committee**

Linda Dallas reported that the deadline for the spring cycle of Technical Assistance Grants is April 1. The deadline for ADA Learning Community applications is quickly approaching in mid-April.

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

Laurent de Comarmond reported the following:

- Artist Brad Goldberg, and PRCR project manager Grayson Maughn presented the concept design for Moore Square, which was approved by PADB.
- There will be a presentation on the Moore Square project at next month's CORAC meeting.
- The artist selection panel for Chavis Memorial Park was approved.
- Advocacy for the Half-Percent for Art program is on the agenda for the next PADB meeting. Clymer Cease, Thomas Sayre, and Brian Starkey have been invited to speak about the half percent program. Mayor McFarlane has expressed support for an increase to the half-percent funding so that we are more closely in alignment with comparable cities.

Stan Williams requested an update on the Capital Blvd. project and asked that the *Light+Time Tower* location be considered and discussed. Gene Davis reported that the sculpture has appreciated significantly since its acquisition. Jerry added that the conversation could be joined with PADB as part of a public art master plan which is called for in the RAP.

### **Executive Director Report**

Jerry Bolas reported the following:

- City Council has a new committee structure. Jerry attended the first meeting of the City Council's Economic Development and Innovation Committee, which includes the arts. The focus was on two of the items in the city's economic development toolkit: targeted areas for economic development and facade grants. Roberta Fox from the UDC proposed that facade grants be expanded to address placemaking, specifically art murals, parklets, and pop-ups.
- Jerry has had several meetings with Damien Graham, the new Director of Public Affairs. City Council has been encouraging Damien to do everything he can to promote the arts in the city.

### **Public Comments**

None

### **New/Other Business**

Scott Payne reported that the application period for the Executive Director position has closed. There were 127 applications submitted. 86 were qualified applicants. Nancy Novell and Laurent de Comarmond will serve on the search committee.

Scott also reported that PRCR has hired a planner for the Dorothea Dix project, Kate Pearce, who would be able to make a presentation on the project at a future CORAC meeting.

Gail Perry introduced that idea of a "giving day" for the arts in Raleigh. She solicited input regarding how the funds would be distributed. Sarah Powers mentioned Power to Give, a crowdfunding tool utilized by the United Arts Council. Nancy reminded everyone that the RAP calls for the establishment of foundation for funding of the arts.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM

Submitted by Sandi Sullivan