

GREENSBORO CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING
February 14th, 2021; 5:30pm
Meeting held virtually

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Bender, Catina Bergevin, Juliette Bianco, Duane Cyrus, Mignon Elkes, Leigh Ann Little, Victoria Milstein, Janine Robledo, Naomi Woods

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Ryan Deal, Josh Sherrick

OTHER SPEAKERS PRESENT: None

WELCOME: Chairman Doug Bender, called the meeting to order at 5:33pm, and welcomed the Commission and attendees.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Updates on Creative Greensboro projects:

- a. Mr. Deal presented an update regarding Creative Greensboro's (4) music ensembles, Philharmonia of Greensboro, Greensboro Concert Band, Choral Society of Greensboro, and the Greensboro Big Band – each of which are underway for the Spring semester. Deal included a review of upcoming spring OPUS concerts and planning for summer MUSEP concerts.
- b. Mr. Deal mentioned GROW's (Greensboro Residency for Original Works) concluding residency featuring Sachi Dely and Tarilabo Koripamo, in addition to the upcoming residency featuring Jordan T. Robinson. Mr. Robinson's residency, titled "Memoria," will focus on themes of identity and storytelling through a range of creative mediums.
- c. Mr. Deal gave a summary of current and upcoming drama programming, including Evening of Short Plays auditions, rehearsals for The Tempest (in collaboration with Shared Radiance), and the announcement of available dates and application process for Residency at the Hyers Theater.
- d. Mr. Deal also introduced the new City Manager, Taiwo Jaiyeoba. Mr. Jaiyeoba (not present) is hosting 'Talks with Tai' around the city and commissioners are encourage to join if possible.
- e. Mr. Deal gave additional updates regarding outstanding service enhancement requests for next Fiscal Year budget, American Recovery Plan requests, and a request from the City Manager Office for staff to begin exploring a Public Art Master Plan and an analysis for peer city approaches to Public Art.

B. Approval and Discussion of January Minutes

- a. Motion to approve minutes made by Ms. Robledo, seconded by Ms. Bianco. Approved unanimously, 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of ArtsGreensboro's funding request to the City of Greensboro

- a. Ms. Bergevin recused herself from the discussion about ArtsGreensboro's request for City funds for the procurement of Arts & Culture resource-hub (centralized website).
- b. Mr. Deal explained that the website will feature a directory of creative organizations, venues, and artist profiles, along with a public art map and a creative community event calendar.
- c. Mr. Deal stated that ArtsGreensboro would be the contract holder with a vendor, but that the overall effort will be collaborative between Creative Greensboro and ArtsGreensboro. ArtsGreensboro has selected a vendor, Artsopolis, from a widespread RFP process and will begin with a \$22,500 total investment, with \$13,000 in grant support from the City.
- d. The commission offered a motion to indicate support of this project and the allocation of funds as requested. Motion to Support made by Mr. Cyrus, seconded: Ms. Elkes. Unanimously approved, 8-0 (Bergevin, recused).

B. Update from the Impact & Investment Committee

- a. Ms. Bianco provided a summary update of the committee's work developing support language for the Grants for the Arts funding request and for the ARP funding request for GCC facility improvements, both currently held by the City Manager and City Council for review. She explained that support letters for each request have been drafted for review.
- b. Ms. Bergevin mentioned that she has recused herself from the development of support language for Grants for the Arts.
- c. Grants for the Arts support language: Motion to Support made by Mr. Cyrus, seconded by Ms. Woods, unanimously approved 8-0 (Bergevin, recused).
- d. GCC Facility Improvements support language: Motion to Support made by Ms. Woods, seconded by Ms. Little, unanimously approved 9-0.

C. Update from the Creative Placemaking Committee

- a. Mr. Deal thanked committee members for participating in the review and selection process for the Downtown Arts program and offered an update on next steps. The first 2 of 10 artists selected for the Kiosk program are now being displayed throughout downtown. The display will rotate to a new pair of artists every 10 weeks. The artist selected for the original commission for City Hall has accepted the award. A review of the proposed artwork will be completed by the selection committee in March, with final installation scheduled for May.
- b. Mr. Cyrus provided a summary update of the committee's work developing support language for the Neighborhood Arts funding request submitted through the City's ARP process. The draft support language was provided for review.
- c. Neighborhood Arts support language: Motion to Support made by Ms. Milstein, seconded by Ms. Bergevin, unanimously approved, 9-0.
- d. Mr. Bender offered to incorporate all support language approved by the Commission into a single letter of support that will be sent to the City Manager's office and to City Council members.
- e. Mr. Deal updated the commission regarding the anticipated timeline and approach that Creative Greensboro will lead for the Hester Park Mural project funded by the City's Participatory Budgeting program. Cultural Affairs Commissioners Mr. Bender, Mr. Cyrus, Ms. Little, and Ms. Milstein will join a group of residents from City Council District 5 as the stakeholder group to support selection of an artist and community engagement for the project. It is anticipated that the first meeting for the group will be held in March, 2022.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- a. No Speakers from the Floor. No additional comments from Commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Cyrus, seconded by Ms. Bianco, unanimously approved 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Josh Sherrick, Business Services Manager
Creative Greensboro, City of Greensboro