

**GREENSBORO CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING**  
**June 13, 2022; 5:30pm**  
**Meeting held in-person at the Creative Greensboro Conference Room**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Catena Bergevin, Mignon Elkes, Leigh Ann Little, Janine Robledo, Naomi Woods

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Duane Cyrus (withdrawal), Juliette Bianco, Victoria Milstein

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ryan Deal, Josh Sherrick

**OTHER SPEAKERS PRESENT:** None

**I. WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- A. Chairman Doug Bender called the meeting to order at 5:32pm and welcomed the Commission and attendees. Chairman Bender acknowledged Mr. Cyrus' service on the Commission and shared the notice of Mr. Cyrus' resignation, effective immediately. Mr. Bender mentioned the importance of the Commission supporting the development of a Temporary Visual Art Display policy for the Cultural Center's Atrium spaces. Mr. Bender also discussed the need for the Commission to define what constitutes an excused or unexcused absence from an official meeting. Mr. Deal mentioned that the bylaws dictate that a commissioner cannot have more than 3 unexcused absences in a calendar year. Mr. Bender offered that the Commission will discuss this further at the next meeting.
- B. Mr. Deal acknowledged Creative Greensboro's new exterior marketing banners on the Greensboro Cultural Center. The Neighborhood Arts program has selected (2) new artist residencies, with the Mill District selecting Chuck Johnson and Random Woods selecting Phillip Marsh, to begin work this week through December. Work also will continue this summer and fall through artist contracts selected in partnership with neighborhood residents in Glenwood, Kings Forest, and Dudley Heights. Creative Greensboro presents Sound of Music June 23-26 at the Somerville Sutton Theatre at Well Spring and A Midsummer Night's Dream auditions will be held June 13-14, in collaboration with Goodly Frame. The GROW space currently features Jasmine Best as the resident artist and the Hyers Theatre will host InTune as the resident artist through June 26. MUSEP has hosted the first two Sunday concerts of the season on June 5th and 12th. June 19th concert will be in support of the City's celebration of Juneteenth GSO Fest. The Downtown Arts program has two new pieces on display on the City's digital kiosks featuring Olivia Kellogg's work "Green Swamp" and Alexis Lavine's work "Red Hat Ladies Share a Secret".

**II. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Approval and Discussion of May meeting minutes. Motion to approve minutes; Ms. Robledo 1st, Ms. Bergevin 2nd, passed unanimously, 6-0.

**III. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Formation of Nominating Committee: Vice-Chairperson Ms. Robledo explained that the Nominating Committee will identify a candidate for the vacancy created by Mr. Cyrus' resignation, along with any future vacancies. Ms. Robledo asked for volunteers to participate on the Nominating Committee for the commission. The Mr. Deal added that nominations come from the Commission via the Nominating Committee and are then forwarded to the Mayor for final approval and appointment. Ms. Little volunteered to join the Nominating Committee. Ms. Robledo asked that additional commissioners interested in joining the Committee communicate with her by July 11.
- B. Marketing Committee Report:
  - i. Ms. Elkes mentioned that Creative Greensboro staff will begin to communicate with commissioners to develop a profile that will be featured in marketing efforts. Profiles will be

- shared in coordination with the Creative Greensboro newsletter every two weeks.  
Commissioners are asked to respond promptly to the request for information from staff.
- ii. Ms. Elkes encouraged commissioners to attend upcoming MUSEP concerts. Ms. Elkes and Mr. Bender recommended that the commission self-organizes any commissioner presence at Creative Greensboro events and relay that information to staff. Mr. Deal noted that City Councilmember Abuzuaiter will be at the June 17th concert, Councilmember Hightower on July 24th and Councilmember Thurm at the Aug. 28th MUSEP concerts.
  - iii. Councilmembers discussed their recent interactions with City Council members.
- C. Impact & Investment Committee Report:
- i. Mr. Deal confirmed that the “Sustaining Creativity: GCC Tenant Partnerships” application form has been sent out to all the tenants of the Greensboro Cultural Center, with a due date of July 1. All tenants who submit a complete form will be offered a one year lease renewal, effective September 1, 2022.
  - ii. Mr. Deal announced that an additional \$400,000 has been included in the City budget for next fiscal year to support grant funding called for in the Cultural Arts Master Plan. Mr. Deal shared a summary of initiatives within the Cultural Arts Master Plan related to grant funding along with some guiding questions for how to prioritize initiatives. The Impact & Investment Committee will meet within the next 30 days to form a recommendation from the Commission regarding how to allocate available funds across initiatives. Mr. Deal shared that the budget process also confirmed support from City Council to address deferred maintenance of the Cultural Center atrium roof. While this was not funded in the budget, it is expected that federal ARP dollars may be used to address this within the upcoming Fiscal Year.
  - iii. Mr. Deal presented a summary document with three options to consider regarding a new policy. Commissioners discussed. The Impact & Investment Committee will meet within the next 30 days to form a recommendation from the Commission regarding this policy.
- D. Creative Placemaking Committee Report:
- i. Ms. Little updated the Commission on progress toward the Hester Park Mural Project, funded through the Participatory Budgeting Program. The Community Stakeholder Committee has completed a review of submissions from all artist applicants who met the minimum qualifications for the call. Mr. Deal shared work samples of the 3 finalists for the project: Rosalie Wiener, Darlene McClinton, and Gabriel Eng-Goetz. Ms. Little expressed a desire to see a commitment to community engagement processes and evidence that the selected artist has the ability to fulfil the project goals. The Community Stakeholder Committee will select an artist by the end of July for the project.
  - ii. Mr. Deal shared that conversations are underway with the City Managers Office regarding the development of a formal Public Art program for the City. Mr. Deal will share an update with City Council during their August 11 work session. This update will include an overview of accomplishments to date and will propose that establishing a Public Art Program, as outlined in the Cultural Arts Master Plan, as an important next step.
- E. Additional Items: No speakers from the floor. With no additional comments from the Commission, Mr. Bender called for a Motion to Adjourn: 1st: Ms. Little, 2nd: Ms. Elkes; Unanimous, 6-0; The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.

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