

**GREENSBORO CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING**  
**August 8<sup>th</sup>, 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, Doug Bender, Juliette Bianco

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** 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 5:31pm and welcomed the Commission and attendees.
- B. Mr. Deal provided current programming updates. Neighborhood Arts programming is underway in Dudley Heights with a poetry and visual arts series at the Barber Park Events Center and in Glenwood. The two neighborhood residencies in Random Woods and the Mill District are underway. In Music and Drama, A Midsummer Night's Dream will be Aug. 11-14 outdoors in downtown and the music ensembles have opened registrations for the Fall. MUSEP continues to be hosted on Sunday evenings with three shows remaining at White Oak Amphitheatre, Barber Park, and finally Hester Park. In GROW, staff have opened up applications for residencies with a deadline of August 14<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners Bianco and Bergevin will serve on the review committee alongside GCC tenant gallery representatives. The current resident is Thea Clark with a fiber arts residency. Downtown Arts have two new pieces on display through Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> with pieces by Jasmine Best "Mouth Piece" and Steven Cozart "Pawn in the Game". In the VDPS, tickets have gone on sale for a cabaret style show by Eva Noblezada on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>.

**II. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Approval and Discussion of June meeting minutes. Motion to approve minutes; Ms. Woods 1st, Ms. Bergevin 2nd, passed unanimously, 7-0.

**III. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Chairman Bender discussed the need for commissioners to sign the 'City of Greensboro Boards & Commissions Guidelines & Code of Conduct Agreement'. He encouraged everyone to sign the code of conduct agreement and submit to Creative Greensboro staff.
- B. Formation of Nominating Committee: Vice-Chairperson Ms. Robledo explained that the Nominating Committee (including Commissioners Elkes and Little) has met and narrowed the new commissioner candidates to two folks, with the finalist being Janay Green. Ms. Green has exhibited a strong desire to be on the commission from District 4. Ms. Little highlighted Ms. Green's passion for the arts and her ability to dedicate the time and energy necessary to the commission. Ms. Elkes remarked on Ms. Green's strong background in the arts. Ms. Bergevin remarked that Ms. Green participated very well at the NC Arts Day lobbying day at the state legislature. Vice-Chairperson Ms. Robledo made a motion to nominate Ms. Green to the commission, seconded by Ms. Little; The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. Mr. Deal added that the nomination will be formally submitted to the Mayor's office for consideration and appointment. The Committee will next assist staff in identifying additional volunteers that can serve on artist selection committees.
- C. Marketing Committee Report: Ms. Elkes mentioned that three commissioner profiles are displayed on social media and the Creative Greensboro website/newsletter. Commissioners were asked to submit requested information to staff if they haven't yet done so.

D. Impact & Investment Committee Report:

- i. Ms. Bianco confirmed that the recommended language for the temporary art displays in GCC common areas policy has been drafted for approval. The policy is rooted in the values and ideal expectations for visitors who may view the work. Commissioners were asked to vote in support of this recommended policy. Ms. Little first motion, seconded by Ms. Robledo; Passed unanimously, 7-0.
  - ii. Ms. Bianco discussed the work of the committee to consider prioritized spending of the \$500,000 grant program in relation to the strategic plan (GCAMP) and its defined goals. The areas of emphasis for the 'Grants for the Arts' program are strengthening the broad range of arts organizations, targeted equity initiatives, teaching artists grants, neighborhood based arts programming, professional development, and creative placemaking efforts. It was agreed upon that these goals are very broad and likely too many for this year's funding, so the committee spent time considering which efforts may be already supported financially in the current fiscal year, and narrowed the preferred areas for this grant funding down to 'strengthening the broad range of artist support' and 'equity initiatives'. Per counsel from the Committee, Staff has prepared grant program guidelines to award \$400k for operational support for arts organizations, noting that 1) any organization receiving more than \$10k in-kind or \$20k direct grant support from the City would not be eligible and that 2) grants are \$20k each, with exemplary applications being eligible for \$5k or \$10k in additional funding. The remaining \$100K would be used to sustain the Neighborhood Arts program. Mr. Deal will request participation from the commission to evaluate the grant applications and the commission will make the final recommendations for grant distributions. Mr. Deal expressed that staff will move quickly on the Grants for the Arts program, with an announcement in the next two weeks, a deadline of end of October and ultimately grants being distributed in early December. Commissioners voted unanimously in support of the recommendation from the Committee.
  - iii. Mr. Deal highlighted summary findings of the recent Greensboro Cultural Center tenant evaluations. Generally, the City invests \$1M in in-kind tenancy with tenant organizations generating overall revenue of \$12.5M. The tenants of the GCC support a total workforce of 925 with over \$6.36M in compensation. Tenants also answered questions about having a strategic plan (29% yes), having an Equity/Anti-racism policy (47% yes), and having term limited boards (65% yes). The Committee will continue to evaluate these and other findings and ultimately make recommendations on next steps in this work.
- D. Creative Placemaking Committee Report:
- i. Ms. Little updated the Commission on progress toward the Hester Park Mural Project, mentioned that artist Darlene McClinton has accepted her award of the project.
- 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. Robledo, 2nd: Ms. Woods; Unanimous, 7-0; The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Josh Sherrick, Business Services Manager  
Creative Greensboro, City of Greensboro