

GREENSBORO CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING
October 10th, 2022; 5:30pm
Meeting held in-person at the Creative Greensboro Conference Room

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Victoria Milstein, Juliette Bianco

STAFF PRESENT: Ryan Deal, Josh Sherrick

OTHER SPEAKERS PRESENT: Jocelyn Brown, African American Atelier Gallery Director

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. GROW's upcoming Artist in Residence is Nick Graham, whose residency explores the intersection of permaculture and poetry. There will be workshops and open mics on Fridays and Saturdays through Oct. 23rd. In the Hyers Residency program, Jonavon Cooper just finished a well-attended residency, while the Triad Playwrights Theatre will present the next production, "The Unders", on the weekend of Oct. 25th. The latest GCC First Friday was successful this week. The VDPS will host the NC Dance Festival from Oct. 13-15th, followed by "Footsteps to Follow" (all abilities performing arts) on Oct. 16th. Creative Greensboro will present Eva Noblezada for a ticketed performance and workshop with students on Oct. 15th. In Neighborhood Arts, on Oct. 23rd the Kings Forest will host "Blues Food and Arts Festival", while in Dudley Heights, Josephus Thompson and Darlene McClinton will host monthly arts engagements, and in Glenwood, Tamara Hunt will host activities. Finally, in Random Woods, new resident artist Emilio Marz will begin work soon. In Music, the first seasonal OPUS concert will take place on Oct. 29th with the Choral Society at Wellspring, then on Nov. 6th the Big Band will play in the VDPS and finally on Nov. 12th, the Philharmonia will perform at Guilford College. In Drama, "Invisible Dragons" will be presented in partnership with Scrapmettle on Oct. 21-23 and a 'Call to Playwrights' has been publicized for the next round of the New Play Project;

II. BUSINESS:

- A. Approval and Discussion of August meeting minutes. Motion to approve minutes; Ms. Woods 1st, Ms. Little 2nd, passed unanimously, 6-0.

Chairman Bender discussed a draft copy of Creative Greensboro's new Cultural Equity Statement. Mr. Deal cited that the document is a template version of the statement offered by Americans for the Arts. Ms. Bergevin offered that the statement is an important accountability tool for moving forward the work of Creative Greensboro. Ms. Robledo offered to work with Mr. Bender to edit the text on behalf of the group. Mr. Deal also mentioned that the City of Greensboro has opportunities available for the commission to participate in a training in the area of 'Implicit Bias' from the Human Rights Office and the Office of Equity & Inclusion. Commissioners indicated an interest in participating in these trainings.

- B. Nominating Committee Report: Vice-Chairperson Robledo said the nominating committee has examined the previously submitted applications for the commission for possible invitations to individuals to participate in a sub-committees of the commission. She indicated that there are 12-15 persons who could serve based on commissioners review. As opportunities come up, such as the Grant Review Panel, Mr. Deal will reach out to those individuals to inquire for volunteer

participation. Mr. Deal explained that the nomination of Ms. Janay Green is still waiting to be reviewed by the Mayor.

- C. Marketing Committee Report: Ms. Elkes mentioned that previously, commissioners were asked to send thank you notes to those City Council members for their input regarding Creative Greensboro and the Cultural Arts Commission. Mr. Bender indicated that he spoke to Mr. Holston and relayed our appreciation for his support.
- D. Impact & Investment Committee Report:
 - i. Ms. Bergevin discussed the upcoming deadline of the Sustaining Creativity Grant process. The two open forums went well to invite and address many questions from potential grant applicants. Mr. Deal also mentioned that he is meeting with many organization leaders to discuss the program and their application, one on one with applicants.
 - ii. Members of the committee, along with volunteer panelists from each of the GCC Galleries, also reviewed and selected the 2023 GROW Residencies, settling on 8 projects out of about 31 applicants. A decision was made by the group to only award residencies of 6 weeks or longer. Mr. Deal also mentioned that Creative Greensboro received a grant from the NC Arts Council for support of the GROW Residency program, including underwriting for residency stipends and enhanced marketing of residency activities.
- E. Creative Placemaking Committee Report:
 - i. Ms. Little discussed that she participated in a work session with Darlene McClinton, the artist selected for the Hester Park Mural Project. Feedback from participants in the session included a desired focus of the mural to be on the history of the park and surrounding community, and in support of the notion that the space is a calming space for many visitors.
 - ii. Ms. Little also shared that staff has sent members of the Creative Placemaking committee, along with other volunteer panelists, a series of applicants for review for a mural project at the Peeler Recreation Center. A decision on this mural commission will be made by the stakeholder committee in the coming weeks.

III. Additional Items:

Ms. Jocelyn Brown greeted the commission and encouraged all to visit the African American Atelier gallery at their leisure.

With no additional comments from the Commission, Mr. Bender called for a Motion to Adjourn: 1st: Ms. Woods, 2nd: Ms. Bergevin; Unanimous, 6-0; The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

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