

**Greensboro Cultural Affairs Commission**

**Meeting Agenda**

Monday, September 9th, 2024 – 5:30 pm

Held in person at the *Creative Greensboro Conference Room*

5:34pm

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Doug Bender, Catena Bergevin, Janay Green, Victoria Milstein (zoom) Leigh Ann Little, Juliette Bianco

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jocquelyn Boone

**OTHER SPEAKERS PRESENT:** Leigh Dyer ( GreenHill Executive Director), Edie Carpenter (GreenHill Curator), Eric Lomax (Lomax Construction)

**I. WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

A. Catena Bergevin called the meeting to order at 5:30pm and welcomed the Commission.

**II. BUSINESS:**

1. Business of the Commission at-large, Catena Bergevin (Chair), Jocquelyn Boone (CCEO)
   1. August meeting minutes (approval requested)
      1. Approved unanimously, *6*-0.
      2. Jackie Boone shared an update on the approval process for new commissioners. Ms. Boone confirmed the three recommended candidates have been presented to the Mayor and Creative Greensboro is waiting on The Mayor’s approval before they can be confirmed. . Prospective commission members were in attendance for today’s meeting to observe the commission at work. They introduced themselves and observed the rest of the meeting.
      3. Chairwoman Bergevin stated that she would be contacting the current commission members in the coming weeks to discuss which committees they would like to join.
      4. Leigh Dyer, Executive Director of GreenHill Gallery, submitted a funding request to Creative Greensboro and the Cultural Affairs Commission to support the installation of a new lighting system in the gallery. The estimated cost is approximately $160,000. The current lighting system, which is 30 years old, is in need of replacement due to its incompatibility with newer models. Ms. Dyer emphasized that the system must be completely replaced. Ms. Carpenter highlighted the importance of proper lighting in a public gallery and its effect on both artists and the public. Mr. Lomax explained that the estimated costs include contract engineering, lighting, and tracking fees. He also outlined the project process, noting that if any code violations are found during repairs, he would be legally required to address them, which could further increase the cost. Ms. Dyer also mentioned that additional funding for the project has not yet been secured.

Commissioners Bergevin and Bender raised concerns about utilizing funds already designated for major building repairs, questioning how this request might affect ongoing plans for the Greensboro Cultural Center’s upkeep. Chairwoman Bergevin emphasized that the $3.5 million ARPA allocation had been carefully considered. She noted that since Creative Greensboro is committed to equity and already provides substantial in-kind support to tenants through free rental space, the request would carry more weight if it came from all four galleries rather than just one. Commissioners also pointed out that while the galleries differ in resources, their needs might be similar. Commissioner Bianco asked about the project timeline and alternative funding sources. Ms. Dyer confirmed that she had discussed the situation with the other galleries, acknowledging their shared needs but was unsure of their fundraising capacities. She also requested that the commission research the total cost estimates for lighting repairs across all four galleries and assist with grant writing efforts. Commissioners Bender and Little expressed that there were too many uncertainties regarding the request, advising GreenHill to collaborate with the other galleries to clarify the proposal and explore potential grants and rebates. Ms. Boone confirmed that Creative Greensboro is coordinating with the city's engineering department on several projects. While there is interest in setting aside funds for this request, priority projects and rising inflation must first be considered. The presentation concluded with Commissioners sharing suggestions for possible grant opportunities with GreenHill, Ms. Dyer Leigh agreeing to follow up with the Office of Sustainability regarding rebate details, and Lomax Construction committing to providing a comprehensive cost estimate for all galleries before presenting it to the commission.

**III. IMPACT AND INVESTMENT:**

* 1. Ms. Boone shared an updated about tenant lease meetings and invited commissioners to be present as they are being scheduled. She also shared updates about the Sustaining Creativity Community Partnerships Grant, CAP, and GROW residency programs.

**IV:** **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Deborah Stewart a high point resident, remarked about how she was inspired by the conversation and the work of the cultural affairs commission. She said that they were great caretakers and stewards of the Cultural Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54pm

The City shares the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which protects qualified individuals with disabilities from discrimination on the basis of disability. Any individual with a disability who needs an interpreter, other auxiliary aids or services to participate in a meeting, program or service, must contact Jocquelyn Boone, Chief Creative Economy Officer, Creative Greensboro, at 336-373-7817, at least 3 business days prior to the event. For additional information or assistance, contact Gary Canapinno, ADA Coordinator, at 336-373-2723. Interpreter Services are available at no cost in accordance with Title VI. Servicios de intérpretes están disponibles sin costos de acuerdo a la ley del Titulo VI