



(314) 863 5811
(314) 863 6932 FAX
WWW.ART-STL.COM

REGIONAL ARTS
COMMISSION OF ST. LOUIS



**Regional Arts Commission
Executive Committee Minutes
October 12, 2021 @ 8 a.m. via ZOOM**

Attendees



Mont Levy, Chair, Andréa Purnell, John Russell, Kellie Trivers, Cheryl Walker, David Wilson

Staff: Vanessa Cooksey, Lea Sutherlin

Welcome & Call to Order

Levy called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Levy: Reminded that this is his last Executive Committee meeting as Chair; thanked everyone for their work during challenging times; RAC coming out stronger and better.

Committee members thanked Levy for his amazing leadership, positivity and growth.

Levy looking forward to Cheryl leadership.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion made to approve the May 27, 2021, Executive Committee meeting minutes by Russell, seconded by Walker and unanimously approved.



Status of City of St. Louis Chair Appointment

Levy: He (Levy) and Cooksey recently met with the City of St. Louis Mayor Jones; Mayor Jones shared her agenda to use art to help with crime downtown, her strong support for COVID relief funds for arts and culture, and discussion held regarding Walker's appointment as Chair effective January 1; waiting for paperwork from the Mayor's office; Levy asked Cooksey to comment.

Cooksey agreed the call went well; invited by Mayor Jones to join the weekly downtown safety committee; City is addressing issues through policing but will need long-term sustainable solutions; youth have been gathering downtown between 12 a.m. – 4 a.m. and engaging in unsafe activities; Mayor's office increasing programming and looking at

how RAC can engage arts and artists in that process; will provide additional updates; Mayor appreciates how RAC might help with long term solutions.

Governance Topics

Levy asked Cooksey to report on governance topics.

Cooksey presented the following:

2022 Meeting Schedule Recommendation

Cooksey: RAC currently holds monthly Board meetings; staff has researched and looked at best practices; meeting cadence recommendation to move to quarterly board meetings and a retreat including January-current year work plan approval; April - audit approval; September - coming year annual budget and work plan; November - annual meeting and retreat on governance/sunshine training and professional development for the Board and Staff.

Cooksey: Quarterly meeting will allow more time for work to be done in committees between meetings and continue to attract high caliber leaders.

Discussion held regarding bylaws and meeting cadence; communication plan between meetings; purpose of original policy regarding meetings; best recommendations for now and setting up infrastructure for the long term; fluid situation - right sizing for 2022 and finding the right cadence for long-term; commissioner engagement; effective use of time; meeting length; attendance over the years; time dedicated to grantmaking during the spring; and further discussion to be held regarding this recommendation during the November retreat.

2022 Committee Consolidation Recommendation

Cooksey noted that staff deeply believes in committee work and finds it to be helpful; feels committee consolidation will bring more organization; recommendation to move to a three (3) committee structure including Executive Committee including officers, committee chairs, and past and present Board chair; Internal Affairs Committee including governance, finance, HR, facilities and government relations; and External Affairs Committee including grants, programs, MARCOMM, and resource development.

Cooksey noted that additional discussion would be held; will share reference articles with this committee.

General Topics

Cooksey then presented the following general topics:

Arts Advocacy Letter Update

Update on Arts Advocacy Letter; letter would be emailed and mailed to elected officials in the city and county on October 13 & 14, 2021; press release will be sent to local media outlets on

October 27, 2021; RAC distribution plan being developed to demonstrate effective and efficient use of fund; Cooksey shared plan for allocation of funds.

Purnell: Pleased to hear distribution plan - and plans for press release; everyone will be vying for those dollars; asked how will RAC respond to those who signed the letter of support.

Cooksey: Dollars in/dollars out strategy through RAC's current infrastructure; shared specifics of Arts & Culture Leader Collaboration for Relief Funds; will email to this committee.

November Board & Staff Retreat Agenda

Fall Board & Staff Retreat to be held November 17 & 18, 2021; will be same structure as September Retreat; will have new staff members on board; topics will include facilities, governance, and the 2022 budget and work plan; Leslie will serve again as facilitator.

November Virtual Town Hall to be held November 3, 2021, 10a-11a; Cooksey shared run of show – will also include 2021 reflections and 2022 plan preview; and new elements – including HEC-TV 35th anniversary video premiere and call to action.

December 2021/Annual Meeting Agenda Items: 2022 Officer Slate & 2022 Budget Approval

Adjourn

The Executive Committee meeting ended at 8:57 a.m.

Submitted by

L. Sutherlin, Exec. Asst. & Commission Administrator