

**Regional Arts Commission
Executive Committee Minutes
May 4, 2023, 9 a.m. via ZOOM**

Committee Members

Andrea Purnell, Jerry Gennaria, John Russell, Cheryl Walker

Absent

Rosalind Johnson, Tino Ochoa

Staff Attendees:

Vanessa Cooksey, Tony Chance, Angie Peters, Lea Sutherlin

Call to Order & Approval of Minutes

Purnell called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Purnell then called for the approval of the minutes from the February 9, 2023, Executive Committee meeting.

Motion made by Russell seconded by Gennaria and unanimously carried to approve the February 9 2023, minutes.

Purnell called for the following reports:

Approval of FY 2022 990 Draft (Russell)

Motion made by Russell seconded by Gennaria and unanimously carried to approve the filing of the FY 2022 990.

ARPA Update

Approval of ARPA Board Resolution (Cooksey)

Cooksey presented a PPT on the following: (1) general updates including interview progress for ARPA lead position, full allocation deposit, Foundry facility plan/pop-up location, program report deadline, July Town Hall, application update, and noted a possible allocation from STL County; and (2) ARPA for the Arts 2023 revenue replacement and 2024 tourism for Artists Grants, Organization Grants. Cooksey then called for a motion to approve the resolution which documents and denotes, with

specific language, for the Regional Arts Commission to accept \$10.6 million from the City of St. Louis in ARPA funds for distribution.

Motion made by Gennaria seconded by Purnell and unanimously carried for the Regional Arts Commission to accept \$10.6 million from the City of St. Louis in ARPA funds for distribution.

FY 2023 Grants Budget Update (Cooksey)

Cooksey then provided FY23 Grantmaking Update and highlighted the following: (1) 2023 compared to 2022 applications received, eligible, ineligible, total request amount and other key info for Artist Support and Program Support, respectively; (2) shared highlights regarding 40 individual recent meetings held with GOS grantees, GOS expressed challenges, 50%-75% allocation of GOS 2019 award; and (3) addition of \$630K for a total of \$1.63M to the line item for GOS grantees.

Brief discussion held regarding 2022 compared to 2019.

Cooksey then shared her monthly revenue comparison for 2019-2023.

Purnell thanked Cooksey for a “great report.”

Approval of Facilities Recommendation (Purnell)

Purnell recalled the following from the last full Commission meeting held in March: (1) priorities, benefits, and overview of Cooksey’s facilities recommendation to vacate and sell 6128 - and relocate staff to a co-working location; and (2) get input from commissioners and the staff. Purnell called for a discussion regarding next steps.

Open discussion held regarding past meetings held and findings relative to assessments, financial statistics and pros and cons of selling 6128 Delmar property.

Motion made by Purnell, seconded by Walker, and unanimously carried to sell the 6128 Delmar property.

[Post meeting note: 5/12/23 Commissioner Johnson and 5/13/23 Commissioner Ochoa - agreed, via email to Chair Purnell, to sell the 6128 property.](#)

Purnell recommended that Gennaria lead the sell transaction on behalf of the Commission as a member of the Executive Committee and chair of the former Ad Hoc Facilities Committee.

Cooksey suggested, and the Executive Committee agreed, for VP of Finance & Operations, Tony Chance, to serve as staff liaison to Gennaria.

Cooksey noted that Chance will also liaise with her, Peters, and Scherder to address any external inquiries, along with staff support. Cooksey added that Levy Consulting will support Chance as well.

Discussion held regarding the following: (1) priority of creating communication plan for the public; (2) assessment of all logistics associated with selling a building; (3) no vacating of 6128 until said transaction is in place; (4) staff continue to maintain current hybrid work environment; (5) building closed to the public (per March 2020 signage), with exception of hosting RAC

approved programs (i.e. CAT 2023 Cohort); (6) grants announcements and other public events to be held at grantee locations; and (7) no lease signed until building sells, RAC staff location will be Cooksey's decision; and (8) full support of CIC – Cambridge Innovation Center as possible next location.

Motion made by Purnell, seconded by Russell, and unanimously carried for Gennaria lead the charge to sell the 6128 Delmar property.

Adjournment

Motion made by Purnell, seconded by Walker, and unanimously approved to adjourn the May 4, 2023 Executive Committee meeting at 9:51 a.m.

Submitted by
L. Sutherlin, Exec. Asst. & Commission Administrator