

**Regional Arts Commission
Full Commission Board Minutes
June 8, 2023, 8 a.m.**

Hybrid - CIC/Cortex, 4240 Duncan Ave., Havana Room, 2nd Floor, STL 63110

Welcome and Roll Call – Purnell & Sutherlin

Purnell called the June 8, 2023, meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. and asked Lea to conduct the Commissioner roll call.

Present

Commission: Andréa Purnell, chair, yea; Jerry Gennaria, secretary, yea; John Russell, yea; Rhonda Carter-Adams, yea; Sam Fiorello, yea; Mont Levy, yea; Rudy Nickens, yea; Constantino Ochoa, yea; Cheryl Walker, yea; David Wilson, yea

Absent

Heather Corcoran
Beverly Isom
Roz Johnson

Staff

Vanessa Cooksey, Rita Dillard, Jonathan Levy, Tracey Morgan, Jay Scherder, Jason Schipkowski, Chloe Smith, MK Stallings, Lea Sutherlin, Leigh Winter, Angie Peters, Tony Chance

Additional Attendees: Trish Donovan (KEB)

Public Guests (Purnell)

Chair Purnell welcomed everyone to the meeting and called for acknowledgement of public guests – none in attendance.

Approval of March 9, 2023 Minutes

Purnell called for the approval of the March 9, 2023 minutes. Motion made by Fiorello, seconded by Russell, and unanimously carried to approve the March 9, 2023 minutes.

Votes were as follows:

Yea – Purnell, Gennaria, Russell, Carter-Adams, Fiorello, Levy, Nickens, Ochoa, Walker, Wilson

Nay – none

Abstain - none

Chair Report

2023 Theme “Unleashing The Artist Within”

Chair Purnell reported the following: (1) reminded that at the March meeting, she shared the 2023 theme, “Unleashing the Artist Within,” and at that time, highlighted the three keys to creating a creative spark including keeping a journal, listening to music and never stop learning. Chair Purnell then highlighted the following points on why it is important to ‘unleash the artist within’ in line with the 2023 theme: (1) art promotes mental stimulation; (2) art promotes relaxation; and (3) art makes you smile/releases feelings of accomplishment. Chair Purnell encouraged everyone to try something new.

Facilities Update (Vote) (Purnell & Gennaria)

Chair Purnell reminded that the May 4 Executive Committee minutes, which included discussion and a unanimous vote to sell RAC’s building – 6128 Delmar, STL 63112, had been sent to the full Commission for ratification at this meeting. Chair Purnell noted the following: (1) reminded that Gennaria, member of the Executive Committee and chair of the former Ad Hoc Facilities Committee, had been asked to lead the sale; (2) Gennaria has assembled an advisory team to assist with the sale; (3) thanked Gennaria for his leadership; and (4) asked him to provide an update on the sale of 6128 Delmar.

Gennaria shared the following facilities update: (1) thanked other Commissioners on advisory team for their advice and input, and Chance for the work he is doing; (2) steps are in place; (3) conversations have been held with Rob Goltermann at DCM and Steve Condrin at Washington University who expressed interest; (4) next steps will include agreement with DCM as broker that will go into effect pending approval during this meeting; (5) public announcement that 6128 will go on the market will be made after June 8 via RAC newsletter and during the Grants Announcement on June 14; and (6) plan to have 6128 officially listed on the market by June 15.

Discussion held regarding the following: (1) sale commission rate; (2) interested buyer(s); and (3) DCM optimism regarding price point.

Motion made by Levy, seconded by Carter-Adams, and unanimously carried to ratify the Executive Committee’s vote to put 6128 Delmar on the market for \$2.75M, under a brokerage agreement with DCM and led by Jerry Gennaria.

Votes were as follows:

Yea – Purnell, Gennaria, Russell, Carter-Adams, Fiorello, Levy, Nickens, Ochoa, Walker, Wilson

Nay – none

Abstain - none

Acknowledgement of Commissioner Sukanya Mani

Purnell acknowledged the following: (1) Sukanya Mani’s resignation from RAC as a Commissioner for personal reasons effective 6/7/23; (2) shared context of Mani as a working artist, and employment with Dayspring Arts & Education – following her appointment to RAC by St. Louis County Boards and Commissions; and (3) Walker and Governance Committee’s revisit of RAC’s Conflict of Interest Policy. Purnell noted that Mani and Dayspring were part of the list for this meeting’s Artist Support and Program Support 2023 grantees vote, respectively.

Cooksey noted that Dayspring Arts & Education has been a long-time grantee of RAC.

Governance Committee Report

Purnell then called for the Governance Committee report from Chair Walker.

Walker reported on the following:

Conflict of Interest Policy (COI)

Walker reported that the Governance Committee learned at its last meeting (4/13/23), that RAC has three different COIs – one for staff, one for the Board, and a third in the RAC Management Manual – all which read differently. Walker shared additional context regarding Mani’s interest at the time of applying for the RAC Board and noted that Mani understood RAC’s current COI policy. Walker then noted that the Governance Committee meets again in August to review revisions from its last meeting and hopes to present a final policy for approval at the September meeting of the full Board.

Discussion held regarding anticipated COI policy revisions.

City and County Appointment Updates

Walker gave the following City and County appointment update: (1) City appointments – focusing on prioritizing artists located in further south St. Louis City; (2) Governance Committee discussed potential candidates provided by Corcoran and Purnell agreed to speak with those candidates and hope to move forward soon with a recommendation to the full Board for the vacant seat in the City; and (3) will now need a County seat also, which will be on the agenda for the August Governance Committee meeting.

Finance Committee Report (Russell, Chance, KEB)

Purnell called for the Finance Committee report from Chair Russell.

Chair Russell noted that the Finance Committee meeting had been held on 6/5/23.

Russell called for the following reports from Chance.

FY 2023 Q1 Management Report

Chance noted that the FY 2023 Q1 Management Report could be found on page 22 in the packet for this meeting...then presented the FY 2023 Q1 Management Report – January through March and highlighted the following prior year comparisons: (1) total receipts; (2) total expenses; (3) net income for the quarter; (4) ending cash; (5) unrestricted cash; and (6) administrative expenses. Chance then highlighted cash position budget vs. actual.

FY 2022 990 – Filed

Russell reminded that the filed FY 2022 990 could be found in the packet for this meeting and noted that any questions could be directed to him (Russell) or Chance.

May 2023 Cash Flow Update

Chance highlighted the May 2023 Cash Flow as follows: (1) revenues and expenditures through May, and projections through the end of the year [excluding ARPA funding]; (2) Hotel/Motel Tax revenue; (3) ending cash balances; (4) page 79 most recent summary of the ARPA funds; and (5) shared the ARPA Grants distribution schedule.

Brief discussion regarding City and County Hotel/Motel Tax collection, and impact of reduced business on numbers.

FY 2023 Budget Update (Vote) (Cooksey)

Russell asked Cooksey for the FY 2023 Budget update.

Cooksey shared the following: (1) referred to cash flow statement ending cash balance included in this packet; (2) noted the FY 2023 approved budget end of year amount; (3) reminded that a request was made to the Finance committee, on behalf of the Grants Team, to increase the number of grants due to high demand; (4) last month increase request did not make difference in ending cash balance, however this increase request is material as it is approximately \$900K.

Fiorello asked about RAC's unrestricted cash balance requirement.

Cooksey noted RAC is within the 10% - 25% rule.

Mont suggested the Finance Committee discuss how to classify proceeds from the sale of the building; and noted need for clarity.

Cooksey concurred and noted that proceeds from the sale of the building will be "Board designated" since the funds will come from a Board action, and that RAC must be mindful about the difference between "donor restricted" and "Board designated."

Motion made by Nickens, seconded by Gennaria, and unanimously carried to approve the FY 2023 Budget Update by increasing the Program Support Grants budget by \$683,070, and the Artist Support Grants budget by \$177,515, reducing the ending cash balance by approximately \$900K. Vote as follows:

Yea – Purnell, Gennaria, Russell, Carter-Adams, Fiorello, Levy, Nickens, Ochoa, Walker, Wilson

Nay – none

Abstain - none

Grants & Programs Committee Report (Johnson, Haubrich)

Purnell then called for the Grants & Programs Committee Report from Haubrich.

Haubrich reported on the following:

FY 2023 Program Support & Artist Support Grants (Vote)

Haubrich reported the following: (1) acknowledged the work of the RAC team, particularly Smith and Winter; (2) recommended total of 310 applications for funding including 181 Artist Support and 129 Program Support applicants; (3) will fund 78% of eligible applications; (4) all applicants scored strong to exemplary; (5) Artist Support applicants scored from good to strong to exemplary; and (6) total recommended award amount of \$4,489,954 – an increase from 2022.

Motion made by Gennaria, seconded by Wilson, and unanimously carried to approve the 2023 Artist Support Grants and 2023 Program Support Grants as listed in the packet for this meeting. Vote as follows:

Yea – Purnell (no conflict), Gennaria (no conflict), Russell (conflicts - Opera Theater of St. Louis; and Tennessee Williams Festival STL), Carter-Adams (conflicts – Tennessee Williams Festival STL; and COCA), Fiorello (no conflict), Levy (no conflict), Nickens (no conflict), Ochoa (no conflict), Walker (conflict – The Sheldon), Wilson (no conflict)

Nay – none

Abstain - none

FY 2024 Grantmaking Preview

Haubrich further reported that she and Smith visited each of the 40 GOS organizations and gathered information on common challenges - shared key learnings to date, from those meetings. Haubrich added that during the GOS meetings, executive directors requested professionally facilitated board development for their executive director roundtables – for which RAC is paying a reasonable fee to the Rome Group for a facilitator. She noted that the first meeting was held in early May, was well-attended and highlighted board development, and the next roundtable is scheduled for August 17 – topic will be arts advocacy.

Haubrich reported the following: (1) Program Support and Artist Support applicant surveys were recently returned and results are under review; (2) the preapplication process was very helpful to applicants; (3) staff continues to support/assist applicants and grantees; (3) RAC will continue to create accessible processes and systems for artists and arts organizations; (4) outstanding reviews on *Undoing Bias* Training conducted by Commissioner Nickens; (5) issued surveys to the 63 reviewers - received 49 responses, a 78% response rate; (6) 2024 - will offer organizational grants Sustaining Grants which means that arts groups may apply for unrestricted funds, while non-arts organizations will be eligible for program support only; (7) Sustaining Grant will carry a 3-year commitment, and include an annual review; and (9) Artist Support Grants will be Responsive Grants, and made available quarterly.

Brief discussion held regarding Commissioner reviewers.

President & CEO Report (Cooksey)

Cooksey's President & CEO report included: (1) recent presentation to State Senator Brian Williams' Youth Leadership Advisory Board; and (2) RAC staff celebrated new team members at Puttshack during the month of April.

Cooksey also reported on the following:

Welcome New Team Members

MK Stallings, Research and Evaluation Manager (FT) and Tracey Morgan, ARPA for the Arts Lead – Cooksey extended kudos to Dillard for her hard work, and invited comments from Stallings and Morgan.

Explore STL Tourism Update as of 5/27

Cooksey gave update as of 5/27/23 on the 2019, 2022, 2023 Occupancy, and St. Louis Metropolitan Area revenue per available room (RevPAR)

RAC Hotel/Motel Monthly Revenue Comparison 2019-2023

Cooksey gave update on revenue forecast volatility and managing accordingly.

ARPA for the Arts

Cooksey reported that ARPA funds will be distributed this calendar year and highlighted the most recent federal requirements for verifiable loss of revenue for two types of funding - revenue replacement, and negative economic impact based on tourism. She further reported that the lease has been signed for a pop-up at The Foundry - creating a fully immersive experience in the space where artists and arts organizations will get tech assistance with the grant application process and could showcase. Cooksey gave kudos to Levy Consulting for negotiating the two (2) year lease.

Upcoming Events

Cooksey reported that an outstanding CAT Graduation program was held on June 10, and noted that invites have been sent and encouraged Commissioners to attend the following upcoming events: (1) June 14 – Grants Announcement at Central Print (2) June 16 & 17 - Open Highway Music Festival (she asked Scherder to comment); (3) June 18 – Duets with Dad (Brian Owens); (4) July 8 – werQfest; (5) July 12 – ARPA for the Arts Launch; (6) Gyo Obata Fellowship Closing Ceremony; (7) September 9 & 10 Music @ the Intersection; (8) September 14 – Full Commission Meeting; (9) September 16 – Board/Staff Annual Retreat – [Cooksey shared a preview of the 2023 Board/Staff Annual Retreat proposed agenda and noted that Dr. Robert Harvey will return as facilitator]; (10) October 23 – Cultura [noted that MK will give full report at the September Board meeting; she then asked meeting participants to review Cultura logo options designed by Schipkowski, and to check off/submit their vote in the Zoom chat; asked Schipkowski to explain the four [4] logo options; and (11) December 6 - RAC End of Year Celebration.

General Community Update

Cooksey then presented a general community update on the following: (1) Kym Whitley Event hosted by Chair Purnell – focus was to present a grant to a female artist – Treasure Shields Redmond was selected as the winner of the \$1K grant; (2) kudos to A. Peters and team who are working on RAC’s Yield Giving Application Submission - all or none \$1M grant; (3) her (Cooksey’s) attendance at the Arts KC NeuroArts Blueprint – RAC will partner to bring to St. Louis; (4) RAC has been invited to participate in the World Trade Center Trade Mission to London for the Chicago Cubs/St. Louis Cardinals Game – Belford will attend on behalf of RAC; (5) A&E Council reached out to RAC – RAC remains open to communicating; and (6) Forward Through Ferguson (FTF) has requested a letter of support for NFL settlement funds – response has not been given to date...RAC also considering applying for NFL settlement funds – noted this organization (FTF) is a good fit for RAC’s overarching DEI work and commitments through the Strategic Plan.

Cooksey added that feedback is welcome on all these updates.

Open Discussion (All)

Mont commented that RAC is doing a great job, seeing, and hearing great things, staff is exemplary.

Cooksey expressed appreciation and added that Scherder brought RAC swag to this meeting for Commissioners.

Public Comment

None in attendance.

Roll Call & Adjournment

Motion made by Carter-Adams, seconded by Fiorello, and unanimously approved to adjourn the open session of June 8, 2023 at 9:37 a.m.

Present

Commission: Andréa Purnell, chair, yea; Jerry Gennaria, secretary, yea; John Russell, treasurer, yea; Rhonda Carter-Adams, yea; Sam Fiorello, yea; Mont Levy, yea; Rudy Nickens, yea; Constantino Ochoa, yea; Cheryl Walker, yea; David Wilson, yea

Absent

Heather Corcoran
Beverly Isom
Roz Johnson

Submitted by

L. Sutherlin, Exec. Asst. & Commission Administrator

Board Packet Attachments

- Grants & Programs Committee Meeting Minutes, January 19, 2023
- Governance Committee Meeting Minutes, February 9, 2023
- Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, February 9, 2023
- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, March 6, 2023
- Full Commission Meeting Minutes, March 9, 2023
- FY 2023 Q1 Management Report
- FY 2022 990 (Filed)
- May 2023 Cash Flow
- FY 2023 Program Support & Artist Support Grants