

**Regional Arts Commission
Full Commission Board Minutes
January 23, 2023, 8 a.m. via ZOOM**

Welcome and Call to Order – Andréa Purnell, Chair

Purnell called the January 23, 2023, meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and asked Lea to conduct the Commissioner roll call.

Present

Commission: Andréa Purnell, chair, Jerry Gennaria, secretary, John Russell, treasurer, Rhonda Carter-Adams, Sam Fiorello, Beverly Isom, Vin Ko, Rudy Nickens, Constantino Ochoa, Cheryl Walker, David Wilson

Absent

Roz Johnson, vice chair, Mont Levy, Heather Corcoran

Staff

Vanessa Cooksey, Nichole Belford, Rita Dillard, Ann Haubrich, Jay Scherder, Jason Schipkowski, Chloe Smith, Lea Sutherlin, Leigh Winter, MK Stallings (consultant)

Additional Attendees: Rick Gratza (KEB)

Public Guests (Purnell)

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

Approval of November 10, 2022 Minutes

Purnell called for the approval of the November 10, 2022 minutes. Motion made by Russell, seconded by Fiorello, and unanimously carried to approve the November 10, 2022 minutes.

Recap of Executive Committee Decision

Purnell noted that during this meeting, she and Cooksey would present a PPT regarding the A&E request. Purnell then recalled that she sent an email to the full Commission last week, also relevant to the A&E request. Purnell further noted that this meeting was being held to: (1) give voice to the full Commission, as a group, regarding the A&E request; (2) communicate with transparency; and (3) assist RAC staff with next steps.

Purnell asked Cooksey to share the PPT which included the following: (1) recap of A&E and RAC leadership meeting which included Purnell, Cooksey and Walker, and the A&E executive director and A&E chair; (2) RAC and A&E parallel history of service to the STL Arts & Culture Sector; (3) A&E significant challenges; (4) the A&E request to merge with RAC; (5) overall financial and reputational risk to RAC; and (6) high-level review of A&E and RAC FY 2016-2020 Form 990s, respectively. Purnell asked Cooksey to provide context.

Cooksey shared the following: (1) only A&E 990s available to the public are 2016-2020 – thus, unable to include 2021; (2) based on conversations with A&E leadership, the organization has experienced decline in public support/income during past five years; (3) RAC has experienced increase in revenue during the past five years; (4) lack of shared information from A&E; (5) additional information as it relates to A&E public record and its impact on the sector; and (6) reasoning for RAC declining the A&E proposal.

Discussion held regarding the following: (1) concern with lack of access to A&E's 2021-990; overlap; and (2) A&E focus/target.

Cooksey continued presentation which included (1) sector impact background; (2) A&E stakeholder comparison [including stakeholder group, A&E provided resource or service and the RAC current equivalent] – and other RAC possibilities/considerations; and (3) programs and services comparison. Cooksey then encouraged everyone to read *Persuade and Provide* (which provides the history of A&E).

Discussion held regarding assets/debts of a dissolving 503c and potential negative reputational risk.

Cooksey noted that she will send the PPT to the full Commission following this meeting.

Additional discussion held regarding (1) possible conversations with other key sector organizations; (2) importance of The Arts Awards to the arts community; and (3) priority and full support of RAC grantees [who some are also A&E grantees].

Purnell noted the following: (1) RAC is in a good position; (2) will decide next steps; (3) RAC staff has created talking points and all inquiries should be directed to her or Cooksey; (4) will send talking points along with PPT following this meeting. Purnell added that the Executive Committee thought it important to have this conversation with the full Commission, and that while there are still responsibilities that remain, the Executive Committee will direct staff as it relates to next steps and discuss possible corporate dollars. Purnell then noted that continued conversation is merited regarding the Arts Awards.

Public Comment

None in attendance.

Roll Call & Adjournment

Present

Commission: Andréa Purnell, Roz Johnson, Jerry Gennaria, John Russell, Rhonda Carter-Adams, Mont Levy, Heather Corcoran, Sam Fiorello, Beverly Isom, Vin Ko, Rudy Nickens, Constantino Ochoa, Cheryl Walker, David Wilson

Purnell called for motion to adjourn the January 23 Full Commission meeting at 9:00 a.m. Motion made by Gennaria, seconded by Carter-Adams, and unanimously approved.

Board Packet Attachment

Full Commission Meeting Minutes, November 10, 2022

Submitted by

L. Sutherlin, Exec. Asst. & Commission Administrator