

**Regional Arts Commission
Commission Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2022 @ 8:00AM via ZOOM**

Welcome and Call to Order – Cheryl Walker, Chair

Walker called the March 10, 2022, meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and asked Lea to conduct the Commissioner roll call.

Attendance

Commission: Cheryl Walker, Andréa Purnell, John Russell, Roz Johnson, Jerry Gennaria, Rhonda Carter-Adams, Heather Corcoran, Sam Fiorello, Vin Ko, Lyah LeFlore, Mont Levy, Kellie Trivers, David Wilson

Absent

Mary Walsh

Staff Attendees: Vanessa Cooksey, Nichole Belford, Rita Dillard, Ann Haubrich, Jay Scherder, Chloe Smith, Lea Sutherlin; Consultants: Pacia Anderson, Angela Rhone, MK Stallings

Absent: Liz Deichmann, Robert Harvey, Shevaré Perry

Additional Attendees: Rick Gratza (KEB), Trish Donovan (KEB), Armanino LLP – Chelsea Winsor, Jesseca Lowe, Janet Ramey, Emily Kohring (Bread and Roses)

Recognition of Public Guests

Walker called for any public guests; none present.

Approval of February 10, 2022 Minutes – Walker

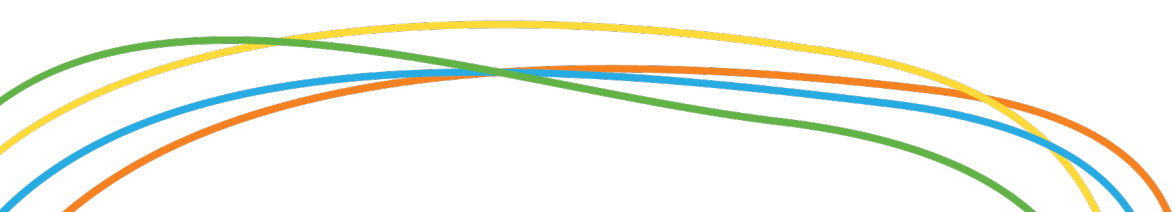
Motion made by Russell, seconded by Purnell and unanimously carried to approve the February 10, 2022 minutes.

Chair Report - Walker

Walker began her report by recognizing the contributions, love for the arts, landscape in St. Louis and throughout the world, of world-renowned architect, Gyo Obata, who recently passed away.

Cooksey expressed appreciation for the Gyo Obata Fellowship Program at RAC.

Conflict of Interest Form Reminder: Walker reminded that the link to the RAC Conflict of Interest form was received as part of the Board packet for this meeting, and asked Commissioners to complete and submit if not already done so.



Special Guest: Bread and Roses of Missouri: Walker reminded of her focus on arts as healer while she serves as chair; introduced Emily Kohring, new CEO of Bread and Roses.

Kohring: Bread and Roses is a CAT infused organization; noted she is also a CAT alum; shared purpose of Bread and Roses; talked about BIPOC youth initiative and the theater program for adults; further noted that program has been funded in the past by RAC; shared video on the program.

Walker and Purnell thanked Kohring for her presentation; additional Commissioner thanks can be found in the recorded chat for this meeting.

Finance Committee - Russell

Walker asked Russell to present the Finance Committee report.

Russell asked Gratza to report on the February cash flow.

February 2022 Cash Flow Update (KEB)

Gratza reported on the February 2022 cash flow included in the Board packets for this meeting; he noted that the report represents actual cash flow through February, projected March through December; and anticipates the year will end with a strong cash position.

Russell then called for the presentation of the FY21 Audit by Armanino LLP.

FY21 Audit Presented by Armanino, LLP

Ramey thanked management and KEB for cooperation Armanino received during the FY21 audit; highlighted unmodified opinion this year which includes overview of scope of considerations; management team and KEB did great job on financial analysis; RAC is on the road to recovery; highlighted areas to pay attention to; then asked Winsor to highlight results of the engagement.

Winsor noted that requested information was timely and organized and highlighted communications with the Finance Committee. Winsor then highlighted results of the following: (1) the engagement – kudos to Cooksey and KEB for taking ownership of the information contained in the financial statements; (2) required communications with no significant deficiencies or advisory comments – additional kudos to KEB and the RAC Team; no material weaknesses, significant difficulties or adjustments; (3) financial analysis – which also included graphs of expenses by purpose, revenue analysis, and 5-year trend of current ratio; and (4) new accounting and reporting considerations.

Russell thanked Armanino for the FY21 audit presentation, which had also been reviewed by the Finance Committee on March 7; Russell called for motion to approve the FY21 Audit.

Motion made by LeFlore, seconded by Gennaria and unanimously carried to approve the FY21 Audit.

Walker then asked Purnell to present an update on Grants & Programs.

Grants & Programs Update - Purnell

Purnell shared the following update: (1) Grants and Programs Committee met on February 17th in preparation for launch of the Artist Support Grant and Program Support Grant that kicked off on February 28th; (2) Grants & Program Committee approved improvements and updates; (3) shared number of applications to date; (4) Chloe and Jay hosted live webinars for grantees and reviewers; (5) applications close on March 21st; (6) thanked Commissioners who signed up to review grants, and extended kudos to grants team and staff for their dedication and hard work.

2022 Annual Retreat - Walker

Walker reminded that September is being considered for the 2022 Annual Retreat. She asked Commissioners to share their attendance preferences in the chat.

Walker then called for the report from the President and CEO.

President & CEO Report - Cooksey

AEP6 Update (Stallings)

Cooksey asked Stallings to present an update on AEP6.

Stallings shared presentation on AEP6 and highlighted the following: (1) overview of AEP6, Arts and Economic Prosperity 6 - Americans for Arts' AFTA sixth study of the nonprofit arts and culture industry's impact on the economy; (2) AEP6 enables measurement in four economic areas; (3) focus of AFTA; (4) RAC's responsibility as a partner; (5) eligible organizations and additional organizations that might be included; (6) initial source and method for determining eligible AEP6 nonprofit organizations; (7) developing the eligible population of organizations; and (8) insights to date.

Walker thanked Stallings for the AEP6 update and for his work in the community.

Cooksey thanked Stallings for acknowledging Deichmann's work as she is still connected to RAC; noted that Stallings' approach has been detail focused and will be useful for RAC's efforts with AFTA and useful for capacity building.

Cooksey then presented on diversifying RAC's revenue, sustaining the mission and vision, as part of the approved work plan for 2022; pleased with outcome of audit but reminded that accrual basis is utilized for reporting; reiterated impact that COVID has had on Hotel/Motel sales tax; recent meeting with Explore St. Louis revealed forecast that while headed in right direction, RAC is three years out before pre-pandemic levels will be reached; highlighted examples of political and environmental threats which also impact the landscaping for how RAC earns funding; important for RAC to diversity revenue while awaiting recovery, and eventually lead in the sector.

Cooksey then provided (1) additional background and highlights; (2) objective of diversifying RAC's

revenue long-term sustainability and new streams of revenue that does not compete with artists but complements hotel/motel sales tax; (3) existing opportunities; (4) new opportunities based on work plan approved by the full Board including: (a) endowment income, (b) producing partner 2022 program – evolving RAC’s role as investor in its sector; and (c) retail sponsored cause-marketing 2023 as a key revenue opportunity and offering consumers the opportunity to opt-in. Cooksey noted that next steps will include legal and financial due diligence, revenue modeling and market research and create a more detailed execution timeline.

Open Discussion & Chat Comments: Getting back to business as usual while thinking in creative and visionary ways to do more outstanding things; very supportive; not about having money for “money’s sake” but investing and creating resources for sustainability; Cooksey’s vision is innovative and progressive, and this is necessary for RACs future; exciting report; the more resources RAC has more resources to invest in the community.

Cooksey then shared information about Alderwoman Marlene Davis’ Resolution 185.

Cooksey concluded her report with a “huge thanks” to Jill McGuire for her ongoing support and input, and to Commissioners for their ongoing support.

Public Comment

No public guests in attendance.

Roll Call & Adjournment

Commission Attendance: Cheryl Walker, Andréa Purnell, John Russell, Roz Johnson, Jerry Gennaria, Rhonda Carter-Adams, Heather Corcoran, Vin Ko, Lyah LeFlore, Mont Levy, Kellie Trivers, David Wilson

A motion was made by Carter-Adams, seconded by Gennaria and unanimously carried to adjourn the March 10, 2022 meeting at 9:27 a.m.

Submitted by Lea Sutherlin
Executive Assistant & Commission Administrator

Board Packet Attachments

- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, February 7, 2022
- Full Commission Meeting Minutes, February 10, 2022
- 2022 Committee List
- Conflict of Interest Form Link
- February Cash Flow Spreadsheet
- 2021 Audit