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REGIONAL ARTS  
COMMISSION OF ST. LOUIS



**Regional Arts Commission  
Commission Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 2021 @ 8:00AM via ZOOM  
No recording due to technical difficulties.**



**Welcome and Call to Order – Mont Levy, Chair**

Levy called the October 14, 2021, meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and asked Lea to conduct the Commissioner roll call.

**Attendees**

Commission: Mont Levy, John Russell, Andrea Purnell, Rhonda Carter Adams, Sam Fiorello, Jerry Gennaria, Roz Johnson, Lyah LeFlore, Vin Ko, Walé Soluade, Kellie Trivers, Cheryl Walker, Mary Walsh, David Wilson

**Absent**

Heather Corcoran

Staff: Vanessa Cooksey, Rita Dillard, Chloe Smith, Lea Sutherlin, Liz Deichmann (consultant)

Other: Trish Donovan (KEB), Rick Gratza (KEB)

**Approval of August 12, 2021 Minutes – Mont Levy**



**Motion made by Gennaria, seconded by Fiorello and unanimously carried to approve the August 12, 2021 minutes.**

**Chair Report – Mont Levy**

Levy called for acknowledgement of public guests – none in attendance.

Levy then welcomed Lyah LeFlore as the fifteenth commissioner. Special thanks to Trivers and the Governance Committee who worked diligently in getting the work done for this important appointment.

Congratulated Fiorello and his wife on the recent event Requiem of Light, in memory of those lost to COVID-19.

Fiorello thanked Cooksey and Commissioners who supported this diverse event which reflected a STL that “can be” as opposed to the ongoing problems.

Levy: Kudos to Cooksey for coordinating RAC’s 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary video; brings new level of pride and quality to RAC; important accomplishment; speaks to Cooksey’s marketing strengths.

Reported he and Cooksey had productive call with the Mayor Jones, City of St. Louis; Mayor was receptive and appreciates and sees the importance of arts; Vanessa sent plan on how relief funds would be used; also discussed appointing Walker as his successor as chair; advocacy letter will be released on the day of this meeting, to request the mayor and county executive give some of the relief dollars to toward continuing the RAC mission and as a conduit for these dollars; arts organizations will also send out a release later this month toward this effort.

Purnell: Appreciated the updates; a momentum is building; looking for more clarity regarding how dollars will be spent.

Cooksey: Will share a draft of the RAC/ARP Funding Plan.

Levy: Any amount will help arts and arts culture funding levels.

### **Finance Committee**

Levy asked Russell to present the Finance Committee report.

Russell noted that the Finance Committee met on October 12th; asked Gratza to present the cash flow report.

### **Cash Flow Spreadsheet**

Gratza presented the cash flow spreadsheet which represented actual activity through September; October through December is projected. Highlighted Hotel/Motel revenue.

Cooksey commented on ending cash balance.

### **Governance Committee Report**

Levy presented the Governance Committee report for Trivers. Asked Trivers to comment.

### **Commissioner Recruitment**

Trivers encouraged Commissioners to submit potential commissioners with contact info.

Levy reported on the following:

### **September Mini-Retreat Recap**

Levy thanked everyone for their participation in the September retreat; good discussions held around relief funds, lessons to be learned, vaccination policy, facilities/Campfire report; and the strategic plan.

### November Mini-Retreat Update

Urged everyone to participate; will spend time again on facilities, governance issues, meeting cadences, and budget and work plan as guided by the strategic plan.

### Grants Committee Report

Levy asked Purnell to present the Grants Committee Report.

Purnell: Grants Committee unanimously approved the 2022 Grantmaking Plan recommended by staff; full commission was sent notes and asked to look at grants recommended changes by staff.

Cooksey: Main goal for recommended changes to grantmaking process for 2022 are (1) process improvements influenced by the new GMS to be more effective and efficient and (2) updating overall operational aspect and strengthening infrastructure as called out by the strategic plan.

### 2022 Grantmaking Plan

Cooksey presented the 2022 Grantmaking Plan which included a 2021 grants update on arts organizations and artists; financial update - 2022 forecast which assumes no new revenue and highlights projected Hotel/Motel sales tax revenue and general and admin expenses; and 2022 proposed grants and programs budget.

Levy commented on artist support; thanked Cooksey for the overview.

C. Smith thanked Grants Committee for reviewing and approving.

Purnell thanked Cooksey for the overview. She then called for a motion for the full commission to approve the Grants Committee's approval of the staff recommended 2022 grants application review and approval schedule changes.

**Motion made by Levy, (committee approved – no second needed), and unanimously carried to approve the 2022 Grantmaking Plan.**

### Ad Hoc Facilities Committee Report

Levy asked Gennaria to present the Ad Hoc Facilities Committee Report.

Gennaria reported on the following:

Thanked everyone for their input on the Campfire process at the September retreat; will engage again at the November retreat; gathering info and key options to present at the November retreat; Campfire conducting additional analysis of data presented in September; also been engaging with DCM to understand the co-market; Ad-Hoc will meet again in October.

### Resource Development Task Force Report

Levy asked Johnson and Purnell to present the Resource Development Task Force Report.

Johnson/Purnell reported on the following:

Johnson: Reminded that this Task Force was established in June with the objective of looking at short and long term funding needs for RAC that don't compete with grantees; thanked Cooksey and Staff for their continued research for a path forward; some progress being made; short term funding source discussed earlier regarding meeting with the Mayor as mentioned by Levy; discussions underway regarding additional funding; will present a comprehensive recommendation in November that ties back to the strategic plan in making RAC a viable source in the community.

Purnell nothing addition to add thanked Johnson for her leadership.

Johnson thanked members of the Task Force for their input and recommendations.

Levy asked Cooksey to present the President & CEO report.

### **President & CEO Report**

Cooksey presented on the following:

Virtual Town Hall, November 3, 2021, at 10 a.m.; host - Purnell, speakers Levy and Cooksey; a new creative element will be in place – virtual photo booth; she shared topics that will be covered including but not limited to the 2022 Grants and Programs preview and The Work of Art video premiere – 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary video produced by HEC-TV.

September Retreat Follow-Up – COVID 19 vaccine reactive statement; and ARP Funds Arts Advocacy Letter Reactive Statement.

Staffing update – Kudos to R. Dillard for pulling a strong talent pool; three new full-time staff including Grants and Programs Senior Manager Position, External Relations Senior Manager, and Communications Senior Manager, and three part-time consultants.

Community Engagement – events, stakeholder meetings, and downtown engagement and safety initiative committee - invited by the Mayor to serve; will address long term solutions for a vibrant downtown.

Will send her report to full commission following this meeting.

Levy: Thanked staff; small but hardworking team.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 a.m.

Submitted by Lea Sutherlin  
Executive Assistant & Commission Administrator

**Board Packet ATTACHMENTS:**

- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, August 9, 2021
- Full Commission Meeting Minutes, August 12, 2021
- Resource Development Task Force Minutes, August 20, 2021
- Ad Hoc Facilities Meeting Minutes, August 26, 2021
- September Mini Retreat Minutes, September 8 & 9, 2021
- Grants Committee Minutes, September 17, 2021
- Cash Flow Spreadsheet