

**Regional Arts Commission
Commission Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2022 @ 8:00AM via ZOOM**

Welcome and Call to Order – Cheryl Walker, Chair

Walker called the June 9, 2022, meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. and asked Sutherlin to conduct the Commissioner roll call.

Attendance

Commission: Cheryl Walker, chair, John Russell, treasurer, Roz Johnson, secretary, Jerry Gennaria, Rhonda Carter-Adams, Heather Corcoran, Sam Fiorello, Beverly Isom, Mont Levy, Constantino Ochoa,

Absent

Lyah LeFlore, Vin Ko, Andréa Purnell, David Wilson

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: Trish Donovan (KEB); Guest Facilitators – Barbara Love & Rudy Nickens

Walker thanked exiting Commissioners Walsh and Trivers for their service. Noted Trivers' hard work on Governance Committee and around development; Trivers an active leader; and pleasure to have worked with her. Further noted it was also great working with Walsh; appreciated Walsh's interest in grants and public art, and thanked Walsh for her service. Both will receive a similar token of appreciation presented to Soluadé upon his transition off the Commission. Walker then welcomed Constantino Ochoa and Beverly Isom as new members of the Commission and invited both to comment.

Recognition of Public Guests

Walker called for any public guests; none present.

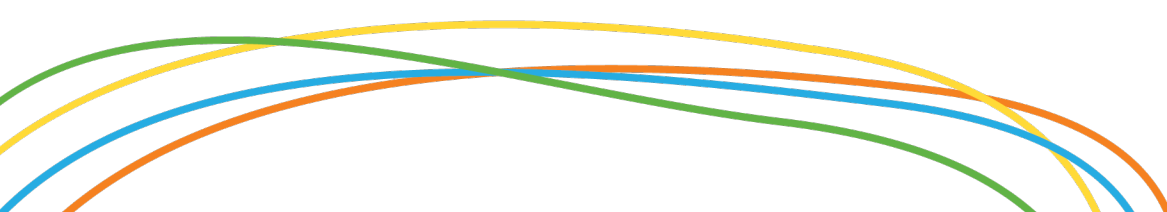
Approval of May 12, 2022 Minutes – Walker

Walker called for motion to approve the May 12, 2022 minutes.

Motion made by Fiorello, seconded by Russell and unanimously carried to approve the May 12, 2022 minutes.

Approval of 2022 Program Support and Artist Support Grant Awards

In the absence of Purnell, Haubrich presented the Program Support and Artist Support Grant Awards for 2022.



Walker called for motion to approve the 2022 Program Support Grant Awards and the 2022 Artist Support Grant Awards.

Motion made by Levy, and unanimously carried to approve the 2022 Program Support Grant Awards and the 2022 Artist Support Grant Awards. (Approved by Grants & Programs Committee; no second needed)

Advancing Pillar 3 of RAC’s Strategic Plan - Barbara Love & Rudy Nickens, Guest Facilitators

Walker shared objective of the presentation/training session - advancing Pillar 3 of RAC’s Strategic Plan - “Champion policies and practices that promote diversity, racial equity, accessibility, and inclusion in the arts.” Walker then introduced guest facilitators Dr. Barbara Love, and Mr. Rudy Nickens, both leaders in DEIJ - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice since before the terms were popularized. (bios included in the packet for this meeting).

Nickens remarked this is an important topic and importance of becoming more intentional about this work; excited about RAC’s 2022 theme “Art as Healer” as work surrounding equity, justice and inclusion should be viewed through that lens. Nickens then asked Love to comment.

Love thanked RAC for this opportunity to work with those who recognize the work that needs to be done and are willing to take the necessary steps effectively get it done; healing through the arts is an exciting part of this journey. Nickens then asked Cooksey to comment on background for this work.

Cooksey noted that this is an exciting time; staff has been engaged in DEI training since February; excited to have this experience with commissioners.

Nickens shared the following: (1) overview of agenda/session; (2) called for introductions; (3) highlighted the evolution of “DEI” as it relates to communities, customs of organizations, etc.; (4) understanding internalized learned behaviors and patterns; and (5) racism as the focus of this session and Session 2 in August.

Brief discussion held on racism versus colorism.

Love gave in-depth presentation on Historical Antecedents of Anti-Blackness and noted the usefulness of knowing the history which highlighted the following: (1) definition of anti blackness; (2) four historical developments; (3) goal of healing and creating a different kind of world; (4) importance of moving toward/applying principles of liberatory conscientiousness; and (5) living with awareness and intentionality. She noted that as one learns more, they can change more.

Discussion held regarding the following: (1) how this work aligns with RAC broader mission toward a full creative life for every St. Louisan; (2) how this work will provide tools, frame, and thinking toward

achievement; (3) importance of role the arts play in this work; (4) inquiries for additional resources that would allow deeper research into historical antecedents; and (5) how history helps better understand race and how it influences everyday lives.

Nickens noted Session 2 in August - the role arts play in creating a different position of what has been inherited.

Chair Remarks

While Walker transferred to different device, Cooksey highlighted the May Cash Flow Analysis as part of the Board packet for this meeting. Cooksey also highlighted the August projection May Hotel/Motel payments; and grant dollar amounts for PSG and ASG.

Levy asked about April contingency draw.

Cooksey noted she will send that info to Commission.

Public Comment

No public guests in attendance.

Roll Call & Adjournment

Walker, via chat, called for roll call and motion to adjourn the June 9, 2022 meeting.

Present

Commission: Cheryl Walker, chair, John Russell, treasurer, Roz Johnson, secretary, Jerry Gennaria, Rhonda Carter-Adams, Heather Corcoran, Sam Fiorello, Beverly Isom, Mont Levy, Constantino Ochoa,

A motion was made by Gennaria, seconded by Johnson and unanimously carried to adjourn the June 9, 2022 meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Submitted by Lea Sutherlin
Executive Assistant & Commission Administrator

Board Packet Attachments:

- Full Commission Meeting Minutes, May 12, 2022
- 2022 Program Support and Artist Support Grant Awards
- Guest Facilitator Bios (Love & Nickens)
- May 2022 Cash Flow Spreadsheet
- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, May 9, 2022