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(314) 863 6932 FAX
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REGIONAL ARTS
COMMISSION OF ST. LOUIS



Minutes - Day 1
Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis
RAC Staff/Commission Mini-Retreat
November 17 & 18, 2021
In-Person: RAC Building Multi-purpose Room



Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Welcome and Call to Order – Mont Levy, Chair

Levy welcomed everyone to the November 17, 2021 retreat at 4:15 p.m.; Lea conducted the Commissioner roll call.

Commissioners

Mont Levy
Cheryl Walker
Andréa Purnell
John Russell
Rhonda C. Adams
Heather Corcoran
Jerry Gennaria
Roz Johnson
Lyah LeFlore
Kellie Trivers
Mary Walsh
David Wilson

Staff

Vanessa Cooksey
Pacia Anderson
Nichole Belford
Ann Haubrich
Liz Deichmann
Rita Dillard
Rob Goltermann
Claire Leindecker
Rick Gratza
Shevaré Perry
Jay Scherder
Chloe Smith
Lea Sutherlin



Commissioners-Virtual

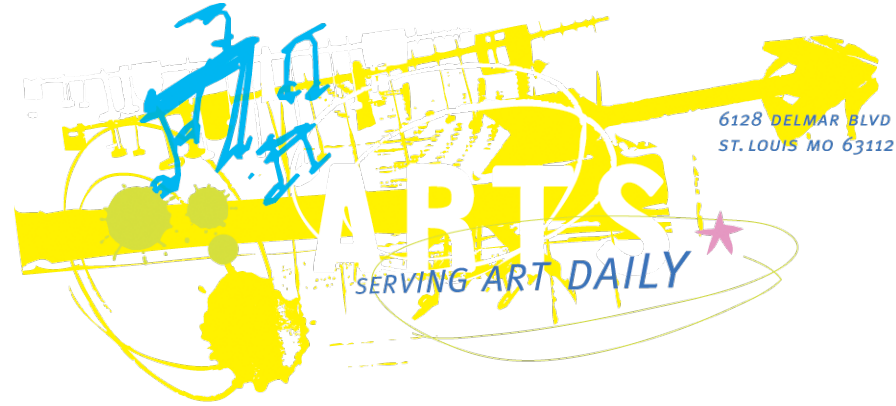
Sam Fiorello

Ad Hoc Committee Member

Eva Frazer

Absent

Walé Soluade
Vin Ko



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Retreat Housekeeping

Cooksey shared housekeeping rules; reminded that this is a hybrid event – shared Geniecast on board again; social distancing – entire retreat held on first floor and online; Finch Photography on site shooting still/candid photographs; introduced Leslie Peters, retreat facilitator.



Agenda Overview and Group Activity (RAC Jeopardy)

Peters presented a group activity and called for participant introductions. She then called for the RAC Jeopardy game for participants to learn more about governance and other key information about RAC, as staff prepares for 2022.

Campfire Presentation

Steven Harowitz, Campfire, reviewed data collection tools and survey presented at the September retreat regarding Physical Space and the Regional Arts Commission. He then reviewed Campfire's most recent "sense making" survey also based on Physical Space and the Regional Arts Commission, which included overarching strategic questions, race, gender and zip code, additional disaggregated data, takeaways and considerations.

Small Group Debrief

Peters asked participants to hold small group discussions and develop thoughts and questions for the Ad Hoc Facilities Committee, based on assessment of the Campfire presentation and data/finding. Open discussion held regarding small group presentations.



Peters then gave preview of the Day 2 agenda.

Adjourned for dinner at 6:30 p.m.

**Minutes - Day 2
November 18, 2021 @ 8 a.m.**

Welcome and Call to Order – Mont Levy, Chair

Levy welcomed everyone to Day 2 (November 18th) of the Staff/Board retreat at 8:25 a.m.; his last retreat as Chair; reviewed Day 2 agenda – will be a Board meeting format; Lea conducted the Commissioner roll call.

Commissioners

Mont Levy
Cheryl Walker
Andréa Purnell
John Russell
Rhonda C. Adams
Heather Corcoran
Sam Fiorello
Jerry Gennaria
Roz Johnson
Lyah LeFlore
Adewalé Soluadé
Kellie Trivers
Mary Walsh
David Wilson

Staff

Vanessa Cooksey
Pacia Anderson
Nichole Belford
Ann Haubrich
Liz Deichmann
Rita Dillard
Rob Goltermann
Claire Leindecker
Rick Gratza
Shevaré Perry
Jay Scherder
Chloe Smith
Lea Sutherlin

Absent

Vin Ko

Ad Hoc Committee Member

Eva Frazer

Commission Reports

Levy asked Cooksey to call for the following reports.

Finance Committee Report

October Cash Flow Update

Gratza presented updated October Cash Flow Analysis, sent to participants prior to the retreat as part of the retreat packet; included actual cash flow for October with projections for November and December; gave projected revenues and expenses for the year.

RAC Unrestricted Net Policy Position

Russell presented the RAC unrestricted net position policy, sent to participants prior to the retreat as part of the retreat packet; recently reviewed by the Finance Committee; highlighted updates.

Russell called for the approval of the updated RAC Unrestricted Net Policy Position. Motion made by Fiorello, seconded by Walker and unanimously approved (with correction - comma after “goal” and lowercase t).

Resource Development Task Force Report

Johnson and Purnell reminded about donor letter sent earlier in the week in response to the Commission pledge earlier in the year; thanked those who had already contributed.

5% ARP Funds Advocacy Effort

Cooksey reminded that the 5% ARP Funds Advocacy Effort was discussed during the September retreat; reviewed again how dollars would be leveraged; strong case has been made on how RAC’s ability to invest in the region can be transformed through these dollars.

Levy shared his perspective regarding the importance of the 5% ARP Funds Advocacy Effort; 111 arts organizations signed the letter; urged everyone to keep this effort at the forefront; still a lot of work to do.

President’s Report

2022 Research Agenda Preview

Cooksey reminded that in alignment with the strategic plan, being data-informed is important to the organization’s process, policies, and people; RAC will be known as source of data within the arts sector - within the region; grateful Deichmann is leading AEP6, a national economic impact study of the arts; invited participants to share data they would like to have; asked Deichmann to present the RAC 2022 research agenda.

Deichmann presented on the St. Louis Region’s Arts and Culture Landscape which included itinerary; research agenda; indicators and benchmarking; Covid-19 impact; missing data; and key findings; will send her presentation following the retreat.

Levy called for adjournment of November Commission meeting at 9:41 a.m.

Ad Hoc Facilities Committee Meeting

Committee Members

Jerry Gennaria, Chair, Eva Frazer, Mont Levy, Andréa Purnell, David Wilson

Staff: Vanessa Cooksey, Pacia Anderson, Nichole Belford, Liz Deichmann, Rita Dillard, Ann Haubrich, Shevaré Perry, Jay Scherder, Chloe Smith, Lea Sutherlin

Other: Sam Fiorello, Rob Goltermann, Roz Johnson, Lyah LeFlore, Claire Leindecker, Cheryl Walker, Mary Walsh

Facilitator: Leslie Peters

Gennaria called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., then called for the approval of the August 26th minutes.

Approval of the Minutes, August 26, 2021

Gennaria called for the approval of the August 26, 2021 minutes. Motion made by Levy, seconded by Purnell and unanimously approved.

Gennaria asked Cooksey to present the Recommendations Review.

Peters gave brief overview of commission levels of questions/conversation and noted that those conversations would be better served prior to any external presentations; thus, external presentations listed on the Day 2 agenda would not be held.

Gennaria noted that Peters has been asked to help facilitate conversation of this committee.

Recommendations Review

Cooksey shared her overarching feelings in line with RAC's mission; most concerned about addressing location as it relates to RAC's mission, strategic plan, vision and the work.

Open discussion held regarding the address of RAC and regional biases.

Peters called for discussion about pros and cons.

Pros and cons were shared.

Peters shared her capture intentionality of recommendations and asked the Commission-level question "what is the best location for RAC?"

Open discussion held regarding current pandemic and making decision that will make sense in the long run; focusing on location and not financial impact; where financial analysis is needed and where RAC should be strategically; financial comparisons; additional questions/answers needed to make a recommendation; charge of Ad Hoc Committee; external partnership opportunities; Campfire community feedback; real estate and the economy; best location to fulfill mission in perpetuity; and importance of functionality.

Peters listed pros and cons regarding location.

Gennaria asked for strong opinions about other areas in the region that should be considered.

Recommendation Selection/Next Steps

Gennaria suggested meeting again to look at other opportunities.

Levy suggested adding update to December meeting.

Peters noted she will send pros and cons notes and data based around discussions to this committee.

Cooksey distributed Grandel/Delmar rough comparison by Rob Goltermann, DCM.

Wilson asked for ballpark facilities cost.

Ad Hoc Facilities Committee Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Submitted by Lea Sutherlin
Executive Assistant & Commission Administrator

Retreat Packet Contents:

- **Agenda, RAC Staff/Commission Retreat, November 17-18, 2021**
- **RAC Bylaws**
- **RAC Statute**
- **Campfire Presentation, September Retreat (9/8/21)**

November Commission Board Meeting

- **Finance Committee Minutes (10/12/21)**
- **2021 October Cash Flow**
- **RAC Unrestricted Net Position Policy**
- **Cain Nonprofit Solutions Grant Readiness Toolkit**

Ad Hoc Facilities Committee Meeting

- **Ad Hoc Facilities Committee Minutes (8/26/21)**