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REGIONAL ARTS
COMMISSION OF ST. LOUIS



**Regional Arts Commission
Strategic Initiatives Committee Minutes
July 26, 2021 @ 1:00 PM via ZOOM**

Attendees



David Wilson, Chair, Rhonda Adams, Rosalind Johnson, Mont Levy, Cheryl Walker, Mary Walsh

Staff: Vanessa Cooksey, Rita Dillard, Chloe Smith

Other: Lea Sutherlin, Admin Consultant

1. Welcome/Call to Order: Wilson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m; one key issue, need for conversation on how to structure capacity building; asked Cooksey to provide update.

2. **Update on Capacity Building STL**

Cooksey - Capacity Building STL kicked off first session in October 2020; total of five sessions October thru May; added component on DEI; she reached out to facilitators, DeVos Institute of Arts Management, check-in and to understand their evaluation process; the contract includes three (3) evaluations every March, first one was in March 2021; next report will occur in March 2022 and they conduct a monthly check-in; organizational coaching happening now through August 2022; will get final report in March 2023; no planned survey of participants between now and end of the year, but next year in conjunction with the March report; DeVos noted no negative feedback from participants or from coaches.



Wilson: Asked if Cooksey has reviewed the March 2021 report.

Cooksey: Will review and forward to this committee.

3. **Determine Feedback Gathering for Participants**

Open discussion held regarding report content; Centene as funder, their feedback and point person for monitoring progress; cohort aspect of the program; negative feedback from some of the participants; the need for better understanding regarding participation; the impact of COVID and participation via Zoom; moving

forward – more about what participants can share from the experience; rethinking coaching; the DeVos perspective on the program and supporting RAC additions; identifying disconnects; stated expectations and alignment on what is most important; and lack of particular objective/no plan.

Levy: One year to go; possibly have a call with coach(es); want to know there's a plan and that it is being implemented.

Walker: Agreed. Usually customary with Capacity Building; need to know the focus.

Wilson: No specific concern; organization is doing well; if coaching can be more focused and objective driven it would be better.

4. **Next steps**

Wilson: Will send suggested questions for a survey to this committee that will go to participants.

Cooksey: Will get list from Devos/staff will send out NLT week of August 23rd.

Wilson asked Cooksey to review other strategic initiative projects.

Cooksey: Gyo Obata program on hold this year from staffing perspective; she heard from Gateway Foundation - will give RAC a \$50K general operating grant for a part-time person to work on Gyo Obata; Teaching Artist Institute on hold until next year; InSITE 2020 – Greater St. Louis organization has interest from a corporation for that initiative – she is in communication with organization from RAC perspective; CAT – maintaining meetings with alumni advisory board; and downtown public art initiative – Kitty Ratcliffe has interest in having conversation about how public art fits into the renovated Convention Center.

5. Adjourned at 1:46p.