



## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Evanston Arts Council**  
Tuesday, March 19, 2013  
6:30 p.m.

Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes Street Studio 106

Members Present: Anne Berkeley, co-chair; Heidi Bloom, co-chair; Manuel Aleman; Helen Axelrood; Carole Bass; Lisa Degliantoni; Rina Gitlin; Fran Joy; Rebeca Mendoza; Dino Robinson

Members Absent: Greg Allen, Rev. Kurt Condra, Nan Stein, Jacqueline Williams

Staff Present: Douglas J Gaynor, Director Parks Recreation and Community Services; Jill Silverman, Secretary II Cultural Arts Division

---

### **Declaration of Quorum**

With a quorum present, co-chair Anne Berkeley called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Joshua Bernstein, Evanston parent and a member of Evanston Arts Education Coalition, reported on the group's efforts to work with District 65 and Mayor Tisdahl on improving arts education in the schools. They are currently working on a grant application for a Kennedy Center program called Any Given Child, which is designed to assist communities in planning strategically to provide equitable arts education to students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Ms. Bernstein said they are seeking an arts organization that conducts day-to-day operations to qualify for the project. He had thought that the Arts Council might fulfill that role, but their status as an advisory board would probably not work. Ms. Joy suggested they consider the Changing Worlds organization. Mr. Bernstein said he would welcome Arts Council support for their initiative and requested a letter of recommendation to include with the application, which is due on March 31. Ms. Joy made a motion for the Arts Council to submit a letter of support for the Evanston Arts Education Coalition's efforts; the motion was seconded by Ms. Axelrood. The motion carried unanimously (10-0).

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Approval of the meeting minutes of February was postponed until next month's meeting.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Arts & Business** - Ms. Bass reported the Leadership Award was presented to Autobarn at this year's Mayor's State of the City and Arts Awards luncheon. The committee is discussing approaches to managing this year's BackStage Evanston event. Ms. Bass announced that Downtown Evanston will be hosting the Midwest Urban District Forum on May 20-21, at the Hilton Orrington. The committee is considering participating. Event organizer Ms. Carolyn Dellutri of Downtown Evanston explained that the theme of

the conference Arts and Economic Innovation and strategic partnerships. Registration begins next week. There will be more information to follow.

**Community Relations Committee** – Ms. Bloom expressed the need for more subcommittee members to attend the monthly meeting and take an active role on this committee. She reported the next Cultural Connection Lunch will take place at Howard Street Gallery in late April or early May. Ms. Gitlin asked if there might be flexibility regarding which day of the week the event will take place. She is unavailable on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ms. Bloom said she will be coordinating available dates with Howard Street Gallery owner Tony Arriola. She is still seeking a co-presenter.

**Cultural Fund Grant Program** – Ms. Bloom said the review panel met and the Community Relations Committee has a recommendation for grant award allocations. The Arts Council discussed the philosophy of supporting large established institutions vs. small or emerging groups. Grant program funds have been dramatically reduced in recent years, and Arts Council members expressed a need to work to get those numbers back up. Ms. Joy said she attended the panel review meeting and was impressed with the level of creativity and diversity expressed.

**Arts & Education** – Ms. Axelrod reported she has been working with Ms. Pam Baumgartner, fine arts teacher at Evanston Township High School, to display the *Seed by Seed* student exhibit at the Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center. Ms. Silverman is helping to arrange the hanging of the show, and relayed some concerns that Ms. Baumgartner has expressed about displaying the art at the Civic Center. Ms. Silverman said she is confident the concerns can be addressed, though having enough space to display all of the work will be a challenge. Mr. Gaynor mentioned the possibility of displaying the work in the City Council Chambers. Ms. Silverman will work with Mr. Gaynor to explore this option.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**evanstARTs** – Ms. Gitlin said she attended yesterday's evanstARTs presentation to City Council and is excited to see that a path is being laid regarding the future of the arts in Evanston. Ms. Bloom reported more than 100 people were in attendance and the aldermen provided a positive response. Ms. Bloom thanked Mr. Robinson for sharing his thoughts with the City Council. Ms. Bloom encouraged everyone to visit the evanstARTs.org site to review the executive summary. Ms. Mendoza asked about the next steps. Ms. Berkeley said City Council voted to accepted the report, and the City Manager plans to return to City Council in May with a request to move forward with recommendations from the report. Mr. Gaynor added that there are several moving parts to the report and that someone will need to be brought on board to bring the parts together. A primary focus will be fundraising.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Berkeley initiated a discussion about distinguishing between personal opinion and Arts Council consensus opinion when making public comments. She referred to Mr. Allen's comments at a recent City Council meeting, when he spoke about the proposed changes at Noyes as an Evanston resident while also mentioning that he is a member of the Evanston Arts Council. Ms. Berkeley expressed concern that the media coverage made it sound like the entire Arts Council is opposed to the Piven proposal. Ms.

Degliantoni asked if the Arts Council is not planning to take a stance. Ms. Berkeley said she believes the Arts Council should remain neutral. Ms. Mendoza said that it is inevitable that some individuals will have differing opinions on this topic and future issues, and that as an Arts Council member there is also a degree of influence. Ms. Berkeley said she doesn't oppose members speaking out as an individual. Members discussed creating a list of talking points for representatives of the Arts Council.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Arts Council members liaison assignments have been made, and members are asked to reach out to their liaison organizations at least twice a month and report back to the Arts Council with updates. They should provide a brief report prior to the Arts Council's monthly meetings so it can be included with the minutes when possible. A member asked what to tell artists or organizations who ask what the Arts Council can do for them. It was suggested that the revamping of [evanstonartsbuzz.com](http://evanstonartsbuzz.com) would be one thing to mention. Event organizers can now input their own listings, though there is a lag-time of 15 minutes before it will appear on the calendar.

Mr. Aleman announced he will be holding a forum for Hispanic parents in Evanston on Saturday, April 27, 2013, at Washington Elementary School. This program will provide information of interest that impacts the family environment. He asked if the Arts Council would like to participate. Ms. Gitlin said she would attend the conference and could volunteer at a table for an hour. Ms. Bloom said this topic falls under the Community Relations Committee and could be discussed further at the subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, April 3.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Dellutri mentioned that she is looking for artists to display artwork during this year's Evanston Sidewalk Sale + Artwalk on July 26-28. She is also looking to make the Evanston Holiday Bash and Tree Lighting in November bigger and better. They are considering creating a Parade of Cultures. Ms. Dellutri also would like to hold an event similar to Backstage Evanston that extends to a week or a month of performances.

Ms. Joy mentioned that YEA! is looking for volunteers for its annual event on May 18, 2013. Please contact Ms. Joy if you are interested. Ms. Joy shared an article that she received from Mr. Harvey Pranian of YEA!, describing the physiological effects the arts have on children.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Silverman  
Secretary II, Parks, Recreation & Community Services