



## MEETING MINUTES

### **Evanston Arts Council**

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

6:30 p.m.

Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes Street Studio 106

Members Present: Anne Berkeley, co-chair; Heidi Bloom, co-chair; Greg Allen; Lisa Degliantoni; Rina Gitlin; Stephen Guenther; Fran Joy; Rebeca Mendoza; Dino Robinson.

Members Absent: Manuel Aleman, Helen Axelrod, Carole Bass, Nan Stein, Jacqueline Williams.

Staff Present: Wally Bobkiewicz, City Manager; Jeff Cory, Cultural Arts/Arts Council Director; Jill Silverman, Secretary II Cultural Arts Division

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### Declaration of Quorum

With a quorum present, Chairman Berkeley brought the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – **Ms. Maggie Weiss**, Noyes Cultural Arts Center Tenants Association president, said the tenants and Arts Council have been asked by the City Manager to assess the criteria for tenancy at Noyes and make recommendations for changes beginning in 2014. Ms. Weiss also mentioned that the City Manager has agreed to allow tenants to move into currently vacant spaces at Noyes on an interim basis while the new criteria is being developed. At least one of the vacant spaces must be filled by a new artist or arts organization not currently in residence at Noyes.

**Ms. Elory Rozner**, founder of Uncommon Classrooms, shared information about an event called The Big Draw, which will take place throughout Chicago in October during Arts & Humanities Month.

**Mr. Sergio De Los Reyes**, an Evanston resident, said he is considering applying for appointment to a board or committee and wants to learn more about the Arts Council.

### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of June, July, August

Ms. Berkeley requested that liaison reports be attached to the August meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the June 18, July 16, and August 20, 2013 meetings be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved as written.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Arts & Business** – Ms. Gitlin reported on Backstage Evanston, which will take place from 3 to 6 p.m. on September 29. Fifteen local performing arts organizations will provide a preview performance from their upcoming season. In an attempt to be more family friendly this year, a \$10 student ticket price is being offered, and kids 12 and under will be admitted free. Volunteers are needed to assist at the event.

**Community Relations** – Ms. Bloom reported the next Cultural Connections lunch event will take place on October 1, at Space 900, 1042 Wesley Avenue. Ms. Bloom is seeking ideas for future lunch venues. She would also like to identify a successor as chair of the Community Relations Committee. Ms. Gitlin asked if lunches could occasionally be held on a day other than Tuesday so she could attend.

**STAFF REPORT**

No report provided.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Noyes Cultural Arts Center Mission and Criteria** – Ms. Berkeley asked Arts Council members to brainstorm about improvements/changes they would like to see at Noyes. Many ideas were generated, including an events schedule and/or interactive map of the building, a more welcoming lobby space, a café, open-make studio space, outdoor art space, an artist residency program, and more. A list of ideas provided by Arts Council members is attached. Mr. Reyes asked about the purpose of the building and why the City owns it. Mr. Cory explained that the City acquired the building in the late '70s after Noyes Elementary School was closed. The building provides below market rates for studio space for artists and arts organizations. In exchange, tenants must provide community service valued at 15 percent of the annual rent amount. Mr. Bobkiewicz said he has asked the Arts Council and Noyes Tenants Association to provide a recommendation to City Council with adjustments to the criteria for Noyes tenancy by February 2014. He has also asked the Noyes tenants and City staff to develop a plan to fill currently vacant spaces on an interim basis while the Noyes tenancy criteria are being reviewed.

**Ten Thousand Ripples** – Mr. Cory reported a culminating exhibition for the temporary sculpture installation is currently on display at the Loyola University Museum of Art in downtown Chicago. Of the 10 Buddha head sculptures currently on display in Evanston, five have been offered to the City as a donation for permanent display. The Public Art Committee has made the following recommendation for permanent placement of the sculptures: Howard Street at Clyde Avenue, downtown Evanston on Sherman just south of Fountain Square, Grey Park on Ridge at Main St., Curt's Café on Central Street, and near the Heartwood Center at Dempster Street and Dodge Avenue. Two alternative locations were identified in the event that one of the above sites is not feasible for permanent display: either rotating a sculpture among District 65 schools throughout the year, or at Evanston Township High School. Additional sculptures may be purchased for \$2,000, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Changing Worlds, a nonprofit organization that helped to organize the project. Mr. Allen made a motion to recommend approval Public Art Committee's recommended locations for permanent display of the sculptures. The motion was seconded by Ms. Degliantoni. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Berkeley tabled discussion of Arts Council field trips and a possible collaborative arts fest with Downtown Evanston until a future meeting. She also mentioned having sent out a doodle link/invite to members and requested a reply.

Liaison reports will be attached to the minutes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:30 p.m. on September 17, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Silverman  
Secretary II, Parks, Recreation and Community Services