



EVANSTON ARTS COUNCIL

Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 2019
6:30pm
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center
Room 2402

MINUTES

Members Present: Beth Adler, Jamal Ahmad, Judith Cohen, Indira Johnson, Gay Riseborough, Hope Washinushi, Toby Sachs, BJ Jones

Members Absent: Lisa Corrin, Susan Davis Friedman, Angela Williams

Staff Present: Paulina Martínez, Susie Hall, Lara Biggs

Other: Humberto Saldaña, Ginny Ching-Yin Lo, Clare Tallon Ruen, James Zoccoli, Terran Doehrer and Jutta Distler, Jack Weiss, Ann Covode and Yancey Hughes, Hope Washinushi

1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM

With a quorum present Co-Chair Beth Adler calls meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: none.

3. APPROVE FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES: Ms. Adler reviewed meeting minutes from April with the Council. **Dr. Jamal Ahmad moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 9, 2019; seconded by Mr. BJ Jones. Vote called and taken. Motion carried unanimously.**

4. DISCUSSION

a. Robert Crown: Lara Biggs, City of Evanston Engineer, noted she previously worked with Arts Council to develop a contract for public art at the Robert Crown Community Center with Blessing Hancock. Ms. Hancock agreed to the terms of up to 5 meetings with Arts Council, the public, and/or City Council at a price of \$325,000. Staff is happy with the contract. Staff proposes to award the agreement at the May 28 City Council meeting. Ms. Biggs stated it will take about two weeks to get contract signed and insurance after the Council

meeting. Start date for meetings and discussions with Ms. Hancock should be the middle June/July. Staff will coordinate and set up meetings, but the Arts Council will determine feedback and a timeline. Ms. Adler stated she would like to form a work group with the Public Art Committee, and agreed to move forward for Council approval on May 28.

b. Downtown Evanston Utility Boxes— Humberto Saldaña from One River Art+Design School presented his proposal to paint utility boxes around downtown. The boxes will incorporate indigenous wildlife and culture in Illinois. The project will involve kids and help them to understand what goes into public art. Ms. Adler asked if there was a contest or did the instructors choose the themes. Mr. Saldaña said it was done through summer camps at the school; the designs were created by the teachers. Students will be able to add their own colors or pattern design. Ms. Adler and Ms. Washinushi suggested using a similar technique used with to decorate the other utility boxes; paint a canvas or other material and then wrap the box. Mr. Saldaña stated he will use acrylic based paints meant to be outside and then will seal to keep longevity, and put a primer on boxes to create a surface to paint on. Ms. Adler also suggested that to try 2-3 boxes as a pilot, and wait to do all 15.

5. CONSIDERATION

A. COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND REQUESTS

1. **Identity Performing Arts:** Ms. Ginny Ching-Yin Lo, from Identity Performing Arts presented her proposal to continue to bring free dance programs for students at Family Focus. Identity Performing Arts is a non-profit organization that wants to bring education beyond the dance studio. The Arts Council has supported them since 2016. They provide a safe space for students to express themselves, and the classes end with a showcase at Family Focus. Ms. Ching-Yo Lin teaches kids 4th grade and up, until they can enter the dance team at ETHS. Students are from an underserved community with many ethnicities. The organization's budget for the program is \$3,400, and is asking for \$1,000. Identity Performing Arts has around 44 students. **Mr. Toby Sachs moved to approve \$1,000 in funding; Ms. Gay Riseborough seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.**
2. **Global Water Dances.** Clare Tallon Ruen presented her proposal for a biannual global celebration of dance and water awareness, which will take place on June 15 at 3 p.m. The dance is passed around the world at every 3:00 p.m. She would like for the event to take place on the grass by the Arrington Lagoon so there is no barrier to keep people out (no beach pass, etc). The program will include modern dance, African dance and then turn into dance jam. She is partnering with Water Shed Collective to focus on water awareness, as well as Citizens Greener Evanston who will focus on water issues in Evanston. There are around 15 performers: 6 African dancers, 5 modern dancers, Oakton students and high school students from ETHS (that attend her classes at Ridgeville), as well as 6

drummers. She will advertise the event through Northwestern, Greener Evanston, flyers, and Facebook. If it rains, she will still dance, and plans to practice in Fountain Square. Ms. Adler noted that the Council should consider that this is just a one day event. Ms. Ruen thinks 80 people will attend. Mr. Sachs suggested that she film it or do a live feed to keep the program going. **Ms. Adler moved to approve \$500 in funding; Ms. Riseborough seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.**

3. **I Grew Up Here.** Mr. James Zoccoli presented his proposal to create a documentary about what makes growing up in Evanston unique. He was part of the ETHS 1999 class, and now is a staff member. When he got to ETHS he saw how kids were using their phones to film things, and started a Filmmakers Club. He wanted to teach kids about filmmaking, storyboarding, post production, etc. He knows of 12 other people who went to ETHS from his class that now teach there. He wants to put Evanstonians in the spotlight to tell their stories. He will produce the documentary by himself, but have the kids in his club/at the school assist. He will publicize the video through ETHS filmmakers club and YouTube, and will submit to film festivals and show at the Library. Ms. Adler noted that the Arts Council doesn't usually fund personal projects unless they have an impact on the community. Dr. Ahmad asked what the project's ask was for. Mr. Zoccoli stated he applied for \$1,000 – about 18% of budget. **Ms. Riseborough moved to award \$1,000 in funding; Mr. Jones seconded. Mr. Jones, Ms. Riseborough, and Ms. Johnson are in favor. Not enough votes to pass.** Ms. Adler added that when he has footage, to come back and see if they can review again.
4. **Jutta and the Hi-Dukes.** Terran Doehrer and Jutta Distler presented as individual artists, about their proposal to fund their Social Dance for the Special needs Community project. They teach a social form of dance to special needs students, with live music in a circle. Instructors have positive impact for kids with autism and down syndrome. They have decided that once a month classes at Ridgeville Park District are best to keep the attention of the students. One kid was nonverbal and his mother didn't think he would dance. He now dances and speaks. They are asking for \$1200, which would cover \$100 per class. Mr. Sachs stated that the Arts Council likes to focus on programs to deliver their goals of equity and this project does so in spades. All ages are welcome. They have reached out to all public groups to make everyone aware. **Dr. Ahmad moved to award \$1,000 in funding; Ms. Washinushi seconded. Unanimously approved.**
5. **Design Evanston.** Jack Weiss, former president of Design Evanston presented his proposal to create a new book titled *Evanston's Design Heritage*. He last came before the Art's Council in 2013 for the *Evanston 150 years and 150 Places* book. Through that book they were able to leverage Open House Chicago to include Evanston – the first suburb outside Chicago to be included. He is seeking \$1,000 for production in book to showcase Evanston's symphony of

design professionals. The new book will be available at all libraries and hopefully Chicago Architecture Center. He hopes that Evanston residents who recognize beauty of this town, arts and design community will purchase it. Ms. Johnson noted the lack of diversity in the names listed. Mr. Weiss noted that there are several ethnicities/genders in the book, but design professions have not historically included minorities or women. He has a \$10,000 budget. **Ms. Adler recused herself from vote. Ms. Riseborough moved to award \$1,000 in funding. No seconded. Ms. Cohen moved to award \$500 in funding; Mr. Sachs seconded. Approved 6-1-1. Dr. Ahmad did not approve.**

6. **Kids Global Network.** Ms. Ann Covode from KIDS Global Network, presented her proposal to offer PhotoVoice projects. KIDS Global Network is a non-profit in Evanston that uses arts to help disadvantaged kids at Chute and YO.U. They teach photography with writing and social justice. Through a partnership at Chute middle school and the media arts teacher they have been able to enhance projects with Photoshop and Adobe Spark. They will showcase the work at the Evanston Public library at the end. The students will first learn how to do photography and then take a step further and express themselves through photography. They will then move on with writing to think about what want to express. The students will set goals: what they want to accomplish with skills while feeling safe. There will be about 12-20 students in the leadership program (kids who have shown to be leaders). They are also working with the Block Museum for a panel discussion **Mr. Ahmad moved to support \$1,000 in funding; Ms. Washinushi seconded. Unanimously approved.**
7. **YEA.** Hope Washinushi, Chair of Young Evanston Artists (YEA), presented YEA's proposal for funding to assist with the YEA Festival, as no one else from her board was available to present. It is a one day program, which has been operating for 32 years. The posters were created by 3 different students with 3 different designs. They would like to have a second stage and larger set up this year to help showcase all the different arts (dance, music, media, etc.), and make it a more well-rounded event. They need sound engineers to activate both stages. They have a media tent and lounge with students doing iPad drawings and other interactive activities. ETHS and Chute/Nichols will be doing hands on demonstrations for younger students. The event involves all schools, private and public and is free for all. In the future she would like to make it more than just a one day event. Ms. Johnson noted that kids plan the whole year for their project, so she doesn't think of it as a one-day event. **Ms. Adler moved to support \$1,000 in funding; Mr. Sachs seconded. Ms. Washinushi recused herself. Unanimously approved.**

Ms. Johnson left at 7:52 p.m.

B. Mural Repairs: At the last Public Art Subcommittee meeting, the committee requested requested funding for three murals, Central, Dempster and Foster. The South Blvd mural is already been repaired. They chose Central and Dempster because of foot

traffic, and Dempster and Foster because of the bright colors that need to be fixed. The other two can be done next year. **Ms. Adler moved to approve repairs. Ms. Riseborough seconded. Unanimously approved.**

6. REPORTS

A. Chairs Report. Ms. Adler noted that the Cultural Fund grant review went well. Ms. Davis Friedman and Ms. Martínez did a great job setting it up. Ms. Adler thanks Ms. Cohen for taking a leadership role, and for all of the community artists who came in to help review. They are waiting for tally on the results/awards.

Ms. Adler also noted that she attended the 9th Ward meeting, and encourages others to get to their Ward meetings. Mr. Sachs spoke at the Human Services meeting earlier in the month. The Human Services Committee liked that the Arts Council didn't just come back at budget time and are happy with the Arts Council's work.

Mr. Sachs is putting together a list for cultural arts luncheons. Ms. Davis Friedman has worked hard on cultural fund grants.

B. Public Art – Ms. Riseborough noted the Arts Council voted tonight on repairing murals. They are continuing work with Chicago Public Art Group and the work on Noyes. They are also discussing the Art donation policy, and would like to take an inventory of public art by Ward which should be completed by July 1.

C. Working Groups Report. See above

D. Staff Report. Ms. Martinez noted that the repairs for the Mural at South Blvd. will begin June 3. The City will have a new ICMA Fellow will starting in June, and that person will take minutes at the next meeting.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Sachs stated that the Evanston Symphony is having its Youth Concert this weekend (May 19). The finale will have more than 130 kids playing along with the symphony.

Fight Like a Girl will have a showing on June 7 at 1100 Florence.

YEA is this weekend.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Adler moved to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Ahmad. The meeting is adjourned at 8:03 p.m. All in favor.

Submitted by Susie Hall