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**Evanston Arts Council Meeting**

Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Room 2402

**Members Present:** J. Cohen, J. Deeb, H. Washinushi, G. Riseborough, T. Sachs, B. Adler, A. Williams, L. Corrin, I. Johnson, J. Ahmad

**Members Absent:** W. Jones

**Staff Present:** P. Martínez, L. Biggs, S. Hohenkirk

**1. Call to Order and Declaration of a Quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Ms. Adler.

**2. Public Comment**

Ms. Kathy Halper, Co-director of Evanston Made introduced herself as a new staff member of Evanston made. She explained Evanston Made has become an not-for-profit organization, and is working with over 200 artist members. Ms. Halper gave a brief recap of the events Evanston Made had hosted and plan to continue to host to help artists connect with each other. Ms. Halper also mentioned that Evanston Made is working with its members to bring relevant workshops that will help artists put business plans together, and provide them with technical skills needed to grow their individual businesses.

**3. Approve Meeting Minutes from July 9, 2019**

**Approved 9-0-1.** Ms Corrin abstained.

**4. Consideration**

**A. Elections**

Ms. Martínez announced that she received two nominations: Beth Adler for Chair and Toby Sachs for Vice-chair. There were no other nominations.

**Ms. Riseborough moved to approve Ms. Adler as chair and Mr. Sachs as Vice-chair. Ms. Williams seconded. Motion carried 8-0-2. Ms. Adler and Mr. Sachs abstained.**

39 B. Community Support Fund Requests

40 1. Evanston Symphony Orchestra (ESO)

41 Ms. Margaret Gergen introduced herself and explained her request is for the  
42 commissioning of the Gospel Choir orchestration for the ESO's annual holiday  
43 concert on December 8, 2019. ESO wants the Gospel Choir to be accompanied  
44 by the full orchestra, instead of just a drum and a piano. The choir will interpret  
45 "Oh, What a Pretty Little Baby." The music needs to be orchestrated for all  
46 members of the orchestra. Therefore, the request is \$650 to cover the  
47 orchestration cost.

48  
49 Ms. Adler said the ESO has received two grants this year from the Arts Council,  
50 and she is concerned that the Community Support Fund balance is getting small.  
51 Mr. Gergen replied the board reviewed the guidelines of the Community Support  
52 Fund and did not find any rules that stopped them from applying.

53  
54 Ms. Cohen asked if the orchestration of the music would be utilized again. Ms.  
55 Gergen said "yes."

56  
57 Mr. Deeb asked Ms. Gergen if ESO allows others to use their materials. Ms.  
58 Gergen replied she wasn't sure. Mr. Deeb said he would prefer to make the  
59 materials available to the public.

60  
61 Ms. Williams asked if the event was open to the public. Ms. Gergen said "yes."

62  
63 Ms. Adler expressed concerns over the religious associations of the song. Ms.  
64 Gergen said there will be secular songs, but that the faith-based community is an  
65 integral part of the concert.

66  
67 Ms. Riseborough said it is a wonderful concert, but it is not free. Ms. Gergen  
68 apologized for the misinformation, and said: "Yes, the concert is not free."

69  
70 Ms. Adler asked if there were any free tickets. Ms. Gergen explained ESO makes  
71 free tickets available to the public at the Evanston Public Library on first come  
72 first served basis, and provides scholarship tickets for families of performers.

73  
74 **Ms. Riseborough moved to approve the funding request for \$650. Ms.**  
75 **Corrin seconded. Motion carried 7-2-1. Mr. Deeb and Ms. Adler voted no.**  
76 **Mr. Sachs abstained.**

77  
78 2. Terrain Biennial

79 Ms. Anne Stevens introduced herself and explained Terrain Biennial is an  
80 international public art exhibition to bring neighbors and artists to show art in their  
81 front yards and porches. The only rule is that artists together can't host  
82 themselves.

83  
84 The requested funding is for signs and food and drinks for the opening reception.

85 Ms. Riseborough mentioned that she attended the last Terrain Biennial, and it  
86 was terrific, but the quality of the work was inconsistent.

87  
88 Ms. Cohen asked if the concentration of the houses was on purpose, because  
89 there is nothing in south Evanston. Ms. Stevens said at the beginning it was done  
90 on purpose, but they want to expand now. The group wants the event to be  
91 walking friendly.

92  
93 Ms. Johnson asked how many of the artists are not from Evanston and how are  
94 they selected. Ms. Stevens advised the artists are self-selected; there is a  
95 manager who does the final selection.

96  
97 Ms. Johnson asked if there was a strategic plan to diversify the pool of artists.  
98 Ms. Stevens replied the event could be more diverse, and it was struggling with  
99 lack of diversity, but the group is trying as they try to formalize as a not-for-profit  
100 entity, and recognized they need to be more intentional.

101  
102 **Ms. Corrin moved to approve the funding request for \$1,000. Ms.**  
103 **Riseborough seconded. Motion carried 9-0-1. Ms. Adler abstained.**

104  
105 C. Preliminary Approval for RCCC Public Art Piece  
106 Ms. Lara Biggs, City Engineer, introduced herself and introduced Ms. Blessing  
107 Hancock, the artist. Ms. Hancock said she liked meeting everyone last time she  
108 attended the Arts Council meeting, and went back to her studio assuming they  
109 wanted something in a singular, monumental, and organic expression that lit up  
110 the place. Therefore, she came up with a concept that is painted metal with  
111 words that will come from the local community via an engagement process. The  
112 proposed piece is physically and visually interactive, and contrasts with the  
113 geometry of the building. Ms. Hancock said she is working with the architect on  
114 how close it can be to the building. Ms. Hancock indicated she was seeking  
115 approval to move forward with the first stage of production.

116  
117 Ms. Riseborough asked if there are any flat surfaces. Ms. Hancock said “no,  
118 everything is rounded; nothing is particularly flat.”

119  
120 Ms. Adler said it was a lovely design and thanked Ms. Hancock for listening to  
121 the Arts Council’s feedback. She then asked if the lighting colors change. Ms.  
122 Hancock said “yes, that is the idea, between two colors.” Ms. Adler also asked if  
123 there will be any projections on the building. Ms. Hancock said “yes, that is the  
124 idea,” but that she was still working on it. Ms. Hancock stated she was not sure  
125 how much impact the projections will have; however, the strongest projection will  
126 be on the ground.

127  
128 Ms. Hancock explained she prefers the location to be on the concrete, flat  
129 surface, rather than on grass or soft surface.

130

131 Ms. Corrin asked: “where does lighting sit in the budget?” Ms. Hancock explained  
132 lighting is part of the materials line item.

133  
134 Ms. Williams asked: “have you done a project like this in Chicago type weather  
135 (snow, ice, extreme cold)?” Ms. Hancock replied “yes, Downtown Minneapolis,  
136 and it is holding up well.” She further explained she can polycarbonate the metal,  
137 but it will not work with the light projections.

138  
139 Ms. Adler asked Ms. Hancock is she had thought about doing anything else other  
140 than words. Ms. Hancock explained she considered it, and is open to the idea,  
141 but her preference is the words.

142  
143 Ms. Cohen asked if the lights will be inside the piece, and also wanted to know  
144 how hard it will be to change them. Ms. Hancock said the lights are inside the  
145 piece and the lights have about a 10-year life span.

146  
147 Ms. Johnson asked: “you mentioned something about people being able to climb,  
148 is that correct?” Ms. Hancock replied: “Yes, I am assuming people will sit on the  
149 lower curve.” Ms. Adler asked if that was a safety concern. Ms. Biggs answered  
150 that she is more concerned about the durability of the project if people climb it  
151 and that “we may add some signage to say ‘Don’t Climb’.”

152  
153 Mr. Deeb asked if there was a 3D rendering with a rotation. Ms. Hancock said  
154 there is a 3D rendering and that she would share it with the group.

155  
156 Ms. Corrin mentioned in her previous job that she had a problem with people  
157 keying surfaces, and wanted to know more about the surface so she could think  
158 about maintenance problems the City may face. Ms. Hancock said the surface is  
159 painted metal.

160  
161 Ms. Adler said the City will need a maintenance budget. She also asked Ms.  
162 Hancock what color will be used to paint the art piece. Ms. Hancock said blue,  
163 but she can send color swatches.

164  
165 **Ms. Adler Beth moved to approve the design. Ms. Riseborough seconded.**  
166 **Motion carried unanimously.**

167  
168 D. Equity Subcommittee Creation

169 Mr. Sachs explained he has been working on the formation of an Equity in the  
170 Arst Subcommittee. This stemmed from the fact that the topic of equity comes up  
171 often in the Arts Council discussions, but because the work has not been done to  
172 codify the terms and use of commons language, Deputy City Manager, Kimberly  
173 Richardson recommended creating a subcommittee to address issues of equity  
174 in the arts.

175

176 Mr. Sachs indicated he is leading the effort, and has included three Arts Council  
177 members and three members of the public to work on the Equity in the Arts  
178 Subcommittee. Ms Williams, Ms. Johnson, and Mr. Sachs are the three Arts  
179 Council members, Mr. Jevold Simmons, Ms. Krista Fabian De Castro, and Ms.  
180 Mariana Bojorquez are the members of the public.

181  
182 Ms. Martínez added ICMA fellow, Ms. Shenicka Hohenkirk, will be the staff  
183 liaison.

184  
185 **Ms. Adler moved to approve the creation of the equity in the arts**  
186 **subcommittee. Ms. Corrin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

187  
188

## 5. Discussion

189 A. EMAP Proposal

190 Ms. Lea Pinsky introduced herself and briefly explained she is working with other  
191 organizations and high school students on a mural near Grove Street and  
192 Sherman Avenue. Ms. Pinsky said she is seeking feedback from the Arts  
193 Council.

194  
195 Ms. Pinsky stated that the lead artist paints the outlines and fills in the colors, but  
196 students and community members create the patterns, therefore the design is  
197 interactive. She added the mural will be in vignettes, instead of the full wall. This  
198 is done to make sure the parts of the wall that don't have efflorescence get  
199 painted and avoid damage. There will be approximately 20 students involved in  
200 the project.

201  
202 Ms. Riseborough asked how much of the mural has been painted. Ms. Pinsky  
203 clarified that nothing has been painted yet.

204  
205 Ms. Adler and Ms. Riseborough expressed they liked the design.

206  
207 Ms. Johnson asked if they needed approval from the Arts Council. Ms. Adler  
208 explained this was courtesy to show the design, as the wall is not controlled by  
209 the City.

210  
211 Ms. Corrin suggested adding a description of the murals around the City to a  
212 website to bring people to Evanston.

213  
214

## B. Bright Night for the Arts

215  
216 Ms. Adler said last year Bright Night for the Arts was in November at the Block  
217 Museum, and that this year will be at the Block Museum again on December 5.  
218 She explained it is a cocktail party to celebrate the arts in Evanston. Ms. Adler  
219 further explained there is a program throughout the night along with an award.  
220 The Mayor, the Provost, and Ms. Corrin, Executive Director of the Block Museum  
221 addressed the audience that last year.

222 Ms. Adler also said she will need help with the planning and logistics of the  
223 program, print materials, hosts, etc.

224  
225 Ms. Martínez discussed the award for this year; she explained she looked into  
226 what had been done in years past and discovered a previous nomination form,  
227 which she showed the group and asked for feedback.

228  
229 Ms. Corrin said that the nomination form could be more explicit about the  
230 “individual,” and suggested to eliminate the word “artist.” Mr. Sachs asked to add  
231 “or” between individual and organization and specify it is only one award.

232  
233 It was also suggested to limit one nomination per person, and to add a space to  
234 include who is doing the nomination.

235  
236 The Arts Council advised to release the nomination form sooner than October 1.

237  
238 Ms. Adler added that Evanston Made has agreed to do a slideshow. She also  
239 suggested having Terrain Biennial do a presentation. Ms. Martínez suggested  
240 inviting Identity Performing Arts to perform.

241  
242 Mr. Sachs suggested reaching out to Tim Rhoze’s to see if we could include a  
243 piece of *Black Ballerina*.

244  
245 Ms. Martínez also suggested inviting Evanston Dance Ensemble.

246  
247 Ms. Riseborough suggested inviting Ms. Teresa Parod’s Indonesian dance  
248 group.

249  
250 Ms. Corrin advised the group there is not stage at the Block Museum, so it would  
251 be hard for some of these performances to take place.

252

## 253 6. Communications

254 A. Chairs Report

255 B. Beth:

256 C. Public Art Subcommittee Report

257 D. Working Groups Report

258 E. Staff Report

259 1. Budget Update

260 Ms. Martínez provided a brief breakdown of the 2019 and budget allocations  
261 expenses.

262

263 Ms. Adler suggested the Public Art Subcommittee to start thinking about using  
264 the leftover funds for a mural on Robert Crown Community Center’s west wall in  
265 2020 or one big project.

266

267

268        **7. Announcements**

269        Ms. Riseborouogh announced that the Walter Bert Adams reception is on  
270        September 18 at the Levy Center.

271  
272        Mr. Deeb announced that he will have a show in Munster, Indiana.

273  
274        Ms. Johnson announced that she is curating a show in November.

275  
276        Ms. Corrin announced that the Block Museum has the *Pop America* exhibit on  
277        display.

278  
279        **8. Adjournment**

280  
281        Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

282  
283        Respectfully submitted,  
284        Paulina Martínez