Evanston Arts Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Room 2402

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.
B. Community Support Fund Requests

1. Evanston Symphony Orchestra (ESO)

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

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

Ms. Cohen asked if the orchestration of the music would be utilized again. Ms. Gergen said “yes.”

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

Ms. Williams asked if the event was open to the public. Ms. Gergen said “yes.”

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

Ms. Riseborough said it is a wonderful concert, but it is not free. Ms. Gergen apologized for the misinformation, and said: “Yes, the concert is not free.”

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

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

2. Terrain Biennial

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

The requested funding is for signs and food and drinks for the opening reception.
Ms. Riseborough mentioned that she attended the last Terrain Biennial, and it was terrific, but the quality of the work was inconsistent.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ms. Hancock explained she prefers the location to be on the concrete, flat surface, rather than on grass or soft surface.
Ms. Corrin asked: “where does lighting sit in the budget?” Ms. Hancock explained lighting is part of the materials line item.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ms. Adler Beth moved to approve the design. Ms. Riseborough seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Equity Subcommittee Creation

Mr. Sachs explained he has been working on the formation of an Equity in the Arst Subcommittee. This stemmed from the fact that the topic of equity comes up often in the Arts Council discussions, but because the work has not been done to codify the terms and use of commons language, Deputy City Manager, Kimberly Richardson recommended creating a subcommittee to address issues of equity in the arts.
Mr. Sachs indicated he is leading the effort, and has included three Arts Council members and three members of the public to work on the Equity in the Arts Subcommittee. Ms Williams, Ms. Johnson, and Mr. Sachs are the three Arts Council members, Mr. Jevoid Simmons, Ms. Krista Fabian De Castro, and Ms. Mariana Bojorquez are the members of the public.

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

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

**5. Discussion**

**A. EMAP Proposal**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**B. Bright Night for the Arts**

Ms. Adler said last year Bright Night for the Arts was in November at the Block Museum, and that this year will be at the Block Museum again on December 5. She explained it is a cocktail party to celebrate the arts in Evanston. Ms. Adler further explained there is a program throughout the night along with an award. The Mayor, the Provost, and Ms. Corrin, Executive Director of the Block Museum addressed the audience that last year.
Ms. Adler also said she will need help with the planning and logistics of the program, print materials, hosts, etc.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ms. Martínez also suggested inviting Evanston Dance Ensemble.

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

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

6. Communications
   A. Chairs Report
   B. Beth:
   C. Public Art Subcommittee Report
   D. Working Groups Report
   E. Staff Report
      1. Budget Update

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paulina Martínez