Evanston Arts Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, 2402

Present: Dr. Ahmad, Toby Sachs (Vice-chair), Beth Adler (Chair), Gay Riseborough, Williams Jones, James Deeb, Angela Williams, Maasai Amewa, Indira Johnson (6:32 p.m.), Chantal Healey (6:33 p.m.), Judith Cohen (6:34 p.m.)

Absent: Lisa Corrin

Staff Present: Paulina Martínez, Lara Biggs, Stefanie Levine

1. Call to Order and Declaration of a Quorum
Meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Public Comment
No public comment.

3. Approve Meeting Minutes from February 11, 2020
Ms. Adler moved to approve. Mr. Sachs second. Motion carried 9-1-1.
Dr. Ahmad abstained. Ms. Riseborough voted against.

4. Presentations
   a. Robert Crown Community Center Public Art Update

Blessing Hancock presented her final concept for the Robert Crown Community Center public art piece. Materials changed to be more durable and don’t require painting.

Ms. Adler asked if there will be a reflection. Ms. Hancock said she was not sure yet, as she was working through the lighting issues. Ms. Adler also asked about the timeline of the project, Ms. Levine replied she hopes the project will be complete by July, but staff and Ms. Hancock are still working through some of the permitting and electrical work. Ms. Hancock added that she is concerned about delays because of the coronavirus.
Ms. Hancock will be in Evanston for the installation. Ms. Adler asked for notifications ahead of installation to plan events around the installation. Ms. Williams asked if there is a final site plan. Ms. Levine said “yes, to the left of the main entrance of the building.”

Md. Adler asked to take out “Bessy Rhodes.”

Mr. Jones asked if the letters are smoothed over. Ms. Hancock said “Yes.”

Ms. Riseborough asked to have “Potawatomi” added back.

Mr. Deeb asked how the translations were made. Ms. Hancock explained she used Google translate. The Arts Council asked Ms. Hancock to have foreign words reviewed by another source.

Ms. Williams asked for a scale of how big the words will be. Ms. Hancock will send a sample of the letters.

Mr. Jones asked for references of communities where it has been done before.

b. Albion Building Public Art Review

Artist Ms. Anna Soltys introduced herself and said she has been working in public art for 15 years.

The proposed concept is a sculpture at the corner of Sherman Avenue and Lake Street. The sculpture will be made of dense foam and resin; the sculpture will be glossy and the digouts will be mosaics. The piece represents nature. Tile and glass will be used for reflective purposes.

Mr. Andrew Yule, developer, explained that the location was chosen because it works well with the buildings and the four seasons of the year. Mr. Yule added the landscaping in the area will be redone and lighting in the trees will be added to complement the design, as well as the fops on the side of the building.

Ms. Riseborough said she was pleased with the design. Mr. Amewa echoed Ms. Riseborough’s comments.

The estimated installation time is end of May or June.

Mr. Deeb mentioned that glass might be a liability. Ms. Soltys said that she didn’t think so.

c. Perspective Gallery – 2018 Cultural Fund Recipient Update

Jeff Forgash introduced himself. His organization received funding in 2018 for the project. The project will be live April 1 at Perspective Gallery. It is photography
project that concentrates on the homeless population accompanied with essays of each of the photographed participants.

Dough Haight talked about the fundraising efforts through the Arts Council, Evanston Community Foundation, and GoFundMe. It has taken 2.5 years. The purpose of the project is to raise awareness of homelessness and the struggles of the individuals.

Mr. Forgash said it is designed to be traveling show.

5. Consideration
   a. Neighborhood Arts Grant Funding Requests
      i. Waa-Mu

Ms. Adler introduced Waa-Mu. Patrick, Olivia, and Amanda introduced themselves and explained they are a student led theater company at Northwestern University, and they are in the 89th show. They revised their plan from their last submission and intend to work more with the community.

Olivia said in the last eight years the focus of the show has transitioned from very specific topics for students to topics that are more universal. This year they are concentrating in gentrification.

They are proposing a 10% discount for groups of 6 or more - 500 tickets would be made available for discount. Half of the requested amount is going to marketing, and 50% to the rental of space.

Ms. Adler said she would like to see 20% of their tickets free for public school students. She also asked how they plan to reach out and really connect with the community. Patrick said this is actually the first time they are reaching outside of Northwestern’s walls. To this, Mr. Jones suggested to give free tickets directly to the schools as part of the community engagement and fill their empty seats. Ms. Williams suggested targeting 8th graders, as they tend to become interested in social issues. The applicants said they will discuss with the box office.

Ms. Johnson expressed concern about the commitment to reach out to all the schools. Ms. Healey said a good faith effort should be sufficient.

Ms. Adler asked that 50% of the funding goes to free tickets and 50% go to marketing to the community, and be in contact with Ms. Martínez about the box office.

Mr. Sachs moved to approve contingent on positive response from box office and as amended. Ms. Healey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

   ii. Ridgeville Foundation

Mr. Michael Miro introduced himself and said this program is the last Shakespeare in the Park in Evanston. “Much Ado About Nothing” and “Julius
Caesar” will be performed by Mudlark Theater and Art Theater Company respectively. Both shows are free. The request is to cover artists' honorariums.

Ms. Cohen asked how big the audience is. Mr. Miro said the general house size is 50-100 people per performance, but the Mudlark performance is usually about 150 people. Ms. Cohen asked about their plans in case of rain. Mr. Miro explained they would take it inside the performance house, but usually they perform in the rain unless it thunders and/or lightens.

Mr. Sachs was complimentary of the project.

Ms. Riseborough asked if the language was adapted. Mr. Miro said no, just condensed.

Ms. Adler moved to approve. Ms. Riseborough second. The motion carried unanimously approved.

iii. Young Evanston Artists (YEA!)

Mr. Deeb asked if they had received funding before. Ms. Martínez said yes, last year, and had no knowledge of any other prior grants received.

Ms. Jones moved to approve. Ms. Adler second. Motioned carried 11-0-1. Mr. Amewa abstained.

6. Communications
   a. Chairs Report
      Retreat is scheduled for 4/25/2020 at the New Robert Crown Community Center & Library.
   b. Public Art Subcommittee Report
      Ms. Riseborough provided a report on the CSI proposal and a status update of repairs.
   c. Equity in the Arts Subcommittee Report
      Mr. Sachs said the working group will come to the retreat to do a listening session.
   d. Staff Report
      Ms. Martínez reminded everyone about the attendance policy.

7. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.