



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Monday, September 11, 2017

A meeting of the Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:09 pm at SPACES, 2900 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113.

The roll call showed that Trustees Gibbons, Garth, and Sherman were present. It was determined that there was a quorum.

Also in attendance were: CAC staff: Karen Gahl-Mills, CEO + executive director; Jill Paulsen, deputy director; Roshi Ahmadian; Meg Harris; Dan McLaughlin; India Pierre-Ingram; and Jake Sinatra..

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Sherman, seconded by Trustee Gibbons, to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2017 Board meeting. Discussion: None. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

Trustee Gibbons asked for everyone to join him in a moment of silence for the victims of September 11th and the recent natural disasters around the world.

Trustee Gibbons welcomed Councilman Pernel Jones and invited him to swear in Trustees Garth and Miller. Councilman Pernel Jones swore in Trustees Garth and Miller for a term ending on March 31, 2020.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Sandra Ellington (Executive Chair of Service Employment International Union) and Alex Machaskee (Retired Editor of the Plain Dealer).

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S Report

Ms. Gahl-Mills presented her [executive director's report](#) to the Board.

4. FINANCE REPORT

Ms. Harris presented the [financial report](#) to the Board.

5. UPDATE: Support for Artists

Trustee Garth, Mr. Sinatra, and Mr. Vince Robinson presented to the Board an update on the current progress of the Support for Artists Planning Team (SFAPT).

Trustee Garth introduced the artists planning team members that were present at the meeting and presented on what the SFAPT has been diligently working on. You can read her [full remarks here](#).

Artist planning team member Mr. Robinson explained the ways the team plans on meeting with a diverse group of artists around Cuyahoga County to ensure as much inclusivity and community feedback as possible. To do this, he noted, the team will hold a world café on September 15 at the Rainey Institute. The SFAPT will subsequently host a town hall open to all Cuyahoga County residents in late October/early November. Mr. Robinson continued that this will not be the only way the team will gather feedback on the needs of artists; SFAPT will also conduct surveys and intentional interview opportunities. The aim of the team is to get more members of the public involved for broader feedback and build relationships through transparency. Mr. Robinson stated that through these methods of involving the community, the team will bring recommendations of ways to support artists to the Board.

Trustee Sherman first thanked the team for their hard and difficult work. She asked about the likelihood that the SFAPT will have recommendations for supporting artists to present to the Board within the allotted time. Mr. Sinatra responded that they will have recommendations ready to share by November and will be presented to the Board for approval in December. Trustee Garth continued that the team plans to recommend equitable practices that different stakeholders can live with, and to be strong stewards of public funds. Mr. Robinson stated that the team will ensure that everyone is heard before a final decision is made.

Trustee Gibbons thanked the team for taking their time and said that he looks forward to the outcome of their work.

6. DISCUSSION: Grant Programs Allocation

Ms. Gahl-Mills walked the Board through the allocation policy and what has changed over the recent years. Ms. Paulsen started [a discussion](#) with the Board regarding grant program allocation amounts for 2018.

Trustee Gibbons reminded everyone that there was no action being taken at the moment. He further explained that he was in favor of a work session Board meeting to discuss allocation further prior to the November Board meeting. Trustee Sherman mentioned her interest in having transparency and communication with all organizations impacted.

Trustee Sherman then asked about the reasoning behind maintaining the Project Support program as opposed to growing it. Ms. Paulsen explained that the amount to be allocated to this cycle of Project Support will most likely be less than last year, despite the higher number of applicants, due to CAC's revenue realities

Ms. Harris continued that if the Board approves the recommended allocation amount for GOS, it would allow for our cultural partners to have predictability instead of continuous changes in their grant amounts. This would provide a steady amount through 2021. It will also allow us to keep growing the number of applicants in our PS program and have dollars dedicated to supporting artist.

Trustee Garth mentioned that it may be easier for the largest few organizations to absorb a larger decrease in their grant amounts. Ms. Harris responded that any declines in allocation for GOS organizations will be missed, and that the allocation formula will effect large, medium and small GOS organizations alike. Ms. Gahl-Mills reiterated that both the larger and smaller organizations would see loss, and that not all of the large organizations will be able to make up that amount, so this needs to be a thoughtful conversation.

Trustee Gibbons appreciated the initial discussion and mentioned that he knows that as the conversation continues, CAC and the Board must continue to gather feedback from organizations. Trustee Gibbons concluded that no decisions will be made until after another meeting.

7. BOARD ACTIONS

Contract with the Cleveland Orchestra

Ms. Paulsen asked the Board to approve a two-year grant of up to \$150,000 per year for The Cleveland Orchestra's 29th and 30th annual free public concerts in downtown Cleveland in July 2018 and July 2019. She mentioned that the proposal will include a rainy day plan.

Motion by Trustee Gibbons, seconded by Trustee Sherman, to approve a contract with the Cleveland Orchestra for Star Spangled Spectacular as noted above. Discussion: Trustee Sherman asked whether The Cleveland Orchestra can insure for weather since this concert is expensive to put on, and was cancelled due to weather this year. Mr. Sinatra answered by stating that the contract includes a rainy day plan that will make sure the concert will occur, no matter the weather.

Trustee Miller stated that having lived in California, he knows of concerts being held outside and the need for insurance for weather. Trustee Miller continued that the weather in Cleveland is considerably different and that he is against having this event outside if the weather has the possibility of cancelling it.

Vote: Garth, Aye; Sherman, Aye; Gibbons, Aye; and Miller, Against. The motion carried.

Contract for Case Western Reserve University COM-In

Ms. Paulsen asked the Board to approve an addendum to the existing contract to extend the timeline for the Support for Artist Planning team. Specifically: The addition of six planning team meetings; an expanded listening effort that includes interviews, focus groups, and surveys; and two artist community meetings.

Motion by Trustee Sherman, second by Trustee Gibbons, to approve the addendum to the contract with Case Western Reserve University- COM-In as noted above. Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

8. CONNECT WITH CULTURE

Ms. Paulsen introduced Christina Vassallo, Executive Director of SPACES, who addressed the Board about the organization's work and the impact of CAC funding.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Trustee Garth invited all attendees to the upcoming World Café event put on by the Support for Artists Planning Team.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Gibbons, seconded by Trustee Garth, to adjourn the meeting. No discussion. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Joe Gibbons, President, Board of Trustees

Attest:

Gwendolyn Garth, Secretary, Board of Trustees