



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Monday, June 12, 2017

A meeting of the Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:18 pm at the Harvard Community Services Center, 18240 Harvard Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44128.

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

Trustee Gibbons arrived at 4:34 pm

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Avsec, seconded by Trustee Sherman, to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2017 Board meeting. Discussion: None. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Juan Molina Crespo (Hispanic Alliance), Mikel Jordan (Cuyahoga County Resident), Jimmie Woody (Artist), and Dale Goode (Artist)

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S/FINANCE REPORT

Ms. Gahl-Mills thanked the Harvard Community Services Center for hosting the meeting, and thanked all attendees.

She noted that 2017 is a big year for CAC, as it is the 10th anniversary of the founding of the public agency. She stated that CAC's annual report this year celebrates the 10 years of history with stories of impact that CAC's funding has made on numerous organizations and on residents. Ms. Gahl-Mills gave recognition to Mr. Sinatra and Ms. Ahmadian for shepherding the process and to the staff at the Flying Hand Studio for their expert design work. She stated that CAC's communications team will present the materials shortly.

Ms. Gahl-Mills explained that CAC has been reimagining our support for artists and providing continuous updates through cacgrants.org/artists. She continued that Trustee Garth and Mr. Sinatra are a part of the planning team and will bring the Board updates shortly.

Ms. Gahl-Mills thanked Mr. Bob Klaffky and Mr. Ben Kaiser of Vanmeter Ashbrook & Associates for joining us to give an update and discussion from Columbus. The discussion she noted would be in regards to the Ohio State budget and implications on CAC's funding.

Ms. Gahl-Mills stated the Board actions for that day which included Ms. Paulsen explaining a contract for CWRU's Community Innovation Network, to facilitate the work of the agency's support for artists. Ms. Gahl-Mills asked the Board to approve a set of contracts as part of CAC's NEA grant to support Arts & Culture in the Square. Nine different organizations are going to present 20 events and enrich Public Square, and she asked for the Board to approve the personnel report for CAC's new hire, Ms. India Pierre-Ingram.

Ms. Gahl-Mills continued that after the formal Board Meeting there would be an executive session before the Board retreat begins.

4. FINANCE REPORT

Ms. Gahl-Mills presented the financial report. Ms. Gahl-Mills noted that the revenue is up year over year, and CAC anticipates that June will be a very strong month for revenue, though overall revenue is still down. She explained that the expenses were on track for the budget and that the big expenses this summer would be the second payments on all of our operating support grants, which totals just over \$5 million, plus ongoing project support payments as projects are completed.

Ms. Gahl-Mills continued by stating that on Thursday the draft audit from the Auditor of the State's office came back with once again a clean opinion with no material deficiencies and no comments. She thanked Ms. Harris for her diligent work.

Ms. Gahl-Mills concluded with an update on the modest expansion of CAC's office. She explained that the work was nearly complete, with the installation of the new HVAC unit to take place over the next few weeks. Ms. Gahl-Mills noted that the empty new space has blank walls and CAC has decided to offer a modest gallery space for visual artists looking to share their work. The exhibit will be changed out quarterly, and we have been given a donation of a set of rails for hanging this work. She was pleased to announce that the first artist to be featured will be Dale Goode.

5. ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Sinatra & Ms. Ahmadian addressed the Board about the agency's new annual report:

Mr. Sinatra explained that this year's annual report is a big one for CAC, because 2017 marks 10 years for the organization. The tagline for the report is "The First Decade and the Next."

Mr. Sinatra stated that the stories of CAC cultural partners take place year round and some of those stories are featured in the annual report. He continued that the annual report will cover CAC's impact: 60 million cultural experiences and programs, 54% of which has been free, and 158 million in public dollars to 350 organizations.

Ms. Ahmadian explained that the design of the report is simple, which allows for the stories to pop. Some topics covered in the annual report are long standing cultural partner organizations and bridging the gap between our past, present, and future. Next Ms. Ahmadian highlighted the report's distribution plan. She noted that the reports would be mailed to cultural partners, political officials, and CAC's general contact list. She continued that there will be a microsite just for the annual report that will allow members of the community, cultural partners, and CAC stakeholders to access content in the annual report.

6. CONNECT WITH CULTURE

Ms. Ahmadian introduced Elaine Gohlstein, President/CEO and P. Michelle Brown, Workforce Development & Sustainability Director at Harvard Community Services Center, who addressed the Board about the organization's work and the impact of CAC funding.

7. UPDATE: SUPPORT FOR ARTISTS

Mr. Sinatra stated that the Support for Artists Planning Team is CAC's way to develop a new method to support artists. More information is available through the website cacgrants.org/artist.

Mr. Sinatra was pleased to introduce the team in charge of leading the creation of a new approach to support artist. Mr. Sinatra continued that the team will consist of 13 individuals: nine out of 13 are persons of color, and all have expertise in varying genres of arts and culture.

Mr. Sinatra stated next that the team will have Jerry Peña and Mark Chupp from the Community Innovation Network to facilitate the process of the Artist Planning Team. Mr. Sinatra closed with announcing that Rachel Oscar has been brought on as Part-Time Project Manager to ensure the work reaches its full potential.

8. DISCUSSION: VANMETER-ASHBROOK UPDATE

Mr. Bob Klaffky addressed the Board on the State's FY 18-19 budget proposal and possible opportunities for CAC's future.

9. BOARD ACTIONS

Contract with Community Innovation Network

Ms. Gahl-Mills stated that CAC would like to enter into a contract with Community Innovation Network for a term ending on December 31, 2017 in the amount of \$40,000 to facilitate a process for CAC's Support for Artists Planning Team. Community Innovation Network will provide a deliberative process for convening and facilitating the planning team, whose primary purpose is to recommend new potential approaches to support Cuyahoga County artists.

Motion by Trustee Garth, seconded by Trustee Avsec, to approve a contract to Community Innovation Network at the amount noted above. Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

Contract for Arts & Culture in the Square

Ms. Paulsen stated that CAC would like approval for the contracts of Public Square arts and culture projects. These nine contracts are for three artists and six organizations to bring 20 events to Public Square using the \$50,000 NEA grant received in 2016. Ms. Gahl-Mills continued that the grant was matched by Group Plan Commission totaling \$100,000.

Motion by Trustee Gibbons, second by Trustee Sherman, to approve the nine contracts as noted above. Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

Trustee Gibbons acknowledged the staff's work in utilizing the NEA grant and encouraged residents to attend the events.

Personnel Report

Ms. Gahl-Mills stated that CAC would like the Board's approval of the hiring of India Pierre-Ingram as the communications and grant programs associate.

Motion by Trustee Gibbons, seconded by Trustee Avsec, to approve the hiring of India Pierre-Ingram as noted above. Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jimmie Woody (Artist) and Leina K. (Cuyahoga County Resident) made public comment.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be held at 4:00 pm on September 11, 2017 at SPACES, 2900 Detroit RD, Cleveland, OH 44113.

Motion by Trustee Gibbons, seconded by Trustee Avsec, to adjourn into executive session to discuss the performance and compensation of public employees.

No discussion. Vote: Avsec: aye; Garth: aye; Gibbons: aye; Sherman: aye. The motion carried. Executive session ensued.

At 6:00 pm a motion was put forward by Trustee Gibbons, seconded by Trustee Sherman, to adjourn executive session and resume the public meeting. No discussion. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

11. WORK SESSION: BOARD RETREAT

Ms. Gahl-Mills facilitated the Board retreat.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Gibbons, seconded by Trustee Sherman, to adjourn the meeting. No discussion. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Joe Gibbons, President, Board of Trustees

Attest:

Gwendolyn Garth, Secretary, Board of Trustees