



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees Wednesday, December 14, 2022

A regular meeting of the Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) Board of Trustees was called to order at 3:32 p.m. at Trinity Commons, 2333 Prospect Ave., Cleveland OH 44115.

The roll call showed that Trustees Isenhart, Mendez, Scott Taylor, and Sherman were present. It was determined that there was a quorum.

Also in attendance were: Jill Paulsen, executive director and CAC staff.

Trustee Mendez welcomed guests and summarized CAC's accomplishments in 2022.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Scott Taylor, seconded by Trustee Isenhart to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2022 Board of Trustees meeting. Discussion: Trustee Sherman stated that she wanted her comments from the November meeting reflected in the minutes to include the following: Trustee Sherman asked whether Assembly had received the grant of \$140,000 for Support for Artists in 2022 and that she would like to see the grant funds budgeted for but not distributed in 2022 added to any grant recommendation for 2023.

Motion by Trustee Sherman, seconded by Scott Taylor to accept Trustees Sherman's additions to the minutes. Vote: Ayes: Mendez, Scott Taylor, Sherman; Nays: Isenhart. The motion carried.

Vote on initial motion to approve minutes, as amended: all ayes.

At 3:41, there was a motion by Trustee Scott Taylor, seconded by Trustee Isenhart, to adjourn to executive session to consider the compensation of public employees. Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote: Isenhart, aye; Mendez, aye; Scott Taylor, aye; Sherman, aye. The motion carried.

At 3:56 pm executive session adjourned, and the Board resumed the public meeting.

Motion by Trustee Scott Taylor, seconded by Trustee Isenhart to approve the personnel report provided to the Board of Trustees. Vote: Ayes: Isenhart, Mendez, Scott Taylor. Abstain: Sherman. The motion carried.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Jeremy Johnson, President and CEO of Assembly for the Arts
Liz Maugans, artist
Bruce Checefsky, artist, freelance writer

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Paulsen thanked everyone for joining her and the Board. Ms. Paulsen's remarks can be found [here](#).

4. BOARD ACTION - Grantmaking

Resident-led arts and culture projects

Mr. Sinatra presented background, included in the [Board packet](#), on the recommended grants to ioby (In Our Back Yards) and Neighborhood Connections.

Motion by Trustee Scott Taylor, seconded by Trustee Isenhart, to approve a grant to ioby in the amount of \$100,000 and a grant to Neighborhood Connections in the amount of \$60,500 for resident-led grant programs in 2023. Discussion: Trustee Sherman asked why CAC is making grants to Neighborhood Connections. She stated that she believes this work should be moved to Assembly. Ms. Paulsen said next year CAC will be working with Assembly on Network Nights and that all the gatherings will be co-branded. Paulsen added that CAC is buying the service of Network Night convenings as well as the services of their NeighborUp grantmaking. Network Nights are \$10,500 of the \$60,500 NC grant, the remainder is for Neighborhood Connections' resident-led grantmaking.

Vote: Ayes: Isenhart, Mendez, Scott Taylor. Abstain: Sherman. The motion carried.

Approval of Grants: Support for Artists

Mr. Sinatra presented grant recommendations for the 2023 Support for Artists grant program, as detailed in the memo included in the [Board meeting materials](#).

Motion by Trustee Mendez, seconded by Trustee Scott Taylor, to approve grants: Julia de Burgos - \$70,000; Karamu House - \$120,000, SPACES - \$70,000 and Assembly for the Arts - \$140,000 for a total amount of \$400,000 for the 2023 Support for Artist initiative. Discussion: Trustee Sherman proposed two friendly amendments which did not have seconds to her motions. She stated that she would like to see a comprehensive report on artist funding. Trustee Sherman made a motion requesting the staff prepare such a report. There was no second to the motion. Trustee Sherman stated the December 2021 meeting materials provided to the Board indicated that "CAC would bring a recommendation to the Board once Assembly had a team in place to support this new work and [the] two organizations have finalized shared goals." Trustee Sherman said that because a grant was not awarded to Assembly for the Arts for this work in 2022, she would like to see a grant for \$280,000 for 2023, to also include the 2022 amount. Trustee Sherman motioned to approve a grant to Assembly for the Arts in the amount of \$280,000. There was no second to the motion.

Vote on initial motion to approve grants: Ayes: Isenhart, Mendez, Scott Taylor. Nays: Sherman. The motion carried.

5. FINANCE REPORT

Ms. Harris' report can be found in the [board packet](#).

6. BOARD ACTION – Finance and General Business

Approval of 2023 Operating Budget

Ms. Paulsen presented the Board the 2023 budget, which is available in Budget Memo.

Motion by Trustee Scott Taylor, seconded by Trustee Isenhart, to approve the CAC’s 2023 operating budget. Discussion: None. Vote: Ayes: Isenhart, Mendez, Scott Taylor. Nay: Sherman. The motion carried.

Contracts

Ms. Paulsen provided an overview of the three contracts included in the [board packet](#) for Board approval.

Motion by Trustee Scott Taylor, seconded by Trustee Isenhart, to approve the following contracts:

Contractor	Amount	Purpose	Term
Compelling Communications	\$27,000	Strategic communication and public relations, including Assembly partnership and expanded public funding efforts.	1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023
DataArts	\$20,000	Tool to track program participation and financial measures and support advocacy coalition efforts.	1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023
R Strategy Group	\$30,000	Strategic advising.	1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023

Discussion: Trustee Sherman stated she believes CAC is spending too much money on communications. Trustee Mendez responded that CAC needs the ability to collect data to use in communications to raise awareness of the importance of the arts. Trustee Mendez added that now, more than ever, investing in political strategy and clear communication is vital.

Vote: Ayes: Isenhart, Mendez, Scott Taylor. Nays: Sherman. The motion carried.

7. ASSEMBLY FOR THE ARTS

Jill Paulsen, executive director of CAC and Jeremy Johnson, CEO of Assembly, provided an update on 2022 wins for the local creative economy that CAC and Assembly had by working together, including: \$3.3M in Cuyahoga County ARPA funding secured and distributed; over \$6M in new, anticipated arts-related investments across the City of Cleveland; and a commitment from City Hall to hire an arts point person. Paulsen and Johnson previewed 2023 collaboration opportunities that two organizations have agreed to pursue: 1) build coalitions, advocate and change policy; 2) support the sector: nonprofits (CAC), artists and creative businesses (Assembly); and 3) increase racial equity in the sector.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Mendez thanked the CAC staff for their great work over the year and thanked her fellow Board members for their commitment and hard work.

Motion by Trustee Scott Taylor, seconded by Trustee Isenhart, to adjourn the meeting. Discussion: None. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 pm.

The next meeting will be held at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, February 15, 2023.

Attest: _____
Karolyn Isenhart
Secretary, Board of Trustees