

Salt Lake City Arts Council  
Board Meeting Minutes  
July 19, 2023  
54 Finch Lane, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Zoom Online

**Present:**

Matthew Coles  
Kathy Davis  
Jeff Driggs  
Kate Jarman Gates  
Ebay Hamilton  
Thomas Kessinger  
Sarah Longoria  
Sonali Loomba  
Hannah Nielsen  
Torle Nenbee  
Cale Newhouse  
Katherine Potter  
Susan Rickman  
Richard Taylor  
Marti Woolford

**Staff:**

Felicia Baca, SLAC Director  
Dawn Borchardt, SLAC Staff  
Susan Campbell, SLAC Staff  
Lindsey Day, SLAC Staff  
Taylor Knuth, SLAC Staff  
Sylvia Richards, Salt Lake City Staff

**Guest:**

Victoria Bourns, Director of the Utah Division of Arts and Museums, Board Member for Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts & Parks

I. Call to Order and Welcome

- A. Ms. Susan Rickman, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 5:39pm. She welcomed guest Ms. Victoria Bourns, who is the Director of the Utah Division of Arts and Museums and sits on the board of Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts and Parks. Their board members visit the organizations they give funding to, and the Salt Lake Arts Council receives funding. She thanked Ms. Bourns for being here.

- B. Ms. Rickman also let the board know that one member, Ms. Sonali Loomba, was resigning from the board. She thanked her for her service and said she was happy to have had her on the board for as long as she could. Ms. Felicia Baca said, "We're proud that your career is really blowing up in the community."

## II. Arts Event Discussion

- A. Ms. Baca went to an exhibition opening at Modern West Fine Arts, and saw the work of artist Alexandra Fuller.
- B. Ms. Rickman attended the Twilight Concert Series and said that there were "good crowds, good weather, and good bands."
- C. Mr. Jeff Driggs went to the Utah Symphony's Disney Princess Concert with his 7 year-old granddaughter.
- D. Ms. Kathy Davis saw Kill Claudio at the Alliance Theater at Trolley Square and she saw Les Miserables at the Eccles Theater.
- E. Ms. Dawn Borchardt is planning to go see the movies Barbie and Oppenheimer.
- F. Ms. Baca saw the Wes Anderson film, Asteroid City, for which a Utah artist did the poster and set design.
- G. Ms. Kate Jarman Gates attended the Scottish Festival in Payson and enjoyed watching a friend perform Irish Step Dancing. Her studio is holding an arts and crafts supply swap at the Day-Riverside Library.
- H. Ms. Rickman commented that she really appreciated that Ms. Susan Campbell has been sending out emails to notify board members about grantees who have arts events happening.
- I. Mr. Thomas Kessinger attended the Element Eleven Arts and Music event.

## III. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

- A. Ms. Jarman Gates made a motion to approve the June board meeting minutes. Ms. Marti Woolford seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## IV. Management

- A. Salt Lake Arts Council staff gave some updates and information about programs and administration within the organization.
  - 1. Mr. Taylor Knuth gave a presentation on the organization's work plans. He spoke about their past and future work plans, discussing specific work goals and progress toward completion for each staff member. He said he was proud of all of the staff for their hard work. Ms. Baca reminded the board that work plans are not comprehensive of day-to-day work, but are specific goals that are tied to the goals of the strategic plan. Ms. Rickman said "I would like to commend you and all of the staff for making your strategic plan a living document . . . I'm very impressed that you guys are really working the plan." Ms. Baca explained that she and Mr. Knuth have a meeting every quarter to track what they have accomplished and it is such a fun meeting for them, commenting that "It's a really delightful exercise that we get to participate in to celebrate our team." Ms. Rickman asked how many years the strategic plan covered, and it was created for 2021-2026.

2. Mr. Knuth also shared some hiring updates. He said they had around 86 or 87 applicants for two full-time positions. They conducted 8 first-round interviews and 4 second-round interviews. The first hire is Mr. Andrew Shaw, filling the Special Projects position, and the other is Ms. Amy Childress, who will be their Public Art Coordinator. Mr. Shaw starts on Friday, and Ms. Childress starts on August 14th.
3. Ms. Baca shared the Bloomberg Grant Finalist Video, in which Salt Lake City was included. She said that this process has been a huge effort within the Arts Council and the Mayor's Office. They have been burning grant funding candles, in the hopes of receiving the grant. Ms. Baca said, "We hope great things come of this, so wish us luck!"
4. Ms. Baca mentioned stabilizing funding for the Cultural Core and The Blocks programs. The Downtown Alliance is the contract-holder for this, and are responsible for attracting people and audiences. They were able to use surplus funds to do a contract amendment for this program, so they will be receiving a check soon.
5. Ms. Dawn Borchardt, who is in charge of Performing Arts Programs, gave a recap of the Living Traditions Festival, Busker Fest, Twilight Concert Series, and Mondays in the Park.
  - a) Living Traditions. She shared a fun and colorful video of festival highlights, and said that there were about the same number of attendees as last year. She talked about their school day, volunteers and staffing, their accessibility planning, etc. Ms. Torle Nenbee said, "I thought it was really awesome this year!"
  - b) Busker Fest & Acoustic Stroll. These programs are contracted out to Primrose Productions. Ms. Borchardt talked about the number of artists served and the number of attendees of Busker Fest, and that they condensed the footprint of the festival. Mr. Hamilton mentioned that he really liked the new L-shaped set-up of the festival this year. She said about 80% of the artists are from Utah, and when asked how much they received in payment, board member Mr. Kessinger said, "I got paid \$150." The Acoustic Music Stroll is a smaller series that happens on weekday evenings along the Jordan River Trail. May 18th saw about 1,000 people in attendance, where the other nights saw from 200-300.
  - c) Mondays in the Park is a program that is currently in progress. Ms. Bourn's team at the Utah Division of Arts and Museums is helping to run this program. It's held in front of the Chase Home Museum in Liberty Park on Monday nights from 7-9pm. Ms. Borchardt encouraged everyone to attend, bring a picnic, chairs and a blanket. There are two performing groups per night. Performers are chosen through a survey that Living Traditions performers are given, and through the Utah Division of Arts and Museums folk

arts team. The artists are invited, rather than applying, and they are paid.

- d) Twilight Concert Series is contracted out to S&S Presents. This year has seen an increase in attendance from years past. Although they increased ticket prices with a tiered structure, they have not received any public comment about the increase. It had been five years since they've had a price increase. Mr. Hamilton asked if they were already booking bands for next year and Ms. Borchardt said "Yes!"

- 6. Ms. Baca introduced Ms. Lindsey Day, the new part-time Office Facilitator for the Arts Council. "We're so excited that she's here." She was previously working in the Department for Economic Development. Ms. Day said, "I'm super excited to be here!" Everyone agreed that she "really leveled up the food this time," in reference to the board meeting snacks.
- 7. Ms. Baca shared that the organization has a new website, and said that their last one crashed. This website is being managed by Third Sun Productions, a company that does websites for many nonprofits in our community. They have prioritized accessibility for this site. It is easier for staff to engage with, and the community. Board members need to send in an image and bio for the new website. Ms. Baca said she would check in with Mr. Knuth about sending the board specific information for biographies, etc.

#### V. Budget/Financial

- A. Mr. Cale Newhouse gave an update, showing the projected budget to actuals. He said the budgets will be posted on the new website and encouraged board members to look through all of those. He said that the next meeting will be his last, before he moves to New York.

#### VI. Board Management

- A. Ms. Rickman announced that there would be an officer's election today. She said, "We have a stellar group of people who stepped up." She announced Ms. Torle Nenbee as Vice Chair, Mr. Thomas Kessinger as Secretary, and Ms. Kat Potter will fill the At Large position. They just received an application for Treasurer, as well, which they will bring forward at next month's meeting. Ms. Marti Woolford made a motion to approve the slate of Executive Officers. Mr. Jeff Driggs seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Ms. Baca thanked Ms. Sarah Longoria for her term as the Secretary.
- B. There is one vacancy on the board for someone who lives in District 4. Ms. Day will be working on a board matrix that keeps track of members' backgrounds, skill sets, etc. They are not in need of anyone with a particular background, but just someone from District 4. They could use help recruiting for that position, and they will be looking through older applications, as well.

#### VII. Public Comment/Other Business

- A. Ms. Bourns was thanked for attending the meeting. She said she was fortunate to have the opportunity, and that board members could come to her with any

questions about the Utah Division of Arts and Museums or the Zoo, Arts and Parks program. She recommended that board members visit the Folk Arts Museum, where there is currently an exhibit called Quiet Storm by Scott Gilmore. She said that each ZAP board member is assigned 3-4 grant applicants and takes a deep dive into their organizations, by visiting, seeing their events, attending board meetings, and just getting a sense for engagement. "Thank you!" she said.

- B. Ms. Nenbee moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hannah Nielsen seconded that motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:02pm.