

Salt Lake Arts Council
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 17, 2021
WebEx Online

Present:

Andrea Ashdown
Larry Cohen
Kathy Davis
Annie Dayton
Erika Hill
Jared Jones
Leah Langan
Dave Mortensen
Torle Nenbee
Kat Potter
Susan Koles Rickman

Staff:

Felicia Baca
Ben Kolendar

Guest:

Allison Parks
Sylvia Richards

Excused:

Steve Barth
Matt Castillo
Nico Dico
Sonali Loomba

I. Call to Order and Welcome Guests

- a. Mr. Dave Mortensen calls the meeting to order with public health statement at 5:32 PM.
- b. Ms. Felicia Baca welcomes Allison Parks, new city attorney with Arts team.

II. Approve Board Meeting Minutes

- a. No changes, Ms. Annie Dayton motions to approve, Ms. Erika Hill seconds motion.

III. Management Update

- a. Executive Director updates
 - i. Job Openings
 1. Economic Development Deputy Director opening
 - a. Mr. Ben Kolendar will start review of applications tomorrow, but the application is to stay open for another week. Mr. Kolendar is seeking help from the board to find possible candidates with an arts background and ideally someone who can speak Spanish.
 2. Arts Program Coordinator
 - a. Ms. Baca shared that they are currently in the interview process for this position.
 3. Public Art Program Manager
 - a. Ms. Baca shared that the position is open until the 23rd. There are currently about 85 candidates – the board is encouraged to please spread the word if they know any suitable candidates.
 - ii. Grant Applications

1. Ms. Baca shared that racial equity and artist empowerment grants are open until the 23rd. Our pool of funding for the racial equity grant is for 501(c)3 organizations.
 2. A portion of the Artist Career Empowerment Grant is reserved for people from BIPOC communities
 3. Emergency funding and Light Up Locals Fund applications have decreased. We are learning how the applicants are changing, if are people burnt out on applications and if is the need lower. The Arts department would like to get these grants out to all artistic disciplines and communities.
- iii. General program planning
1. The Arts division is monitoring the Governor's guidelines. Some earlier summer events are being postponed.
 2. Ms. Kat Potter shared that restrictions in Rice-Eccles Stadium seem to be loosening starting as early as April.
 3. Finch Lane is planning to continue extended hours for accessibility to private bookings of the gallery.
- b. Mayor's Office updates
- i. Mayor's 2021 Plan – Ms. Felicia Baca
 1. Arts and Culture Goals
 - a. **CIP 1.5% goal for arts ordinance change** is going great, there are upcoming meetings with council members to target the specific language for diversity and inclusion. Small changes to quantity of board members.
 - b. **Coordinate with Visit Salt Lake** with increased engagement and brand economic recovery with an emphasis in the arts.
 - c. **Cultural and business districts** – the Arts division got a good start on research in the community last year.
 - d. **Revitalize efforts to make Library Square a civic and cultural hub** – early discussions are happening with the mayor's office.
 - e. **Streamlining art initiatives and improve structure and funding of the Arts council** –a lot of progress has been made with other city departments.
 - f. **Advertising potential for SLC airport** – early discussions are happening.
 - g. **YouthCity Artways** – mayor wants to bring back this previously halted program.

IV. Matters for Discussion

- a. Mr. Ben Kolendar and The Department of Economic Development seeks feedback from the Arts Council Board on a governing policy for the department.
- b. By law, the office of Economic Development is in charge of business development for the Arts Council.
- c. Proposed changes to policy

- i. Change name to “Department of Economic Opportunity” – focus on social and human capital.
 - ii. Clarify what they do as a department
 - iii. Pull in an opportunity index to make equity goals measurable
 - d. Feedback:
 - i. Ms. Leah Langan likes that the arts are called out in specific bullet points. It provides a lot of clarity for the department and community that the arts are a big part of economic development.
 - ii. Mr. Dave Mortensen agrees with Ms. Langan. Mr. Mortensen would like to see more specific language that would apply to individual artists or startup organizations.
 - iii. Ms. Susan Rickman suggests incorporating arts and culture in the first bullet point.

V. Budget/Financial Update

- a. Ms. Felicia Baca shares that we are in a slow-spending period. Some project grants went out the door with minimal costs.

VI. Board Updates

- a. Committee work for Grants
 - i. Ms. Baca shared that grant review for racial equity and individual artists is coming up in March.
- b. IDEA progressing
 - i. Mr. Jared Jones shared that the training plan objectives and deliverables plan are going well.
 - ii. 2021 Diversity calendars for staff – Arts Council members should let Taylor know if they would like one sent to them. The calendars are also available at the Art Barn.

VII. Arts Event Discussion

- a. Upcoming exhibit opening at Finch Lane
- b. Living Legacy Video series – featuring our board member Sonali Loomba
- c. Cultural Sector Video Updates
- d. Brown Bag Concert Series
- e. Black Refractions UMFA
- f. Thrive 125 celebrations ongoing – 125-word vignettes
- g. SL City Council Work Session meetings – Ms. Annie Dayton was wondering if we could put some local music or video in the breaks of the meetings.

VIII. Public Comment

- a. No public comment.

IX. Other Business/Adjourn

- a. Adjourn at 6:52 PM