

Roanoke Arts Commission Minutes January 17, 2023

The Roanoke Arts Commission met on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. in the EOC, 1st Floor Municipal South, room 159 of the Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, located at 215 Church Avenue, SW, Roanoke, Virginia 24011.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Ben Bazak, Valerie Brown, John Cornthwait, Donna Davis, Treasurer; Helen Dean, John Hitchins, Whitney Johnson, Catherine Koebel, William Penn, Vice-Chair; Meighan Sharp, Chair; Pat Wilhelms and Karl Willers.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Laura Carden, Toya Jones and Betsy Whitney.

OTHERS PRESENT: Douglas Jackson, Arts and Culture Coordinator and Melissa Murray, Recording Secretary.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

For the monthly RAC spotlight, Meighan Sharp started a discussion with commission members about what interesting art related things they have seen, attended and/or been involved in since the last meeting.

MINUTES: The minutes of November 15, 2022 were before the body. No corrections necessary, the minutes were approved as submitted.

TREASURER REPORT: \$8,178.24 reported by Donna Davis, Treasurer.

Meighan Sharp reported on behalf of the Executive Committee that they would like to issue a Call to Artists for *Writer by Bus* with a \$1000 honorarium and following discussion, the RAC voted to approve the project as recommended. Meighan also recommended on behalf of the committee some changes to the wording in the Percent for Art Policy and following discussion, the RAC voted to approve the changes as suggested. Donna Davis requested that Doug Jackson be reimbursed \$329.25 for YOTA Social expenses, which the RAC voted to approve as recommended.

William Penn reported on behalf of the AFAC Committee that about 20 applicants attended the funding workshop held on December 1st and that the grant applications are due January 26th. He mentioned that Catherine Koebel will be joining the AFAC Committee since Whitney Johnson is stepping down.

John Hitchins reported on behalf of the Collections Committee that the Yulandra Livingston pieces will be hung on the North side of the Municipal Building on the 3rd floor. He also noted that the piece in the 2nd floor lobby is being moved due to a security station being added. John mentioned that the committee has discussed setting up a maintenance schedule, would like for a RAC member to assist with fundraising, etc to renew the faded

Dorothy Gillespie mural and that Laura Carden is trying to get interns to help with cataloging.

Valerie Brown reported on behalf of the Placemaking Committee that Calls to Artists are ramping up and that the River's Edge proposals are due February 7th. She noted that the SE Greenway Gateway Mural by artist Jon Murrill won the neighborhood award. Pat Wilhelms reported that an idea was presented to create 9 murals at the Williamson Road Plaza that will highlight the diversity of the area and that \$4000 is being requested to add to funding from the Housing Dept. & Community Development. The Call to artists has been drafted. Following discussion, the RAC voted to approve the funding as recommended.

SUBJ: MONTHLY REPORT – January 17, 2022
 TO: ROANOKE ARTS COMMISSION
 FROM: DOUGLAS JACKSON, Arts and Culture Coordinator

SOCIAL MEDIA -- @artinroanoke

- Facebook: 3,687 Followers (up 30, 4-week reach 11K)
- Instagram: 2,004 Followers (up 52)
- Newsletter: 1,273
- YOTA registrations: 370
- 2022 Website visitors had 2.54 views per visitor and were up 129% from the prior year
 - 2022: 11,084
 - 2021: 4,829
 - 2020: 1,202

PRESS & PRESENTATIONS

- **Transit Shelter Transforms in *The Roanoker*** (Jan/Feb 23) [\(PDF here\)](#)
- WDBJ-7, 1/11, [Temporary Outdoor Sculpture Sought](#)
- [Trustees without Borders Podcast](#)

THE COMING MONTH +

Jan 17 -YOTA Tuesday starts back up - www.roanokearts.org/meetings
 Jan 18 - Grandin premier of Buzz4Good Art and Education, 6:00 doors
 Jan 24 - Eureka Park Input Session (artist in residence)
 Jan 26, noon - AFAC Grant applications due
 Jan 27, 11:59 - Elmwood proposals due
 Jan 31 - YOTA Tuesday
 Feb 2 - Collections Committee
 Feb 4 - Daylong Facilitation Training at Mountain View (YOTA)
 Feb 6 - Policy language and NEA grant approval to council
 Feb 7 - Placemaking Committee
 Feb 7, 2 PM - River's Edge Call due
 Feb 7 - Elmwood Panel
 Feb 7 - YOTA Tuesday
 Feb 9 - NEA GAP Part 1 grant due
 Feb 15 - Bloomberg grant due
 Feb 21 - Next RAC Meeting - Guest Artist in Residence Katherine Devine

PUBLIC ART PROJECTS (Collections and Placemaking)

Public Art projects carried over from previous year

1. South Roanoke Library E-Branch Wrap – Chris Jones working with students. 100th anniversary of Crystal Spring. Should have image soon
 2. Holding \$3K for Safer Neighborhoods committee of Gun Violence Task Force
- i. www.Soulboxproject.org - Artist in Residence will get plan together and advance. She's working with Valley View Mall and doing a workshop on April 4 with the YOTA artists.

FY 2022-23 PUBLIC ART PLAN

1. River's Edge - South Jefferson Bridge — \$25,000 - RFP out, due Feb. 7
2. Art in Place Phase 1 (public/private) — \$10,000
 - i. \$4K WRABA
 - ii. Dorothy Gillespie Mural conversations underway - Getting quote
 - iii. Fielding Calls
3. Art in Place Phase 2 (public infrastructure) — \$12,000
 - i. Melrose-Rugby / Brown-Robertson project – Tied now to Floodplain effort. Parenting with stormwater, parks and rec, schools, and neighborhood.
 - ii. Others — Need artist/neighborhood partnership and lead
4. Elmwood Park Sculptures — \$40,000 - RFP out, due Jan 26, panel Feb 7
5. Collection: 2D art by artists of color and diverse backgrounds — \$3,000
 - i. Collections committee considering Self-Portrait call for purchase potential

Additional Projects

1. Hidden in Plain Site / Henrietta Lacks support - fundraising complete Dec. 19 press event. (www.roanokehiddenhistories.org)

Potential Upcoming Projects

1. Purchase of Sister Cities artists at Taubman (FY24), Roanoke College (FY24)

Maintenance & Rotation

1. Global Harmony repairs – in contact with Stephen Fairfield, Jim Hudson has given estimates, he will repair if we can get the CONCRETE REPAIRED FIRST. Followed up in Jan with Richard Taylor or concrete quote. Other company out of business.
2. War Memorial being cleaned. Advanced half payment being processed. Job weather dependent
3. MLK sculpture wax being cleaned and reapplied
4. Yulandra Livingston work being hung in HR Training Room Municipal North
5. Loans from David Ramey, Jr. - installed in Gainsboro Library
6. Grafitti on Arches. - young child, low to ground, artist notified
7. Damaged Hill Climb will cost \$5K to fix - Making first half of payment, waiting to get date on pick up from Fabricator who was sick over December.

VI. Planning & Evaluation – Building up components for next Arts & Cultural Plan-

1. Arts Connect – Theme of recovery period and Arts and Cultural Planning. This is growing into our Arts & Culture plan framework.
2. Collective Organizational Planning resources and plan scheduling for winter – ARPA approved. Adaptive Leadership Training FALL 22 completed.
3. Arts based action planning—
 - a. Through YOTA
 - b. Bi-monthly Arts and Culture leader conversations happening in 2023.
 4. Neighborhood engagement –

- . Through artists in residence and Art Matters Grants
- a. Our Town *Arts Connect Neighborhoods* application
- b. Bloomberg application
 - 5. Collective Marketing – BUZZ 4 GOOD upcoming
- . Economic Development with City Economic Development
- a. Art Matters – Social Impact: Equity, Justice and Inclusion - YOTA projects

VII. GRANTS – Closing, Active, Awarded, Pending and in development

Active

1. NEA GAP FY21 \$10K – Now Closed on NEA side. Need to close our accounting
2. VCA FY 23 - \$4.5K – Closed – Alma Ensemble / awaiting payment
3. NEA GAP FY22 –\$25K – Accepted, matched with \$35K from City, Artist in Residence
4. ARPA NEA –\$150K Art Matters: Recovery Grants for Artists, \$140K spent
5. Gun Violence Mini-grant -\$9K for EnVision Center Artist in Residence
6. Services payments from Stormwater (\$6K), Parks and Recreation (\$6K) and Berglund Center (\$6K)

Awarded

1. *NEA Grants for Arts Projects '23* – Continued artist-driven projects strategy. (\$20K). This round of artists in residence will be all aligned with the neighborhood centers strategy focused on neighborhood activation, neighborhood capacity development, and physical arts-based neighborhood improvements. **Match with \$20K from Percent for Art Funds** drawing on additional Percent for Art funds to implement larger physical projects developed through the effort.
 - i. \$24K - four artists in residence at \$6K
 - ii. \$10K - four artist project funds at \$2,500K
 - iii. \$6K - coordinating artist fee
 - iv. With a plan to program additional Percent for Art funds for larger projects that evolve from the work

Pending

1. *NEA Our Town Grant* - Application in for \$75K, **Match commitment from City at \$75K** for *Arts Connect Neighborhoods* Strategy, RCE partner. April Notification.

Application in Progress

1. **VCA** Creative Community Partnerships Grant - Due April 1 (AFAC determination)
2. **Bloomberg** Public Art Grant: <https://apply.bloomberg.org/submit> This long-shot grant will be positioned as the Arts Connect Neighborhoods strategy. Fall 2023 Notification.
3. **NEA** Grants for Art Projects to continue Artist in Residence Program for FY 25. Match with \$20K from Percent for Art Funds drawing on additional Percent for Art funds to implement larger physical projects developed through the effort.
 - v. \$24K - four artists in residence at \$6K
 - vi. \$10K - four artist project funds at \$2,500K
 - vii. \$6K - coordinating artist fee
 - viii. With a plan to program additional Percent for Art funds for larger projects that evolve from the work

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Meighan Sharp noted that Doug was recognized as a Neighborhood Advocate.

Doug mentioned that Katherine Devine will be at the next RAC meeting.

There being no further business the Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Melissa C. Murray
Recording Secretary