

March 2014 BAC Packet Materials

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MEMORANDUM – Boulder Arts Commission Manager’s Update, Matt Chasansky
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**Boulder Arts Commission Agenda
March 19, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
North Meeting Room, Boulder Public Library**

CALL TO ORDER

Approval of Agenda

PUBLIC COMMENT

CONSENT AGENDA

Review of February 19, 2014, minutes

MATTERS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

Introduction of David Farnan

FOR DISCUSSION: Ineligible Major Grants

FOR DISCUSSION: Evaluating Scholarship Grants

FOR DISCUSSION: Cycling Monument Public Art Update

MATTERS FROM STAFF

FOR DISCUSSION: Manager's Update

FOR DISCUSSION: Findings from the Investigation of Ineligible Applications

FOR DISCUSSION: Open Seat on the Commission

GRANT PROGRAM ACTION ITEMS

GRANT QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

ARTS IN EDUCATION GRANT APPLICATIONS

Colorado Shakespeare Festival (Amanda Giguere) -- Shakespeare & Violence Prevention

Boulder Metalsmithing Association (Beth Merckel) – Enhancing BVSD Art Through Metalsmithing

Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras (Brian Jack) – Greater, Boulder Collaborations

Parlando School for the Arts (Travis LaBerge) – BVSD Band Class Supplemental Music Instruction

David Lorraine – Martin Acres Community Mural

Rod Swanstrom – New Vista High School Mural

Blue Moon Dance Company (Pat Connelly) – The Human Element

The Catamounts (Amanda Berg Wilson) – Songs of Social Studies

Boulder Ballet (Wrenn Combs) – Poetry of Motion

Casey Middle School (Val Wheeler) -- Stories of Our Town; Live from Boulder

Motus Theater (Kirsten Wilson) – Boulder High Performance & Panel on Immigration

Consuelo Hernandez – Mexican Folkloric Dance at Columbine Elementary

AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Annette Coleman

Laura Blegen

Deborah Maiden

Jordan Robbins

COLORADO CREATIVE INDUSTRIES SUMMIT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Evanne Browne

Annette Coleman

Carol Garnand

Amy Tremper

AD HOC SECOND ROUND OF MAJOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

Colorado MahlerFest (Eric Hall) – MahlerFest XXVII Symphony #6 and Ruckert Songs

Greater Boulder Youth Orchestra (Brian Jack) – Greater, Boulder Collaborations

Boulder County Arts Alliance (Fiscal Agent)
Locheart Arts (Chelsea Pohl) – The Boulder Tattoo Project
Barrio E\ (Tamil Maldonado) -- Caña y Café Theater Production
Tinhouse Experimental Dance Theatre (Joanna Rotkin) – Chalk Talk
Band of Toughs (Cynthia Ward) – I Miss My MTV
Boulder-Cuba Sister City Organization (Kathleen Hennessy) – Colorado-Cuba Arts and Dance Festival

GRANT BUDGET REPORTS

Boulder Ensemble Theater Company R3 Theater Rental (Annapurna by Sharr White)
Goddess Here Productions R2 Mini- Grant and R2 Theater Rental Grant (Gidion's Knot)

UPCOMING MEETING (Agenda Building)

6:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, 2014—North Meeting Room, Boulder Public Library

ADJOURNMENT

DRAFT
Boulder Arts Commission
February 19, 2014
Boulder Public Library

Commission Members Present Richard Turbiak, Anna Salim, Ann Moss, Felicia Furman, Linda Haertling

Staff Present Greg Ravenwood, Mary Fowler, Maureen Rait, Matt Chasansky

Others Present Heather Beasley, Carla Selby, Sarah Leverage, Chelsea Pohl, Amanda Berg Wilson, Emily Norman, Emily Harrison, Beth Smith, Beth Merckel, Colleen Mylott, Caitlin Vincek, Kori Beck, Laura Ann Samuelson

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Public Comment

Carla Selby asked about using the municipal campus during Boulder Arts Week; Chasansky agreed to contact her with information. Sarah Leverage of Arts as Action asked for reconsideration of her Major Grant application, deemed ineligible for residency issues, noting that the organization could not afford business space in Boulder, but that the majority of members and performances were located in Boulder. Chelsea Pohl of Locheart Arts also asked for reconsideration of her Major Grant application, deemed ineligible for venue letter issues.

Review of Minutes

Furman motioned to approve the January 22, 2014, minutes; Haertling seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Matters from the Commission

Turbiak began a discussion of Major Grants deemed ineligible during the February, 2014, grant round, noting the Commission's responsibility to provide good stewardship of the funds provided by the City for arts grants. He reviewed the reasons for ineligibility as they impacted applications, and noted the reasons why those issues and policies were considered significant to the process of awarding funding.

Salim added that applicants should not include things in the grant such as partnerships and venues unless they were confirmed. Moss noted that the venue requirements were stated three times in the application. She added that she would like to see the Major Grant category offered again in 2014. Haertling and Furman agreed with the previous statements, with Furman also advocating for the Major Grant to be offered again soon. Salim also voiced that she was open to a Round 2 of the Major Grant.

Haertling motioned to re-open ineligible grant applications for consideration as to whether they could be corrected to become eligible; Moss seconded and the motion passed with Turbiak against. Chasansky agreed to contact ineligible applicants to determine which applications could possibly proceed to consideration at a future date, and to report on this to the commissioners.

Turbiak asked for Chasansky to look into the conflict of interest policy as related to City seasonal workers.

Matters from Staff

Chasansky briefly reviewed the elements detailed in his manager's update and asked if there were questions. Moss asked about the Goose Creek public art project; Chasansky noted that he would look into the status of the project. Upon request, Chasansky also gave an update on the flood public art projects.

Chasansky announced that Ruth McHeyser, a former City of Boulder planner, had been hired as the NoBo Arts District Facilitator. He also noted that David Farnan would be in attendance at the next Arts Commission meeting as the new Library and Arts Director. He then reviewed details of the draft Library Sponsorship Policy relating to use of the Canyon Gallery for local programming.

Grant Program Action Items

Grant Question and Answer Session

Amanda Berg Wilson asked about limitations on grant awards in a calendar year and was answered. Emily Norman asked about eligibility requirements for the Arts in Education Grant, relating to the two variations in the grant category. She also asked for clarification on the residency issue. Carla Selby inquired as to whether (and how) the quality of artwork intended to be created for an arts in education program grant would be considered. Salim noted that this criteria (quality of art) was weighted at 10% of the total score, and that a higher weighted criteria was that the program should be a high-quality artistic experience for those participating.

Major Grants

Proposals from Boulder Art Association, Boulder County Arts Alliance as fiscal sponsor to square product theatre, Boulder County Arts Alliance as fiscal sponsor to Hoarded Stuff Performance, Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company, Boulder Housing Partners Foundation, The Dairy Center for the Arts, and The Upstart Crow were reviewed. Current scores remained valid as none of the commissioners wished to nominate a proposal for rescoring. Moss made the motion to approve with a second from Haertling and, upon unanimous approval, full funding recommendations were made to all proposals except those by Upstart Crow and Boulder Art Association.

Salim made a recommendation that each commissioner adopt one of the five recommended projects and attend with a City Council member invited along as a guest. Ravenwood asked for nominations for excellently written grants to put forward as examples to future applicants, and the Commissioners suggested all five of the approved major Grants.

Grant Budget Reports

Reports by Ana Maria Hernando (2013 R1 Mini-Grant – Poetry by Hand); Blue Moon Dance Company (2012 Arts in Education Grant – Dance Is a Lifetime Activity); and David Leserman (2013 R3 Mini-Grant (Sans Souci Festival of Dance Cinema) were reviewed. Haertling motioned to approve all with a second from Moss and the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Signature

Date

TO: Boulder Arts Commissioners
FROM: Matt Chasansky, City of Boulder Office of Arts & Cultural Services
DATE: March 14, 2014
SUBJECT: Boulder Arts Commission Manager's Update

1. Notes on the Agenda:

a. Introduction of David Farnan

Staff would like to welcome the new director of the Library & Arts Department, who will be joining us at the March meeting. We very much look forward to David's insightful, energetic, and community-minded approach.

b. Cycling Monument Public Art Update

Attached, please find a few renderings of this proposed public art project. This will inform the discussion during the meeting.

c. Findings from the Investigation of Ineligible Applications

As requested by the Commission in the February meeting, I have conducted brief interviews with most of the applicants to the major grant who, upon the initial submission of their grant, were deemed ineligible. The purpose of this project was to a) discover any correlating experiences across these applicants that might be useful for improving the grants for the future, and b) find out if those who were ineligible due to issues with the venue letter requirements might be able to fix the problems in time for a secondary review by the Commission. I was able to speak with 13 people, out of the total 15 ineligible applicants.

As you know, I have found that those applicants who had problems with their venue letters to indeed be able to fix the problem in a timely way. You have already received correspondence on this issue and the process is underway for the second review.

In response to the first issue, I established a set series of questions which was put to each applicant, regardless of the reasons for their ineligibility. Below are the questions I asked and a summary of my findings for each.

- *Is the issue that caused the ineligibility of your grant correct?*

All the respondents agreed that the reason they were deemed ineligible was a correct reading of the grant, indicating there is a general understanding of the problems that occurred. To put it another way, there was no one who felt that the rules were being misapplied.

- *What was your understanding of the requirements around this issue?*

The respondents had several answers to this question which can be grouped into a few broad categories. The number beside each statement indicated how many people brought this up as an issue.

Respondents thought that:

1. They misunderstood, or felt they were misinformed about, the rules. (8)
2. Because the rules were different in the past, and/or they received grants in the past, that what was provided in this grant was permissible. (5)
3. They were covered by the fact that the information was located in the budget, or elsewhere in the grant. (2)
4. Relied on the venue contact to apply the stated rules of the grant to the content of their letter. (2)
5. The fact that there was no charge for a venue meant they did not need to include rental fees. (1)
6. They were unsure about an aspect of the rules, and decided to simply leave information out rather than submit a guess. (1)

- *How do you feel about the questions that are being asked of applicants in this grant? Are these questions the best ones to ask to properly convey the nature of your project?*

Common answers to this question included:

1. There could be more clarity of language. Rules are often buried in paragraphs of text that are not easy to decipher. Some questions seemed repetitive. Applicants said they “lost their bearings” in going through the different steps of the process.
2. The rules and questions are not responsive to some of the challenges of producing a program. For example, some venues are unable to provide firm dates right at the time that the grant is due. Also, the question of economic benefit was a challenge for several people. They ended up answering the question, but felt that it was not the right question to demonstrate the impact of their program.
3. Several people found the questions to be working fine. They were an improvement over past years, especially in the online format.
4. The questions and rules are not consistent with other grants, such as SCFD.

- *Are the reasons behind each question and requirement clear? Do you understand why the commission was asking you these questions?*

Overall, respondents said they did understand the motivation behind each question and rule that they encountered. The issues of clarity of language and the redundancy of certain questions were raised.

- *Are there any other ambiguities or problems in the grant you can identify other than the one which caused your ineligibility?*

This open-ended question was intended to allow respondents to voice other concerns. To that end, there were a variety of answers. Some things to consider:

1. Technical glitches were not uncommon.
2. The budget table is confusing, and does not allow for the information they would like to convey.
3. Some found the word counts to be too limiting.
4. Language clarifications would help.
5. The process of applying could be improved with some strategies from other grants such as workshops or checklists.

After considering all the responses, there are a few actions we can consider at the Commission retreat:

1. Clarify the instructions and streamline the language.
2. Add checklists of the requirements which clarify everything that is needed for each step.
3. Provide a stepped review process, in which problems can be identified, communicated, and fixed prior to the review for eligibility.
4. In lieu of the Q&A sessions, provide a workshop to go through the application step by step.

d. Open Seat on the Commission

The decision on the filling of the vacant seat on the Commission will occur at the March 18 City Council meeting. The meeting will be open to the public, and will also be broadcast on Channel 8. As this decision will be made a day prior to our March meeting, we will be able to discuss the results in the agenda.

2. Other Matters:

a. Library Renovation Public Art Project Update

The selection panel will conduct interviews with the semifinalists on March 31, after which we expect to have a finalists with whom we will begin contract negotiations and the design process. I will be providing an update to you shortly after the selection is approved by the City Manager, and we can discuss the project in further detail at our April meeting.

b. NoBo Arts District Facilitation Update

Ruth McHeyser, who is serving as a facilitator for the North Boulder community around the concept of municipal creative district designation, has conducted a preliminary round of interviews. She will be continuing this process through April, speaking with key stakeholders and the City Manager. We will also be looking at the possibility of a larger community meeting next month.

c. Community Cultural Plan Update

A request for qualifications was advertised in the process to identify a consultant for planning services on the Community Cultural Plan. The final decision will be made later this month. We will discuss the results of that search, and the next steps in the plan, at our April meeting.

3. Staff Program and Project Updates:

The Boulder International Film Festival Youth Pavilion was featured in the Canyon Theater this month. Three days of screenings and workshops were featured for public viewing and school groups.

The 11th Annual Celebrate Dance Month brochure will be available this month, and covers over 50 different dance events.

a. Cinema

- Doris's Sunday Matinee: The Bachelor & the Bobby Soxer—April 6, 1:00 PM
- Tree of Life—April 9, 6:30 PM
- Inside Red China—April 14, 6:30 PM

b. Concerts

- Annual Ridi VanZandt Concert—March 16, 2:00 PM
- VANESSA, Boulder Opera—March 18, 12:00 PM
- Gayle Marin Henry—April 5, 4:00 PM
- Midday Music Meditations—April 9, 12:00 PM
- Moira Smiley—April 15, 12:00 PM

c. Exhibitions

- *Nature's Palette*: Nell Mellor—March through April—Art Resource Hall
- *Still Waters Run Deep*: The bARTer Collective—through October—Canyon Gallery

More information can be found at the library programs website: <http://boulderlibrary.org/events/>.

d. Public Art

- Library Renovation Project—selection phase
- 13th Street Plaza—on hold
- West Pearl Wayfinding—preselection phase
- Junction Place Bridge—design phase
- Baseline Underpass—design phase
- Diagonal Highway Gateway Landscape—construction/installation phase
- The Flood Project—ongoing
- Elks Park—on hold



Rendering of the proposed US Cycling Monument.

KimmerJae Johnson, artist.