Aurora Public Art Commission
Community Services
City of Aurora
David L. Pierce Center, Third Floor, 20 E. Downer Place, Aurora, IL

MINUTES
Thursday
February 7, 2019
5:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Fawn Clarke-Peterson
Ray Ziganto
Jane Regnier
Landa Midgely
Julie Gervais
Nafisa Husain

OTHERS PRESENT
Jen Evans
Chris Ragona
Dan Barreiro

APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES
Motion: Ray moved to accept, Landa seconded

AGENDA
PAST BUSINESS

GENERAL
Review 2018 figures
- To be reviewed in March meeting

OTHER
- Successful event. For future, separate panel discussion from open area to ensure discussion can be heard effectively

Update on WCC collaboration
Ceramic show is still currently on hold, it may be re-established once APAC has a policy in place
Clarification re: confusion between Board and Dan on status of this show at last meeting provided by Dan...he believed that this show was already scheduled, was not a ‘future’ show, and so was not impacted by WCC decision. Jen confirmed that the ceramics exhibit was indeed currently cancelled, per Cindy Sparr, Dean of Fine Arts and Humanities at WCC. Concerns were raised about timing for the WCC ceramics show/completion of policy and the logistics of curating and shipping internationally.
The Board believes this is an important show and would like to work with expediency regarding a final solution to ensure it takes place at APAC

UPDATE ON POLICY STATUS
Chris, Dan and Jen met this week and policy was revised to incorporate some of the notes & feedback from legal dept.

- Per Dan: Selection panel has been removed because it was redundant
- Dan suggested that the Board revisit how to have a second level of approval for pieces to be displayed

Board Concerns:

- Board approval for every single piece to be shown is not customary as shown by research into similar civic institutions and is prohibitive for the following reasons:
  
  Dan cited the Aurora Public Library as a model for curation by committee; however the Board feels this is neither a comparable situation nor a comparable institution. The conceptual level, quantity, and artistic quality in that context is very different than the programming hosted by APAC.

  Achieving a quorum of Board members to evaluate every work to be shown on a timely basis is not realistic in terms of quantity and logistics.

  Shows are ideally scheduled a year in advance and artwork is often completed post-scheduling making it impossible to vet every piece at time of scheduling/approval.

  Curating artwork is a Professional Activity and should be done by the credentialed individual hired by the COA for that task rather than by a committee of lay people who are unfamiliar with evaluating artwork in terms of form and content.

- Jane and Julie voiced a perceived lack of trust by Administration in both the Director of Public Art and the Advisory Board indicated by previous actions and want of additional levels of review where none has been required in the past. They asked Dan re: the reason/where the distrust is stemming from. No clear answer was provided.

  The Board would like to specifically identify and assuage these concerns and will follow up next month re: reasons and solutions to the situation.

- The Board advises that the policy APAC should follow regarding what may be shown should simply limit for obscenity as outlined by verbiage in State of IL statutes provided by COA Legal Department. To assert additional limits will have negative impact on the quality of programming AND would leave APAC open to charges of undue censorship and discrimination.

  As read in meeting...Obscenity: ‘Any material or performance is obscene if: 1) the average person, applying contemporary adult community standards would find that taken as a whole, it appeals to the prurient interest; and 2) the average person, applying contemporary adult community standards would find that it depicts or describes in a patently offensive way, ultimate sexual acts or sadomasochistic sexual acts, whether normal or perverted, actual or simulated, or masturbation, excretory functions or lewd exhibition of the genitals; and 3) taken as whole, it lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.’

The Board expressed unanimously agreed that there are 2 elements needing development, and that they can be addressed separately: 1) Policy on what may be shown by APAC and 2) the Procedure for approval of artwork to be shown.

- It is suggested that first and foremost, the Policy is addressed in order to allow the scheduling of upcoming shows with expediency. As stated, the Board feels that utilizing current State of IL statutes as a basis for this policy is appropriate and suggests that asking COA Legal Department for assistance in crafting verbiage would be the best/fastest course of action.
Breaking this Policy out of the Procedure will allow us to move more quickly on immediate scheduling concerns and allow more time for Dan and Board to develop a functional set of Procedures.

- Dan reiterated, assertively, that we need to set a policy
- Jane said we agree we should have a policy and should move forward
- Dan said he is okay with Jen working with WCC to share the IL legal standards and a commitment that APAC will follow those standards and that we should move ahead on the show
- Chris said that he agrees that we should move ahead with WCC show planning and work on the procedure document later.
- The Board agreed to schedule an additional meeting before the next monthly meeting to help move forward on the procedural document language as necessary.

**GENERAL BUSINESS/UPDATED SCHEDULING**

- **THIRD FLOOR**
  
  2019 Calendar
  
  - February- March: Temporarily closed until policies and procedures are completed
  - April-May: Jamiah Calvin, Stephen Signa-Aviles
  - June-July: Empathy, Group Exhibit
  - August-September: Dr. Smith Retrospective
  - October- November: International Ceramics Exhibit (currently on hold)
  - December 2019-January 2020: Winter Garden

- **FLEXSPACE**
  
  2019 Calendar
  
  - Currently awaiting completed policy/procedure
  - February: AHS
  - March: WeVibe2Vibe
  - April: Kristen Beneke
  - May: In-progress
  - June: AHS
  - July: GAR
  - August: African American youth programming
  - September: Available
  - October: AHS
  - November: Dia de los Muertos
  - December: Winter Garden

  New RFP to be edited, published, marketed

- **CITY HALL**

  Currently awaiting completed policy/procedure before next exhibit

  Use of community co-curators

  Goal: 3 exhibits for 2019

  New RFP to be edited, published, marketed

- **PUBLIC SPACE**

  Complete sponsorship signage for 2018 utility boxes

  No decision package funding for 2019 projects

  Utility box murals
• Seek sponsorships at $1200/box
• Edit, publish, market RFP

Murals
• Assist privately-funded projects through the process
• Potential funding sources for a 2019 APAC-sponsored mural

• ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP
  • Communication/Trust between Board/Direction/Administration
  • APAC Policy/Procedure
  • Director Goals
  • 2019 reduced budget for programming
    41% of available funds in 2019 compared to 2018
    Reasons for reduction
    Fundraising to offset shortfalls

• ADJOURN
• Julie motioned to adjourn, Fawn seconded