

Lee's Summit Arts Council
Aug. 26, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order. Nick called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Roll Call. Members Present: Nick Parker, Bob Jones, John Hardesty, Jody Fristoe, John Schuler, Gary Fruits (via phone), Jen Steller, Jeannine Akins, Christina Phillips, Mayor Pro Tem, Beto Lopez. Staff Liaison Present: Glenda Masters. Absent: Jane Bolin, Brenda Harris.

Approval of Minutes. John Schuler made the motion to approve the minutes from the July 22 meeting. Motion seconded by Jeannine Akins and passed unanimously.

Budget. Council considered the part of the Cultural Arts Division's FY20 budget that pertains to the Arts Council. Bob Jones moved that it be approved as presented, John Schuler seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

New Business

- a. **FY 20 Cultural Arts Grant Recommendation.** Bob Jones detailed the process the Budget Committee utilized to make final selections and recommendations for the 2019-2020 grant recipients. Applications were scored based on a rubric that considered community impact, audience reach and compatibility with the Arts Council's mission. Over \$20,000 in funding was requested by applicants with \$10,500 available for funding. Bob suggested that the Council request more money in next year's budget in order to be of more assistance to applicants.

Bob presented the following slate for the 2020 Arts Council Cultural Arts Grant recipients for projects and programs funded between July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020: Lee's Summit R-7 School District Fine Arts Department (Stuck on Art Project), \$500; Lee's Summit West Music Parents (Concerts From the Summit), \$1,500; Developing Potential, Inc., (Arts Education Programs for People with Disabilities), \$1,000; Summit Arts Festival (Student Art Pavilion), \$2,000; Downtown Lee's Summit Main Street, Inc. (Cultural Programs), \$1,000; Heart of America Shakespeare Festival (Lee's Summit Camp Shakespeare 2020), \$500; Lee's Summit Symphony Orchestra (general operating support), \$2,000; Summit Theatre Group (Theatre Education Programs), \$2,000.

Total Funding Recommendation: \$10,500.

Bob made the motion to accept the recommended slate of grantees as presented, Gary Fruits seconded, and it was passed unanimously.

There was some discussion about Glenda's process of requiring feedback from the recipients via a final grant report in order for them to be considered in subsequent

years. Glenda's contracts specify that this must be completed within three to four weeks after the applicants event occurs.

- b. **Community Event Attendance.** Jeannine Akins shared that the Advocacy Committee had met on Aug. 15 to discuss what the Council can do at local arts events like Summit Art Festival, Kite Festival, and Fourth Friday to engage with the public and increase awareness about the Arts Council. Ideas for a booth included having videos, or selfie stations (possibly furnished by Summit Art) These events would be a good place to collect economic impact surveys, as would upcoming high school and LS Symphony events. We are currently slightly under collecting half of our goal of 800 surveys.
- c. **Downtown Holiday Planters.** The Beautification Commission decorates the planters downtown each winter for the holidays. They are working with Downtown LS for the "Sponsor a Planter" program again. Bob Jones made the motion to fund \$50 for the DTLS Adopt a Holiday Planter project as away to increase awareness of the Arts Council. The motioned was seconded by Christina Phillips and approved unanimously.
- d. **Strategic Planning Meeting Preparation.** The Council's upcoming annual retreat will occur on September 21 from 8:30-11:30am at Bridge Space with John Schuler facilitating. City Manager Steve Arbo will be there to summarize the City's Ignite Strategic Plan, which includes cultural arts as a primary focus area. As the Arts Council conducts it's strategic plan, Nick asked the group to be mindful about goals and the best approach for accomplishing goals. Nick reminded the Council that several years ago the discussion was started about whether the Arts Council should become a 501C-3 and for what purpose. Outcomes of the strategic planning session could help inform that discussion further. MPT Lopez said he supports the Arts Council collaborating with the City. Nick noted that our ideas should be in line with the mission statement set forth by the City's Cultural Arts Plan.

Old Business

- a. **Public Art – Downtown Lee's Summit.** A group consisting of Glenda Masters, Michael Park from LS Public Works, Donnie Rodgers of Downtown LS, and Arts Council members, Jen Steller and John Hardesty toured the streets of downtown LS on Aug. 14 to canvas possible locations for public art to be placed on a year-round basis as part of a Sculpture Walk program. Glenda has now created a map of those locations and the Council will continue discussion to make this a reality. The goal will be to submit a grant application the Downtown Community Improvement District (CID) for potential funding.
- b. **The State of the Arts event** is October 16 at the Stanley. Ideas for additional honorees were invited as additions to the three which are currently being considered for the "Arts Champion Award" – Ben Martin, Director of Summit Theater; Jamie Lyon, artist at InJoy; and Russ Berlin, Conductor of the Lee's Summit Symphony. Nick is looking for musicians to entertain, and Glenda will be sending a spread sheet for the Council members to suggest invitees. Barbara Neth will have her art on display. Glenda is still asking if anyone would like to change the name of the event. The winner of the Award will be

notified and runners-up will be recognized at the event as well. The suggestion was made to ask nominees to do a panel discussion on the state of the arts in Lee's Summit in future years.

Announcements. Jodie shared that Got Art Gallery has closed, and the Summit Art Board is looking toward a bright future as they focus on the Summit Art Festival. Gary shared that the LS Symphony will premier its season on Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Pavilion at John Knox Village.

Adjournment. Nick adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Next regular meeting is Sept. 23 at 6:30 p.m., and our retreat is scheduled on Sept. 21 at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully,
John Hardesty
Arts Council Secretary