

Orange County Arts Commission

Board Meeting

April 13, 2009

Attendees: Alice Levinson, Rachel Lillis, Gordon Jameson, Wendy Gellert, Shannon Jackson, Robert Kintz, Lauri Alexander, Leah Rade, Charles Hochman

Absent: Geoffrey Hathaway, Mary Harley Kruter, Bronwyn Merritt, Tyler Dockery, Mary Jane Nirdlinger (resigned), Tammy Lambert (resigned).

Staff Present: Martha Shannon

Chair Alice Levinson called the meeting to order.

Gordon Jameson moved approval of the March, 2009 Minutes; Robert Kintz seconded.

Updates from Martha Shannon: Volunteer applicants Tiffany Johnson, Audra Marotta, and Emily Lees responded favorably and their names have been submitted to BOCC for appointment to the Arts Commission advisory board. Both new appointments and re-appointments will be on the BOCC's April 21st agenda.

We received 14 entries for Orange County Library Art Project (6 are from Orange County) by the April 6th deadline.

Rachel Lillis created a twitter feed for the OCAC. Rachel will create a facebook page for OCAC as well.

The NC Arts Council has had to cut our remaining FY09 Grassroots money. Our new total is \$38,490 instead of \$42,297. This represents a 9% cut in total Grassroots funds. Because of this reduction, the T.I.M.E. projects may have to be cut from two park sites to one. Martha is trying to find extra money in the budget to cover both park projects. If we can only support one, it has been decided by the T.I.M.E. committee (thus far) that we would support a project at Cedar Grove Park. The next T.I.M.E. Project Art Selection Committee meeting will be Wednesday, May 13th.

The County Manager will present her budget recommendations on May 19th. BOCC will probably not take a final vote on these budget recommendations until June. Staff will keep OCAC posted if there are further budget developments that require their attention.

Space: The Economic Development Commission is going to move into the 2nd floor of the Gateway Building (between the new library and the parking deck). No office space

has been designated or is available for the Arts Commission in the Gateway Building. Staff understands that the OCAC office is not staying where it is currently located.

Presentation at Visitors Bureau Board Meeting: Alice Levinson and Martha Shannon met with the Visitors Bureau board on March 18th, 2009. Martha spoke about a co-op gallery in downtown Chapel Hill as a possible joint project between the OCAC and the Visitors Bureau. Interest from Dwight Bassett (Economic Development Officer, Town of Chapel Hill) was expressed for this idea. He has been working on a similar project. A brain-storming meeting RE: a co-op gallery in downtown Chapel Hill was held on April 8th, 2009 at the Visitors Bureau. Attendees included Rachel Lillis (OCAC), Martha Shannon (OCAC Staff), Dwight Bassett (Economic Development Officer, Town of Chapel Hill), Laurie Paolicelli (Director, Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau), Jeffrey York (Public Art Administrator, Town of Chapel Hill) and Dottie Schmitt (Economic Development Specialist, Orange County EDC). Martha presented information on the Hands Gallery Co-Op in Boone, NC. It was determined at this April 8th meeting that we should invite artists involved in Hands Gallery in Boone to come to Chapel Hill to talk to local artists about their co-op gallery. Gordon Jameson is very interested in this idea. The Orange County Artists Guild has discussed this in the past and determined that it is better to have a paid staff person instead of having volunteers run the gallery. These issues would be discussed at the workshop. A potential space on Franklin Street has been identified. OCAC's involvement is to help organize the meeting between local artists and the Hands Gallery co-op representatives. It is hoped that this meeting would take place during the first or second week in May in the potential co-op space on Franklin Street. This co-op is geared toward tourists and visitors to Chapel Hill. It is envisioned that this space will be more of a retail space than a gallery space (like the Hands Gallery).

Some community development block grant money from the federal stimulus package (most of which is already spoken for) could possibly be used for this purpose.

It was determined that an ad hoc committee should be formed to help plan this event. Rachel Lillis will Chair this ad hoc committee. Gordon Jameson, Lauri Alexander, Alice Levinson and Shannon Jackson volunteered to serve on this **Co-Op Committee**. As soon as we have a date/time/place for the May artists meeting, we can share the information with the public.

New Projects Update:

Business Resource for Artists Ad Hoc Committee - Rachel Lillis and Laurie Alexander distributed a draft table of contents for this resource, which would target artists before they try to put together a business plan. This resource will help artists define what type of artist they are and what they need, and could include an appendix with list of local restaurants that will exhibit art (list will be updated). This resource could be available on the OCAC website. Lulu could be used to update automatically.

Adjournment: Leah Rade made a motion to adjourn and Gordon Jameson seconded.