

Orange County Arts Commission

Minutes

February 11, 2008

Attendees: Alice Levinson, Charles Hochman, Wendy Gellert, Lauri Alexander, Dan Barker, Shannon Jackson, Mary Jane Felgenhauer, Tammy Lambert, Bronwyn Merritt, Mary Harley Kruter, Martha Shannon (staff)

Absent: Geoffrey Hathaway, Leah Rade, Robert Kintz, Rachel Lillis, Tyler Dockery

Alice Levinson presented a "mini" art moment, a portable catalog (portfolio) produced by shutterfly. This shows how easy self –promotion can be. The artist can easily pull the prints from the web and it is postcard size.

Wendy Gellert moved to approve the minutes; Dan Barker seconded.

Two volunteers are needed to judge the Fourth Congressional District High School Art Competition, which will be held on Tuesday, April 1st @ noon in Raleigh. Judging should take a couple of hours (hopefully next year, it will be digital). Wendy Gellert and Shannon Jackson have volunteered. Incentives (supplies/gift certificates) for students and high school teachers are being secured to encourage participation.

Lori Taft, Director of the Orange County Recreation and Parks Dept. would like for OCAC to consider using FY09 CIP money (\$5,000) for the painting of a mural on a fuel tank in Cedar Grove at the Community Center/Library. Bronwyn Merritt and Lauri Alexander have volunteered to visit the site and meet with Lori Taft to find out more information.

Michael McGinnis, the new Orange County Personnel Director, would like to host an art exhibit in his office space. Also suggested was an annual employee art exhibit in various county buildings, which could help boost morale and help county employees get to know each other better. This could also help in securing good hanging systems for county buildings.

Triangle arts councils (Durham/Orange/Wake) are trying to find more ways to work together. One way is to select a triangle-wide Poet Laureate. Each council would put in \$1000; person chosen would get \$5000. June Guralnick (City of Raleigh Arts Commission) is contacting the state arts council to see if this idea would fit into any of their existing grant categories. Any and all ideas are welcome. These arts councils are still working on the idea of a Triangle-wide online arts calendar, perhaps using a template design from Creative Wilmington.

Seymour Center Update (Public Art) - Tammy Lambert spoke about their last meeting. This committee wrote a call to action. Some had the idea of a water feature, something that touches all the senses and seasons. Budget is \$10,000. Overall consensus was that progress had been made.

Thumbnail Images ad-hoc committee - Lauri Alexander spoke about their initial meeting and the qualifications to enter were distributed. The plan is to rotate images from

different artists on the OCAC website (top left-hand corner). Wendy Gellert suggested that the order of the artists' images could change randomly. Dan Barker volunteered to help with this.

Visibility of Arts Commission: - Alice Levinson updated the board on the meeting with all Chairs of volunteer commissions under BOCC. All boards seemed to have good relationships with the County Manager and BOCC. We need to be more visible. We need to have a liaison with BOCC and we need to make the request. One option is for the BOCC member to be a voting active member and the other option is to be a non-voting liaison. We need to write a letter requesting a BOCC Liaison. Shannon Jackson made a motion to write a letter seeking a BOCC Liaison and Mary Harley Kruter seconded. We also need to have dual communication between the County Manager and BOCC.

Mary Harley spoke about the planned meeting with the County Manager - getting hard data and doing research. Results show that the arts is "big business" in Orange County. OCAC needs to be located in a highly visible location.

Alice Levinson would like for OCAC members to attend more BOCC meetings. Dan Barker suggested OCAC members be randomly assigned to attend BOCC meetings. If the meeting date assigned is not convenient, OCAC members can switch with another OCAC member. Wendy Gellert made a motion that we assign OCAC members to attend BOCC meetings; it was seconded. Staff will implement.

Wendy brought up the issue of expanding our outreach because most arts activity is in Chapel Hill/Carrboro. She investigated lots of websites - all were linked to NC Arts Council and/or OCAC. It appears that individual artists have accessibility to many resources electronically.

Wendy Gellert motioned to adjourn; Dan Barker seconded.