

Orange County Arts Commission

Board Meeting

June 14, 2010

Attendees: Nedra Bradsher, Leah Rade, Emily Lees, Geoffrey Hathaway, Gordon Jameson, Wendy Gellert, Shannon Jackson, Bronwyn Merritt, Charles Hochman

Absent: Lauri Alexander, Robert Kintz, Mary Harley Kruter

Staff Present: Martha Shannon

Vice Chair Leah Rade called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

Wendy Gellert made a motion to approve the Minutes from the May, 2010 meeting. It was seconded by Gordon Jameson. The minutes were approved as read.

OCAC is moving to the Visitors Bureau on Wednesday, July 7, 2010. The location is 501 West Franklin Street (across from "Mint"). OCAC will receive a new phone number, but the old number will be forwarded for a year.

Tuesday, July 6, 2010 is the final report deadline for the Spring, 2010 state grassroots recipients.

The BOCC is scheduled to approve the FY11 budget on June 15, 2010. The OCAC's budget will be moved to the Visitors Bureau's budget and paid from Orange County hotel/motel taxes. We will be the first arts council/commission in NC supported 100% by Hotel/Motel taxes (other than our state Grassroots money). This should work but there are some issues to iron out.

The next Artists' Salon will be on Friday, August 20, 2010 in the West End Theatre at The ArtsCenter in Carrboro.

The following Artists' Salon is scheduled for November 19, 2010. Martha Shannon will be on vacation that week (Nov. 15-19). Discussion ensued about the possibility of moving this Artists' Salon to the fourth Friday in October (October 22nd). There was also discussion about a program that evening about FRANK on Franklin, since they will have been opened at least 6 months by that time. Leah Rade recommended leaving the Artists' Salon on November 19th. All others agreed.

Wayne Trapp installed his sculpture at the new library in Hillsborough on June 10, 2010. The dedication will be sometime the first weekend of August, 2010.

A review of the new art guidelines in the Historic District has been conducted by the Hillsborough Historic District. They are using the term "Fixed Art" rather than "Public Art". It will be reviewed by the Hillsborough Town Council on June 14, 2010 and if approved, then

forwarded to the Hillsborough Historic District for all future public art projects proposed for the historic district. For their purposes, art will no longer be considered a “structure”.

The Emerging Artist Program information meeting will be on Tuesday, August 10, 2010 at the Chapel Hill Public Library. Margaret DeMott, Director of Artist Services, will lead this meeting for potential applicants.

August 18, 2010 is the date of the Visitor’s Bureau Board Meeting. All OCAC members have been invited to attend. This meeting begins at 8:00 AM in the main administration building at the Orange County campus of Durham Tech. Breakfast and parking will be provided. We can discuss Vision, Objectives, Shared Resources.

Staff distributed copies of BOCC Chair Valerie Foushee’s letter to the Chapel Hill Town Council RE: allocation of hotel/motel taxes. Part of the reason the County Manager wants the Arts Commission’s budget to be paid out of the Visitors Bureau’s budget is because 100% of the county’s portion of this tax goes to the Visitors Bureau (tourism). In the Town of Chapel Hill, only 15% of this tax goes to the Visitors Bureau’s budget for tourism and the rest is used for other Chapel Hill services (such as Parks and Recreation, etc.) The Manager and BOCC would like to increase the percentage of Chapel Hill’s allocation of hotel/motel funds going to the Visitors Bureau for tourism.

If we want to move forward with the Michael Waller/Leah Foushee public art piece (originally selected for the new library in Hillsborough), we need to identify a new location and secure funding. This proposal must be presented to BOCC for permission and for funding. We no longer have a specific line item for public art included in the CIP. The OCAC needs to decide if we want to pursue this project. Options for location include the Justice Facility, River Park, etc. If located in downtown Hillsborough (within the historic district), this project would also need to be approved by the Hillsborough Historic District and would be evaluated under their new guidelines for art.

The County Manager and the county’s legal department wanted to change the way the grants were awarded (by the BOCC and not the Arts Commission). The NC Arts Council threatened to pull the FY11 state Grassroots funds if the OCAC was required to get BOCC approval on our grant awards. As you know, we were created in 1985 by the BOCC to serve as the “Local Distributing Agent (LDA)” to award state arts funds in Orange County. That year we were also approved by the NC Arts Council as the LDA in Orange County. Now renamed the “Designated County Partner (DCP)” by the state, the OCAC has served in this capacity for 25 years. The NC Arts Council contracts with the DCP (chosen by the county commissioners) to administer these funds and award these grants. This is the way it is and always has been done in every county in NC. The state arts council does not want these arts grants to become politicized in any way. The state leaves these award decisions up to the board of the Designated County Partner (DCP) in each county.

The county’s legal department also wanted to change our Letter of Agreement so that grants are awarded at the end of a completed project, upon receipt of a final report. Concerns about litigation, etc. have also been expressed by the county’s legal dept. Staff will work with them to address their concerns and hopefully preserve our existing process as much as possible.

OCAC was on agenda of the BOCC's June 10, 2010 Work Session. At that meeting, it was decided that the OCAC should continue as a commission. Commissioner Barry Jacobs had asked the chair of Visitors Bureau to be there and wants a member of Arts Commission board to serve on the Visitors Bureau board as well. The Visitors Bureau will need to change their bylaws to allow one member from Arts Commission to sit on the Visitors Bureau Board.

Gordon Jameson reported that a Gallery Director review will be conducted for FRANK on Franklin. They will also begin paying rent in July, 2010. They are focusing on increasing expertise in Fund Raising, Business Finance, etc. on their board.

The Hillsborough Jazz Festival will be September 25, 2010 at Moorefields.

The review of the Spring, 2010 grants began at 7:05 PM.

Geoffrey Hathaway moved that the meeting be adjourned. Bronwyn Merritt seconded this motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.