

Orange County Arts Commission Meeting

March 10, 2008

Present: Leah Rade, Lauri Alexander, Wendy Gellert, Mary Harley Kruter, Rachel Lillis, Mary Jane Felgenhauer, Tammy Lambert, Shannon Jackson

Absent: Alice Levinson, Dan Barker, Charles Hochman, Robert Kintz, Tyler Dockery, Bronwyn Merritt, Geoffrey Hathaway

Staff: Martha Shannon

An Art Moment was presented by Mary Harley Kruter on the topic of Tamarack. Tamarack – Beckley, West Virginia - @ rest stop. 58K sq. ft. of retail space, which includes arts and crafts. Artists get paid up front for projects. Gallery, Conference Center, Studios, Theater, gourmet food makes up the space of 2800 artists. It has been open for 13 years (as of 6/2007) and has attracted more than 5.2 million visitors. Artists help hand craft part of the building. Tamarack is of particular special interest because it was mentioned in the meeting with the County Manager, Laura Blackmon, in talks of promoting art and tourism in the county which would lead to economic development (Buckhorn Road Project).

Lauri Alexander approved the minutes and Mary Harley seconded the motion to approve.

Director's Report:

Martha Shannon suggest possible candidates for Dan's replacement, based on their expressed prior interest. Michelle Johnson and Gordon Jameson are both interested. Rachel made a motion to vote for Gordon and contact Michelle if Gordon is unavailable for position. Leah seconded this motion.

Michelle Johnson is a recipient of an art grant and has asked for an extension on the grant (paid with county money). Michelle is currently meeting with people for her project in April and Martha will let us know how long it will be extended.

Martha received an email from Gwen Harvey forwarded from the President of the Friends of the Library. Bridget Booker sent Barry Jacobs an email about their interest in a public art project at the new library facility.

Seymour Center Public Art Project:

Website, press and emails have been sent out. Notices mailed to NC artists who have received Chapel Hill Public Art Commission and Orange County Arts Commission awards in the past. If any one has a local artist that would be interested, let Martha know and she will send out the notice. Deadline is April 1st. The next meeting for the Seymour Center Public Art Selection Committee will be 4:30pm on April 7, 2008.

Public Art 360:

64 paid registrations as of today. \$12,500 in sponsorship to date. This event is getting national recognition. The NC Arts Council is paying for teams of 3 to attend. Deadline for the NCAC scholarship is March 15th

Visibility of Arts Commission:

County Manager, Laura Blackmon, seems very excited about arts in Orange County. There is a reorganization going on regarding the buildings. Ms. Blackmon acknowledged that Martha and the Arts Commission office was not very visible.

Mike Nelson might be a liaison possibility. Shannon will speak with Alice Levinson and Mike Nelson. Alice Levinson will in turn write a letter requesting a liaison to Barry Jacobs.

There was talk about creating a button showing that we are Orange County Arts Commission members. This will help OCAC be even more visible while attending County meetings and work sessions.

Lauri Alexander and Bronwyn Merritt went to Cedar Grove to view the tank for possible arts project (using \$5,000 allocated in the FY09 CIP). Bronwyn has the pictures. There are 2 tanks. The highest one needs work. Lauri does think that they need help. Dan volunteered to look up regulations. What about another art project? Lauri Alexander and Bronwyn Merritt will meet with Lori Taft and find out more information.

Leah motioned to adjourn and Lauri/Tammy seconded the motion.