

## Orange County Arts Commission

### Board Meeting

August 11, 2008

**Present:** Shannon Jackson, Alice Levinson, Charles Hochman, Geoffrey Hathaway, Robert Kintz, Mary Jane Nirdlinger, Wendy Gellert, Tammy Lambert

**Absent:** Gordon Jameson, Mary Harley Kruter, Bronwyn Merritt, Leah Rade, Tyler Dockery, Rachel Lillis, Lauri Alexander

**Staff Attending:** Martha Shannon

The meeting was called to order by Alice Levinson. Martha Shannon briefly spoke about the book, "Trappings: Stories of Women, Power and Clothing," which was written by Renee Piechocki and Tiffany Ludwig, who received their very first grant from the OCAC. OCAC may work with the Chapel Hill Arts Commission on planning a possible exhibit at the Horace Williams House.

Alice Levinson asked for a review the June minutes. Robert Kintz moved to accept the minutes; Geoffrey Hathaway seconded.

Additions to the Director's Report (give by Martha Shannon)  
Martha Shannon attended the America for the Arts Conference in Philadelphia in June.

The NC Arts Council requires the OCAC to have a DUNS number on our grant applications to them, and staff would like to require a DUNS number on OCAC applications. DUNS numbers help track employment in the arts and are used to prove economic impact. Fall 2008 OCAC applications will be out by the end of August.

Wayne Trapp dedication at the Seymour Center will occur at 3pm on October 27<sup>th</sup> (Monday).

15 potential Emerging Artist Grant applicants attended the August 7<sup>th</sup> Information Session at the Chapel Hill Library.

OCAC voted on the Conflict of Interest Policy - also a new request from the state. Mary Jane Nirdlinger moved that the Conflict of Interest Policy be accepted and signed; Robert Kintz seconded.

The License Plate (for creative arts) update: the NC Senate passed the bill but then was roadblocked at the NC House level. It may pass when the house reconvenes in January 2009.

OCAC financial status: Executive Committee took action in contacting the County Manager and the Commissioners. The FY09 local money totals \$26,750, which is slightly higher than what we received last year. Because of this increase, there is now \$2,432 more in grassroots to allocate for Arts Commission programs. Legislation (state) increased \$500,000 non-recurring, which gave OCAC approx. 6k more than expected.

Public Arts Projects: Seymour Center installation in late August or September. Central Orange Senior Center installation (fiber – by Peg Gignoux) in late November – will hopefully open sometime in December 2008.

Hillsborough Public Library – Wendy Gellert, Shannon Jackson, Alice Levinson and Tammy Lambert volunteered to represent OCAC on the new Orange County Public Library Public Art Selection Committee. This is for the new Hillsborough library.

Shannon Jackson and Mary Jane Nirdlinger have volunteered for the Piedmont Laureate Selection Panel. Martha will find out more information.

New ideas from Martha' Conference in Philadelphia:

**New Mexico Arts Council** (info in our agenda packet) has a statewide public art program for artists to get their “feet wet.” Temporary installations usually occurred during the time of a festival (to get more attention) and the artists received an award of \$1500. This is an opportunity for new artists to learn about public art and be able to experiment and explore a new theme/focus (such as environment). This would be great program to involve Orange County Parks and Recreation. Martha met with Lori Taft at Orange County Parks and Recreation to see if they were interested. Lori Taft will take this idea to her board at their August meeting. 2-3 of their parks may be interested in participating each year of this multi-year project. OCAC will come up with a new title of this program for temporary installations. Patrick and Linda Dougherty could be asked to serve in an advisory capacity, possibly mentoring local artists just starting out in public art. Patrick is a local public artist working internationally in natural media; Linda is a Curator at the NC Museum of Art.

**Micro-Business Development (Denver):** Loan fund for creative enterprises. Loan fund has consultant team which helps artists create a Business Plan. \$100 charged for participation. OCAC could put together a Business Consultant Team as a resource to the applicant.

Arts Master Plan for Orange County (Mary Jane Nirdlinger): Mary Jane met with Jeffery York (Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission) and the initial step is to commission a planning study to help establish goals, purpose, develop education component for the plan. Jeffrey York is the former director of the Public Art & Community Development Program for the NC Arts Council. The state arts council has been offering grant funding for planning (does not like to give for implementation). Janet Kagan, Chair of the Public Art Network, is one possible local consultant. OCAC will need to get OC Commissioner's approval before beginning.

Alice Levinson and Martha Shannon spoke about being more visible and more active with the Commission in the community and building relationships. It was suggested that the OCAC think about what we want to focus on in regards to issues/projects that are coming to the forefront and how we should move forward in these changes political times. It was suggested that OCAC meet at Alice Levinson's house next month to develop ad hoc committees around new programs. We will meet September 8<sup>th</sup>, 6-9pm.

Geoffrey Hathaway motioned to adjourn; Wendy Gellert and Tammy Lambert seconded.