

FROM: Orange County Arts Commission

SUBJECT: Monthly Meeting

DATE: June 13, 2016

LOCATION: Orange County Public Library, Hillsborough

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ashley Nissler, Tim Hoke, Ian Bowater, Delia Keefe, Doris Friend, Tinka Jordy, Joy Salyers, Lynne Albert, Andrea Riley

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

GUESTS: Leigh Ann Wilder, Bonnie Hammersley, Steve Brantley

Call to order: 6:30 pm Topic A

Discussion Point: Director's Report

- Tim Hoke reported on the search, interview, and hiring process to fill the open staff position. In addition to Tim, Doris Friend and Joy Salyers read through and scored the applications received by Orange County. Five interviews were conducted.
- Steve Brantley's office has been generous with time and assistance during the period in which the staff position has been open.
- Tim also briefly addressed the letter the OCAC received from Leigh Ann Wilder, the Arts in Communities Director for the North Carolina Arts Council, informing him that the OCAC had been placed on probation. He stated that the application for renewal of status had been submitted without review by the Arts Commission. The Arts Commission's concern with questions about diversity on Commission itself as well as how to serve a wider community was also expressed.

Discussion Point: New Hire

- Bonnie Hammersley informed the Arts Commission that Orange County had hired Katie Murray, who had previously worked for a regional arts council in the Elizabeth City Area, to be the new Arts Commission Coordinator. As of August 22, 2105. Also, this position has been moved from its position under the Economic Development umbrella into the County Management Office. Bonnie also addressed the OCAC's probationary status but expressed confidence in Katie's experience with development to address this challenge.
- Steve Brantley described Katie's education and background.

Discussion Point: OCAC's Probationary status with the N.C. Arts Council

Leigh Ann Wilder addressed the N.C. Arts Council's role in North Carolina's arts communities. The N.C. Arts Council works with all the state's arts councils (about 80) and contacts within other counties. A select group of arts managers and N.C. Arts Council board members review how the councils, etc., contribute to/support the arts infrastructure and program engagement, community and economic development. She expressed the Council's concern that the OCAC was a re-granting institution—no fund raising, no local investment, no partners—and the Arts Commission needs a larger vision. That the OCAC needs to reconsider how it exists as an entity in Orange County as well as rebuild the OCAC's public value. An example: the Wake County Arts Council's engagement in the schools. Guidelines and expectations—because other communities have raised the bar—have changed, resulting in our new status. OCAC will, however, still receive its designated portion of grassroots money this year.

Tim explained different possibilities for fund raising the Arts Commission had discussed in the past (Triangle Community Foundation, creating a "Friends of the Arts Commission" 501-c 3, fundraiser possibilities, etc.) but stated that the Commission was limited by its government status.

Tinka Jordy expressed interest in Leigh Ann leading a discussion at a future Arts Commission retreat. She also addressed how the grants and grant caps are structured.

Ian Bowater suggested seeking different kinds of donors/donor plans from within the local business community. Example: 50 for 50.

Leigh Ann explained that the Arts Commission can keep 50% of the grassroots money it receives to cover operations. Our main job, as seen by the N.C. Arts Council, is to care of and sustain Orange County's arts entities. For example, in addition to grants the Arts Commission has previously granted, OCAC could help specific groups cover operating costs.

Other questions asked: (Tim) Is it possible to partner with UNC? How we engage diverse communities in a new way (or at all)? Does arts programming in the county reflect its diverse communities? Are we promoting diversity sustainability in the arts? How do we do better work with other county entities?

Lynne Albert mentioned ongoing efforts in conjunction with Orange County Animal Services (with Friends of Animal Services) and the Chapel Hill Public Arts Committee to place a piece of public art. A tour of possible sites will take place on August 9, 2016.

Tinka addressed the need for the OCAC to be more active in promoting and supporting the efforts of the organizations under the OCAC umbrella.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 pm

(OCAC will next meet on September 12, 2016.)