

# Orange County Arts Commission

July 10, 2024, Minutes

**Attendees:** Linda Williamson, *Sec*, Crystal Wu, *Chair*, Marc Miller, Katie Murray, Wendy Smith, Denise Duffy, *Vice chair*, Heather Washburn, Saba Jordan, Josh Rosenstein, John Claude Bemis, Gideon Young, Krista Bremmer, and Katie Murray

**Absent:** Lindsay Metivier, Celia Gibbs, Alexa Velez

**Meeting Location:** The ArtsCenter

1. Call to Order at 6:34pm by Crystal.
2. Wendy moved to approve the June 2024 Board Minutes and Crystal seconded. All approved.
3. Director's Report:
  - a. Eno Mill
    - i. Current show: Show is "Basement", which is an art curation group of former MFA students from UNC. This is a show of their work, which is very experimental, and everyone should come check it out.
    - ii. There was a great July crowd at the Eno Mill First Friday even though it was hot and rained, but folks still stayed and had a good night.
    - iii. First Fridays - August will be the Eno Arts Mill Studio Artists Showcase + Debbie the Artist for music. Lots of great shows are planned for the rest of the year with good music.
    - iv. Camps are going well this year. Kids are happy, parents are happy – everything going well. Most camps are sold out. We did have to cancel one week of camp because we didn't have enough registrations.
    - v. Studio artists survey – Katie and team are doing a re-evaluation of our studios. Katie visited other art spaces around the area. Somethings are working and some aren't. The survey should help Katie determine what artists at the mill are thinking.
      1. Katie and the team are planning on changing the reception area to include a gift shop so artists can sell some of their work. She asked for assistance with how to organize the area and Heather volunteered to work with Katie.
  - b. Early Fiscal Year 25 projects
    - i. There will be a feasibility study with the Town of Hillsborough on a cultural space anchored around a performance space. Town has land available where the Amtrak station is proposed, which will be connected to Riverwalk and downtown Hillsborough
    - ii. OCAC/OCAA Rebrand – work will begin soon and will probably start with a request for qualifications to get obtain possible companies. Board offered suggestions. Katie requested information be sent to her for anyone that has done this type of work in the past.

- iii. AEP survey results presentation – Katie was asked to be a speaker at the national Artist Thrive annual conference regarding her work with AEP economic survey results. In August, she will be presenting, “Show me the numbers: Articulating the economic impact of the arts to your community”
- iv. There is an exciting Weave and Spin this Wednesday night as that series continues to bring in exciting artists.
- v. We have been asked to work the alcohol sales booths for Sonark Media’s “Harvest Fest” happening at Blackwood Park ,Saturday Aug 31. We will need volunteer bartenders and alcohol ticket salespeople. Katie has a meeting to pin down more details.

4. Grant Updates

- a. FY 2024-25 Grant Application Report 7/3/2024  
Total applicants 65
  - Artist Project Grant - 36
  - Grassroots Arts Program - 29
 Total eligible after review 64
  - Artist Project Grant - 35
  - Grassroots Arts Program - 29
- b. New applicants -- 33% are first time applicants, which is higher than in year past (49% artists and 14% organizations)
- c. Grant Panels - Zoom meeting (except finance)

Mon 7/15 5:30pm	Literary Arts	John Gideon Celia Krista
Tues 7/16 5:30pm	Performing Arts	Linda, Denise, Josh, Alexa, Marc, Crystal
Wed 7/17 5:30pm	Visual Arts	Heather, Lindsay, Saba
Friday 7/12 4pm	Financial Review	Linda, Denise

- d. Board discussed the scoring rubric for August 2024 funding meeting. Katie will validate the formula used last year and continue her practice of bolding new applicants in the reports.

5. Liaison Reports

- a. UNC Student Liaison Update Sadie Allen – no report
- b. Chapel Hill Arts Commission Josh Rosenstein – no report since Josh is now cycled off the board. He is still working on getting a replacement liaison for us.
- c. UNC Crystal Wu – 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday ArtWalk is Friday July 12th, Summer Youth Conservatory at PlayMakers is presenting “The Prom” July 17<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>. A movie is being filmed in Chapel Hill this week.
- d. Hillsborough Arts Council John Bemis – only update is that the Arts Council is bringing back the Poet Laureate program.
- e. The ArtsCenter Wendy Smith – very busy with Art Camp. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Art Walk this Friday, the ArtsCenter will feature Sia Yazdanfar photography show which runs through August 5<sup>th</sup>. Wendy informed us that some of the ArtsCenter performances have had to be cancelled lately so they are pausing future performances for now. A past

board member who is a specialist in performing arts is coming to work with the Arts Center as a live-performance manager to improve the overall process.

- f. Carrboro Arts Wendy Smith – no update at this meeting.
  - g. Visitor's Bureau - Katie attended the meeting where the upcoming events in Orange County were discussed. Also, discussed that the home games this year for UNC Football are mainly teams that are close to Chapel Hill so hotel revenues will be greatly reduced. There was concern over this type of scheduling.
  - h. Orange County Artists Guild - Heather reported there is a new treasurer for the guild. Open studio signs ups are complete, and 90 artists are signed up for this year's show. There will be four pre-shows. The Guild has changed their approach to ad space for the guide to a sponsorship model. Katie and Heather discussed that this is not as favorable, and the value of these ads has diminished for OCAC with this new process.
6. Crystal adjourned the meeting at 7:47pm.