

Orange County Arts Commission

January 13, 2025

Minutes

Attendees: Crystal Wu, *Chair*, Linda Williamson, *Sec*, Wendy Smith, Gideon Young, Krista Bremmer, Lindsay Metivier, Katie Murray, Renee Hayes, Josh Rosenstein, and Heather Washburn, Celia Gibbs, John Claude Bemis, Denise Duffy, *Vice chair*

Absent: Saba Jordan & Alexa Velez

Meeting Location: Eno Arts Mill

1. Call to Order at 6:35pm by Crystal.
2. Lindsey moved to approve the November 2024 Board Minutes and Wendy seconded. All approved.
3. Board Updates
 - a. Francesca Talenti board nomination has been forwarded to the clerk's office for review/approval at an upcoming county commissioner meeting. May take until March to get through the full process.
 - b. 2025 executive committee- all current executive committee members are willing to serve another year – Crystal, Denise, and Linda. Motion to accept same officers for 2025 as we had in 2024 was proposed by Heather and seconded by Josh. Board approved.
 - c. Joint board gathering – looking for a Tuesday night for a potluck type gathering at Eno River Brewing in the near future for both boards. Katie will let us know a potential date.
 - d. Orientation –Katie will schedule a OCAC orientation after the approval process for our new member is completed. Anyone currently on the board can join the session.
4. Director's Report: Katie reported on the following items:
 - a. Recent fundraising update -- These events brought in critical dollars during 4th quarter and were well received by artists and the public.
 - i. Paint it Orange: \$16,882
 - ii. Holiday Bazaar: \$3,225 – from Vendor booth fees
 - iii. Jeep: \$11,131
 - iv. December silent auction: \$2,005 – event went really well.

The Board discussed these activities and the effort/impact of the events. Fund-raising ideas should be run by both boards on a go forward basis. New ideas for sponsorship of art and art projects were given to Katie during the discussion.

- b. NEW! LGBTQ+ Tween Arts Collective addition – The Teen Arts collective is one of the most important programs we have and has changed the lives of the participants. A need has been expressed for a younger group. The donor who has sponsored the teen programming has increased their donation to now support this new Tween Arts Collective starting in February for ages 9-12!
- c. Joint board retreat with Katie Weeks (Armstrong McGuire) – Katie is talking to Katie Weeks about doing an event for us since we really could benefit from this type of training/programming and haven't had one in years. Identifying funding between the Commission and the Alliance is still being worked out.

- d. Rebrand/40th Anniversary celebration – Arts Commission was started 40 years ago in February. If any of the board has suggestions about a cool way to celebrate the 40th year, please let Katie know.
- e. Arts Educator Grant Program – Request for 2025 applications will open March 1, 2025. The board was asked to give Katie feedback on the guidelines and application.
- f. Uproar! - core committee started meeting 4th Quarter – Linda and Wendy from this board are working on the event. Anyone else who would like to be involved with the event should talk to Katie. It will be Aug 1-23, 2025. Board members should put the kickoff (8/1) and closing events (8/23) on their calendars now.
- g. Eno Arts Mill – New Artists
 - i. Denise Page, in Studio 7, painter
 - ii. Amanda Blanchard, Studio 1, multi-media
 - iii. Diana Newton, Studio 6, mixed media sculpture
 - iv. Jenna Staples, Studio 2, painter
 - v. Jessica Sanford, Studio 9, jeweler
- h. Vacant studios: Need artists of color, non-painters
 - i. Studio 5 (back) - \$288/month, available now
 - ii. Studio 8 (back) - \$288/month, available no

5. Liaison Reports

- a. UNC Student Liaison Update– UNC Student Liaison Update–Celia reported UNC is only on the 4th day of classes. A lot of student musicians have been integrating more with town venues. Various campus publications are coming out with UNC Student writings. Student photographers are out and working on campus. The Carolina Film Association has started work and their film festival should happen later in the semester. Thesis readings should happen later in the semester as well. Arts students on campus are dealing with a lot of heavy topics like AI, the loss of TikTok, and, because of that, moving to more physical media.
- b. Chapel Hill Arts Commission – Josh reported that this board is one of the boards that Chapel Hill is looking at eliminating due to an overabundance of boards for a town of Chapel Hill size. Josh has voiced his opinion to the town of Chapel Hill as to why the CH Arts Commission is important for Chapel Hill by ensuring artistic standards and guidelines are followed with public art.
- c. UNC update by Crystal – *The Shot* with Sharon Lawrence is currently playing at PlayMakers. Other arts events will be underway soon as the year progresses.
- d. Hillsborough Arts Council – John said they are finally getting back to launching their Hillsborough Poet Laurette. The application will open in February.
- e. The ArtsCenter update by Wendy. She reported that they had great end-of-year fund-raising activities. Also, they had 8 live performances that sold out. December was busier than expected, but everything worked out well. Art Camps registration opened up today and is going well including some new classes for young teens.
- f. Carrboro Arts update – Wendy reported previously that the Carrboro Arts board was merged with Parks and Rec. and they are still going through some growing pains.
- g. Visitor's Bureau update by Wendy –A representative from UNC was there to discuss a new sports facility to replace The Dean Dome. They are considering five different options. However, it sounds like option 2 or 3 seems the most doable and popular.
 - i. Renovate the current Dean Dome

- ii. Build a new facility right down the road in a lot that is currently parking for the Dean Dome
 - iii. Build a new facility where Odom Village was.
 - iv. Build a new facility at Carolina North.
 - v. Build a new facility where the Friday Center is.
- h. Orange County Artists Guild -- Heather reported that the Guild's new artist application is open through the end of January. The next OCAG show will be at Higgins and Meyers in February
 - i. Calico Makers Market – Heather has turned this into a non-profit and all paperwork has come through. The Market is looking for vendors for the spring market and to finalize the artist that will provide art activities.
 - j. Carolina African American Writers Collective – one of their members was just elected president of the Haiku society of America. She is first female elected to the position.
 - k. Carrboro Poets Council – Gideon said meeting later this month. The council is making plans for upcoming poetry events, pre-planning for the 2025 Poetry Festival, and identifying additional poets for the Council.

6. Crystal adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.