



May 2025 Minutes

Monday, May 12 | 6:30pm
Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Crystal Wu, *Chair*, Wendy Smith, Katie Murray, , Denise Duffy, *vice chair*, Linda Williamson, *Sec.*, Josh Rosenstein, , Lindsay Metivier, Francesca Talenti, John Claude Bemis, Gideon Young

Absent: Alexa Velez, Renee Hayes, Celia Gibbs, Heather Washburn, Krista Bremer

Meeting Location: Zoom Meeting

- 1) Call to Order at 6:34 by Crystal
- 2) Wendy moved to approve the April 2025 Board Minutes and Francesca seconded. All approved.
- 3) Board updates
 - a) UNC Student Liaison – Katie met with Alexander Gast for the new UNC Student Liaison recommended by Celia. He has submitted his application. Katie will send the application via email for review/approval. We must vote electronically. After that, his application will go to the BOCC. If approved, he will join us in the Fall.
 - b) Alexis Velez – has stepped down due to increased demands for work and other activities.
 - c) Board Vacancies – Katie reviewed the board break down between areas of arts representation, geography and race. We have two open positions at present. The board discussed potential candidates that Katie should meet with from the pool of available people. We are still trying to recruit a teacher.
- 4) Director's Report: Katie Murray
 - a) FY26 Budget request updates – the recommended budget from the County Manager is going to the commissioners for approval including one new person for Katie's staff. Katie also got a slight increase in programming and operational funds. The programming budget is below what is needed for the new year so will have to be updated from other funds from the Alliance. The program coordinator position is out of a different fund and has already been approved. However, the standard County event funds that have always been in the budget were not included this year. The County funds for artist and arts organization grants is still flat and have never gone back to the amount the arts used to get. Katie would like to see the outside agency fund go to a percentage, so it is more obvious how much the arts receives. So good news and bad news, but overall a good budget cycle for Katie and team (pending BOCC approval).
 - b) Uproar update – everything moving along. Risk Manager for the County and Katie came to an agreement on how to proceed with the art installation work. Artist and Art are fantastic for this year. The tourism board is doing a lot to promote Uproar.
 - c) RFP update for rebrand - Committee and Katie held interviews with the 3 finalists this week and they have picked the final candidate. The goal is to be done by the Fall and have an unveiling with the 40th anniversary.
 - d) Cloth Mill space – Katie reviewed with Arts Alliance board. They put together a steering committee to see how we could use the space. It would be a priority for arts events, but we would need 3 to 4 private events a month. The County Manager gave it a green light to move forward with the plan. The team will take to BOCC at a meeting in the future for approval. Katie is putting together an affordability survey to go out to arts organizations and non-arts organizations to help determine what is considered acceptable event space rates/rentals.
 - e) More volunteer help is needed this month due to related activities for the gallery show – Hidden Voices. Also, HAC Last Friday and the Library event give us an opportunity to have tables to share information about Uproar and summer camps.
 - f) 2025 Grant Cycle - organization and artist grants open June 1. Our panels will be in July – dates TBD.

- 5) First Friday Hours – Discussed the hours of First Friday. We used to do 6-9pm and then changed it to 7-9pm. Katie is proposing we go back to 6-9pm even though it will now require two volunteer shifts. The board discussed and agreed with the recommendation.

 - 6) Liaison Reports –
 - a) UNC Student Liaison Update – none at this meeting
 - b) Chapel Hill Arts Commission – none at this meeting
 - c) UNC - Crystal Wu reports graduation happened last weekend. Classes are over for the year. Seasons are over at performing arts facilities.
 - d) Hillsborough Arts Council - John shared that Hillsborough has announced its new Hillsborough Poet laureate – she will be at Last Friday on the court house lawn this month.
 - e) The ArtsCenter- Wendy reported the ArtsCenter has their gala this coming weekend. They have an exciting gala auction and silent auction, which is now open.
 - f) Carrboro Arts - none at this meeting
 - g) Visitors' Bureau – met at "Well" which is a cool space. Visitor Center has lost some of its funding. Discussed the big soccer tournament.
 - h) Orange County Artists Guild – no update
 - i) Carolina African American Writers' Collective/Carrboro Poets Council – Gideon gave us an update on the activities related and discussions about different types of poets for their festival. They are shoring up their process for picking the Poet Laureate. Discussed with HAC. Should announce at West End Poetry Festival.

 - 7) Crystal closed the meeting at 7:50pm.
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IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Wed May 21 7-9pm Weave & Spin featuring Emilia Phillips (Vteer – Doris)**
- **Fri May 23 7-9pm "From Dust We Rise" dance performance w/ Killian Manning**
- **Fri May 30 6-9pm Last Fridays – tabling for Uproar and Camps**
- **Fri June 6 7-9pm First Fridays feat. Liberation Group Show and Tre Charles (V-teers – Doris, Renee, Francesca)**
- **Sat June 7 10am-12pm OC Library Outreach Event at Riverpark – tabling for Uproar and Camps**
- **Wed June 18 7-9pm Weave & Spin (Vteer – Wendy)**
- **Fri June 27 6-9pm Last Fridays – tabling for Uproar and Camps**