

SUMMIT ARTSPACE / AKRON AREA ARTS ALLIANCE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2015
Joanne Green, Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Meeting with the County of Summit** – a productive meeting took place on 9/23 regarding building usage, lease agreements and our overall relationship moving forward under new leadership and a new mission. The building lease is current through 2018 with no increases to the rent or utilities. We were asked to submit a proposal to assume the management of all remaining county-controlled first floor spaces, including the offices currently occupied by YES (vacating 10/1), the “Ramp Room” and adjacent storage. A County is not interested in a Board position, but an official will serve on the Creative Community Committee in a facilities capacity. The County seemed pleased to continue the partnership and happy to support us where it can.
- **Development planning** – as reported by Fund Development Committee Chair Brenda Cummins, planning is well underway for a year-end annual fund and corporate support campaign. A case statement, solicitation materials, sponsor and benefit levels and a campaign timeline are currently being developed. Lists are being updated and prospects are being identified, as has tracking and reporting software. Grant research, writing and reporting continues.
- **Brand refresh initiative** – a new logo, look and brand for Summit Artspace will be officially unveiled during the year end annual fund campaign. Public Design Co. will offer its services pro-bono to create our materials for the campaign and brand relaunch. Following, the website, signage, 2016 event materials
- **Creative Business Center upgrades** – due to a generous donation of office furniture and mobile wall units and a grant by the Corbin Foundation, over the next few weeks we will complete upgrades to the creative business center that will provide current and future tenants a more professional and collaborative atmosphere. Once complete, an additional 5-7 small office spaces will be available for rent by startup and expanding arts-related businesses and organizations.
- **Mayoral Forum** – more than 200 people visited Summit Artspace to witness what the Akron mayoral candidates had to say about arts and culture in Akron. The forum was also live streamed on akronist.com where it was watched live and recorded and received nearly 1,000 views. The event was well-planned and executed, and received considerable positive media attention both before and after the event. Rather than host another forum before the general election, the planning group decided to host a post-election reception in early 2016 (date TBD), inviting all Akron and Summit County elected officials, artists, arts organizations and advocates.
- **Art Prize opening** – over 900 people entered Summit Artspace for the Akron Art Prize opening and reception. It was great to see so many board members and other community leaders and supporters join us to kick off the opening. Thank you! And a personal note of thanks to my friends and colleagues who came out to welcome and support me.
- **Board Web Portal** – new online informational tool with quick access to important documents and information. www.summitartspace.com/board-portal - requires password, which will be provided during the meeting.

KEY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Christine Mayer, GAR – 8/25
- Public Design Co, logo design / brand refresh – 8/25, 9/18
- Board member meetings – 8/25, 8/27
- Mayoral Forum press interviews – 8/27 (WKSU), 8/28 (WAKR/WONE)
- Akron Mayoral Forum on Arts and Culture – 8/31 (debriefing - 9/10)
- Akron Art Prize Opening and reception – 9/5
- Creative Cog (presenting in December 2015, tentative) – 9/8
- GroundWorks, ArtsNow, Downtown Akron Partnership – 9/9
- Staff meeting, program planning meeting – 9/10
- Board Orientation; IT consultants – 9/15
- Akron School for the Arts committee; Akron Art Prize Mixer – 9/17
- Fund Development planning – 9/17, 9/21
- Community Support Services art therapy department – 9/18
- Marketing planning meeting – 9/22
- County of Summit – 9/23

FINANCIAL REPORT ADDENDUM

There is currently \$16,000 cash on-hand in the Akron Area Arts Alliance checking account. We also expect to receive the following \$26,000 over the next few weeks:

- \$15,000 from Akron Community Foundation (ACF)
- \$8,000 from Ohio Arts Council (OAC)
- \$3,000 from the IRS (received \$1,300 on 9/21/15)

LOIs and proposals were submitted to the following in September:

- Burton D. Morgan Foundation - \$12,500 for the Artist as an Entrepreneur Institute (AEI)
- GAR Foundation - \$25,000 for operating support
- Northern Ohio Golf Charities - \$20,000 for technology-related upgrades

Grants and sponsorship requests will also be submitted to the following in October and/or November with additional companies and foundations to be approached prior to the end of the year.

- Welty Family Foundation
- Lehner Family Trust
- Omnova Solutions Foundation
- Kulas Family Foundation
- FirstMerit Foundation
- Summa Foundation
- FirstEnergy Foundation
- Key Foundation

See the Development Committee report for details about fundraising activities, schedules and plans.