

Building Community through Arts & Culture for over 20 years!



**Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2015
8 a.m. at Summit Artspace**

Attendance:

Barbara Feld
Hans Dorfi
Toby Weber
Randy Pope

Susan Yingling
Christy Page
Chris Miller
Laurie Patterson

Paul Jarrett
Elaine Guregian
Joanne Green

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. Board Members all introduced themselves in light of the newly appointed members.

Chris Miller moved to approve the July Board Meeting minutes. Barbara Feld seconded. Motion passed.

Employee Handbook

Board Chair Toby Weber said the new Employee Handbook is an accomplishment, as the organization only has three employees and the previous policies have been a little thin.

Paul Jarrett moved to approve the Employee Handbook. Laurie Patterson seconded. Motion passed.

2016 Budget

Board Chair Toby Weber said the financial reporting has not been a strength of the Arts Alliance, and internal record-keeping has not been stellar for the organization. Board Member Barbara Feld said this is the most transparent budget she's seen in a long time.

Weber pointed out that hiring a full-time Executive Director was a necessity, and the Board made a decision to spend down the reserve in order to help make this happen. She also said the Board is looking at a deficit budget.

Summit Artspace Executive Director Joanne Green said grants exceeded \$70,000, but the organization is remaining conservative. Weber said the Arts Alliance has also been able to tap into Feld's relationships with such funders as GAR Foundation and Knight Foundation. She said that some duties have been contracted out because of a small staff, but there's some leeway in the budget to allow for adding these jobs.

Randy Pope moved to approve the 2016 Budget. Hans Dorfi seconded. Motion passed.

Board Giving Policy

Board Chair Toby Weber said when the Arts Alliance sunset its membership model, the organization was giving up some revenue. A best practice of high-performing boards, she added, is to have 100-percent board giving. She said the new policy asks every Board Member to make a pledge that he or she considers generous.

Elaine Guregian moved to approve the Board Giving Policy. Paul Jarrett seconded. Motion passed.

Special Event Planning/ Executive Director's Report

Summit Artspace Executive Director Joanne Green said Board Member Brenda Cummins is helping with the upcoming Mayoral Forum for Arts and Culture, (with an expected 150 people and a live broadcast of the event from the Akronist), and they've had a discussion about fund-raising. She said the organization plans to host an Arts Alive! event next year, along with a spring fundraiser. They also discussed smaller events throughout the year, Green said.

Green said she's seen an increase in monthly meetings and introductions, and Summit Artspace is helping to develop ideas for the Knight Arts Challenge, along with collaboration ideas and rethinking the usage of the building space.

She said she's also at the beginning of staff and volunteer assessments, along with looking at computer systems and honing a development plan.

A tenant meeting took place to avoid multiple meetings between Green and the tenants, said Board Chair Toby Weber, and new Board Member Laurie Patterson, who specializes in personal interactions, also attended the tenant meeting.

Weber also discussed the need to develop a business plan, which could then be folded into a strategic plan for the organization. This would begin with a planned Board Retreat and a reassessment of committee structures. This would also include an internally focused committee, which would look at the creative community within the building.

Board Member Paul Jarrett asked about repopulating committee chairs, to which Weber replied yes.

Weber said she would also send out a Doodle Survey to perhaps change the day of the week the Board would meet.

Group Discussion

Board members talked about arts experiences that have had an impact on them. Responses included art classes within Summit Artspace, Highland Square's Porch Rockr Festival, pottery studios in Alabama, Art in Unexpected Places and Cirque Du Soleil at EJ Thomas Hall, among

others.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.