

Building Community through Arts & Culture for over 20 years!



**Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, July 28, 2015
8 a.m. at Summit Artspace**

Attendance:

Barbara Feld	Paul Jarrett	Brenda Cummins
Elaine Guregian	Toby Ann Weber	Chris Miller
Joanne Green	Allyson Boyd	Suzie Graham
Randy Pope		

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:06 a.m.

Chris Miller moved to approve April, May and June Board Meeting minutes. Suzie Graham seconded. Motion passed.

Governance Committee

Governance Committee Chair Suzie Graham discussed some of the details of the proposed regulatory documents relating to Board Member job duties, Board Member Statement of Responsibility, Conflict of Interest Policy, Code of Regulations and new Board Member nominees.

She said the Conflict of Interest Policy is formulaic and that Board Member contributions to the organization don't necessarily have to be monetary.

Vice Chair Elaine Guregian questioned a passage about Board Members being paid, and other Board Members stated that Board Members in this situation couldn't take action on items related to this conflict.

Suzie Graham moved to approve the Code of Regulations, Conflict of Interest Policy, Board Member job description and Board Member Statement of Responsibility. Motion passed.

Graham also shared the Governance Committee recommendations for new Board Members.

Board Member Randy Pope asked if there is a need for this many Board Members. He said big boards are not necessarily good boards.

Board Chair Toby Weber said the focus of this organization is narrow but support should be broader and that different skill sets are needed, like financial and legal skills.

Board Member Paul Jarrett recommended that the Board first assess its needs before adding new members.

Graham said the Board is still lacking diversity, and that the Board should not be silo'd from the Akron Art Museum. She said the Board also needs to strengthen its relationship with Summit County.

Board Member Barbara Feld said someone from Summit County should perhaps be a Board Member. Weber said the last time the Arts Alliance signed a lease with Summit County was 2008, and that when the Board has a conversation with Summit County about developing a current lease, County Executive Russ Pry could be asked about his preference of having someone on the Board.

Board Member Elaine Guregian suggested that Executive Director Joanne Green set up a regular standing meeting with Pry to help develop this relationship.

Graham moved to approve these new Board Members:

- **Hans Dorfi, Ph.D. - Manager, Advanced Tire Technology, Bridgestone Americas**
- **Christy Page - President and CEO, Better Business Bureau**
- **Laurie Patterson - Organizational Ombudsman, Akron General Medical Center**
- **Hillary Stewart - Business Analyst, FirstEnergy**
- **Susan Yingling - Retired Arts Educator, Arts Advocate**

Motion passed.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Joanne Green brought up the idea of a Mayoral Candidate discussion at Summit Artspace, which Board members supported. She said she's also reached out to local funders for introductory meetings, along with local publishers and broadcast stations to discuss possible sponsorships and partnerships.

Board Chair Report

Board Chair Toby Weber said there are three new tenants at Summit Artspace, including Hattie Larlham Creative Arts, Diane Davis Sikora and a playwright. She said the Employee Handbook is being reviewed, and that the Arts Alliance still needs to file the paperwork to "do business as" Summit Artspace. A contracted bookkeeper also will be hired. Weber said the organization's bookkeeping over the past year wasn't great, so year-over-year comparisons may be difficult.

Board Members also discussed the question, "What do we want to be the most striking difference a year from now?" Answers included a formal plan for developing the building's entrance to make it more functional and welcoming; a robust volunteer program; clarity around the mission of the first-floor gallery, with the gallery acting as a revenue center rather than a

cost center; a more comprehensive fundraising effort; and a codified relationship with Summit County.

Also discussed were a new mission statement and a “brand refresh” for the organization.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.