

Summit Artspace Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, March 24, 106

Attendees:

Christy Page, Chris Miller, Joanne Green, Randy Pope, Paul Jarrett, Elaine Guregian, Hillary Stewart, John Fitzpatrick, Barbara Feld, Brenda Cummins, Kayle Foster (board shadow)

Call to Order

Because Toby Ann Weber was unable to attend, Paul Jarrett led the meeting, calling it to order at 8:04 a.m. and welcoming the newest member, John Fitzpatrick, an IT manager at Goodyear.

Approval of Minutes from Feb. 25, 2016

Brenda Cummins moved to approve. Barbara Feld seconded. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee—

Christy Page reported that we have \$273,687 in total equity. Grant revenue is down and net income from July to February was down \$16K from what was budgeted, but a GAR grant of \$20,000 and an unexpected grant from Burton J Morgan Foundation came in after these totals.

Board Development Committee—

Elaine Guregian moved to accept the resignation of Laurie Patterson, who has a new job at the Cleveland Clinic. Jarrett seconded; all in favor. Elaine Guregian moved to approve Jim Pickard as a new board member. Brenda Cummins seconded, noting he had co-chaired arts and culture day at Leadership Akron and was a strong addition. The board voted unanimously approved.

Development Committee—

Brenda Cummins reported that the Arts Alive party is scheduled for June 15 at 5:30 p.m. at SA. Katie Carver is heading the committee to review nominations for awards. Joan Colbert is chairing the Out of the Box event. Prine 93 will cater. The Fusion show (with a theme of fusing art and science) will continue in the gallery and serve as the event theme. Party will start on 2nd floor and move to 3rd floor for awards. We will not sit at dinner tables, in an effort to make mingling easy. Brenda asked board members to look at the list of sponsors in the packet on the website. We can send out the packet to potential sponsors. This year the sponsorship includes sponsorship opportunities during the year, not only on the night of the event. Barbara Feld suggested approach two potential drinks sponsors: 750 ML (Carla is owner) and Fleming's (Bob is owner).

Creative Community Committee—

Joanne Green reported that all studios are filled and the building is at 50% of capacity. A filmmaker will be moving in. Guregian asked Green what is SA's current capacity. Green said the Creative Business Center can hold 8, potentially 9 and we have space for 9 individual studio artists plus larger space for four groups such as Rubber City Artists.

The building had high traffic for the Big Love event. SynHAK (sic), a maker space based in Akron, has helped with building improvements. A tenant group has formed that meets monthly without Joanne Green, who said she encouraged this autonomy. Joanne checked into the expense of piping the YES office space—estimated at about \$15K, which seemed prohibitively high, so a coffee shop may not work.

Community Engagement—

Barbara Feld said the Artist as Entrepreneur Institute is set to take place over two weekends in April, with a cost to participants of \$100 for four days. The goal of the program is to teach business skills that will allow artists to be self-sustaining. Feld explained that the concept began with CPAC, from whom we license the program. Last year we had 40 participants, up from 18 in the first year. Burton D. Morgan Foundation supports the project. Feld asked that board members and friends help to facilitate. Green said she would ask Mila to link info to the website.

Executive Director—

Joanne Green said funders had commented on the increased activity at SA, for example at Big Love. Between 11 a.m. and 11 p.m., 4,000 people came through the doors. Joe, our exhibitions manager, is forming a gallery committee to plan next year's events.

For an international exhibition at SA in May, we will work with the International Institute of Akron.

Green met with Ohio Means Jobs, which did a site assessment. Green would like to hire someone to do tasks like answer the door, be a gallery sitter and help with building maintenance.

She mentioned the "Loo" event, in which volunteers redecorated and improved our restrooms in response to a poor restroom rating from the Devil Strip. The grand opening is scheduled for 7-9 p.m. Friday, April 1. Guregian said it was a good move to respond in a way that demonstrates that the arts are not elitist. Group agreed we want events like this that show we are responsive and don't take ourselves too seriously.

Group Discussion—

Jarrett said that SA has been contacted by Neighborhood Development Services, a community development corporation, about the possibility of SA taking over the operation of ACOT – a facility similar to SA in downtown Barberton. Jarrett strongly recommended that we look into this. Green said that Nine Muses and the coffee shop would continue to be operated by the neighborhood development group but SA would be asked to curate the gallery. Cummins said we would want to see how the community supports its neighborhood space before we commit to anything. Toby Ann Weber said she

had talked to the head of Barberton Community Foundation. Cummins said we don't want to be in the position of talking to funders before we know if we want to go forward. Chris Miller said there is no way this project would proceed without funding and staff, and if a task force were formed it should include people from Barberton.

Guregian said we should move with caution, since our own organization is just getting established and our leader is new, and we have seen the example of a group like the Bang and the Clatter, which expanded and then failed. We don't want funders to lose confidence either, since there were prior concerns.

Cummins moved that we form an exploratory committee. Green said it would not take much effort and was in favor. Guregian suggested we wait to explore. Jim Fitzgerald suggested we approach this as a work in progress and tell the NDS that we will charter this effort, coming back in 60 days with more information. The board agreed with this version of the motion and voted unanimously in favor of forming an exploratory committee made of board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Guregian