

Baltimore Public Art Commission Monthly Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 19, 2021, Virtually, 10 AM – 11:06 AM

I. Call to Order

Commissioners

Aaron Bryant

Danielle Brock

Sam Christian Holmes

Kuo Pao Lian

BOPA Staff

Kirk Shannon-Butts, Public Art and Curation Manager

Devin Shacklett, Arts Council Program Coordinator

II. Aaron Bryant's recommendations regarding the meeting Minutes

- Record all comments and recommendations from the members of the PAC.
- Record all votes, recommendations, motions, ect.
- When recording motions, record PAC members whom agree (2nd , 3rd...a hearing)
- PAC meeting notes are available to the public, great for research.

III. Meeting objectives

- Updates from Kirk
- Public Art Commission Guidelines
- Filling the 3 empty seats of the PAC

IV. Updates from Kirk

- Future PAC meetings will be video recorded, this meeting is just audio.
- Invited Terri Lee Freeman, the new director of the Reginald Art Museum to the April 16th, 2021 PAC meeting.
 - Terri Lee Freeman accepted Kirk's invitation.
- Sent Commissioner Candidate recommendations from the PAC to Nina who works in the Mayor's office.
- Per Commissioners request, invitation has been sent to BOPA'S Community Arts and Special Projects Manager, Chris Brook to be apart of the April 16th, 2021 meeting.

- BOPA attended a hearing on a proposal by City Councilmen Ryan Dorsey regarding state funding.
 - City is Expected to get \$1,000,000.00
 - Baltimore City Arts Council Director, Jocquelyn Downs spoke on behalf of BOPA in support of the proposal.
- Lexington Artist Call is out.
 - About 15 recipients so far for 2 \$150,000 sculptures for the “New Lexington Market”
 - The artist call out closed, April 23rd, 2021
- Fair housing Exhibition opens on April 30th, 2021
 - Installed in the Parks and People Foundation location at 2100 Liberty Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21217 from Thursday, April 1st, 2021, until Saturday, May 1st, 2021. The deadline for submissions was Monday, March 1, 2021.
 - BOPA Is producing this Exhibition on behalf of The Office of Equity and Civil Rights.
 - This year’s exhibition is about youth, and everyone’s depiction of home, and what it means.
- Had a meeting with Terrance Jennings and the Mayor’s office regarding the accessioning.
 - Working on a document regarding the accessioning art when a organization/agency inquire about a piece of Art.

V. Aaron’s request for questions

- Aaron Bryant
 - Requested PAC receive bio of Terri Lee Freeman so that Commissioners are aware of her background.
 - She was The Director of the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, TN.
 - Has family here in Baltimore
 - George Collin’s interjected with details regarding Ms.Freeman.
 - Kirk introduces Mr.Collins. “He created the Black Fire Museum that will be here in Baltimore.
 - Aaron request to open the floor toward the end of the meeting to listen to Mr. Collins details. Aaron asked Mr.Collins for his approval.
 - Mr.Collins approved
 - Encourages the PAC to send Commissioner recommendations to Kirk.
 - Requested that the PAC cc everyone when making recommendations.
 - Requested that Kirk compile a list of all recommendations so that everyone is aware and not sending the same recommended candidates.
 - Requested that the PAC to set a deadline for all recommendations.
 - Discuss the list of recommendations in our April meeting before sending additional candidates to the mayor’s office.
 - Kirk announced that Nina from the Mayor’s office will be at the April, or May PAC meeting.

- Nina said that the application for Commissioners will be open to the public. The call should go out within the next 2 weeks contingent upon the Mayor.
- Nina has the list of Commissioner Candidates that have been forwarded to Kirk so far.
- Kirk will Compile a list and will send the list of Candidate's to the Commissions before the next PAC meeting in April within the next 2 weeks.
 - Sam Holmes asked "what weight does the recommended list hold versus the open call to the public. What's the balance, how will it work?"
 - Kirk requested that Mr.Holmes ask Nina in the next meeting.
 - Kirk suggested that she could present the list of recommendations and note which candidates were recommended by the commission.
 - The seats need to be filled by educators, architects, community leaders.
 - Aaron told Sam that the PAC'S recommended list would be priority, and it's known that the PAC has previous experience and knowledge in the field therefore having great recommendations.
- When's the deadline for nominations, and how long will it take for decisions.
 - Kirk said he will have Nina Come to the next PAC meeting to answer questions and listen to recommendations.
- Inquired about Chris Brooks.
 - Kirk explained that Chris Brooks is BOPA'S works in public art, manager of BOPA's Murals program. Also involved in community outreach.
 - Chris will be apart of the meeting in April.
 - Kirk will send everyone bio's of both Chris Brooks, and Terri Lee Freeman before April's meeting..
 - Aaron asked about community Affairs BOPA liaison.
 - Kirk responded that BOPA doesn't have that specific role however, Chris Brooks deals with these affairs in the role that he is in.
 - Aaron requested that Kirk elaborate on the said roles. "Does he work with community organizers."
 - Devin responded, Yes
 - Kirk responded, Absolutely!

- Chris Brooks works with Art educators and manages BOPA'S Mural Program. Chris Brooks assures that the communities' recommendations on projects are being heard, working closely with the community.
- Aaron asked will Chris be in the next April PAC meeting.
 - Kirk confirmed, "Yes."
- Conclusion of questions.

VI. Public Art Commission Guidelines

- Kirk will create a document that Commissioners will be able to add their questions/concerns regarding the public art guidelines.
- Aaron has questions regarding the artist selection panel. Requested Kirk elaborate about the panel, and the selection process.
 - Kirk responds
 - Call for Artist
 - Jury selects.
 - The jury is selected by, BOPA.
 - The jury's list is presented to the PAC. Where the PAC then votes.
 - Aaron asked, "What is the commissions relationship and obligations to the "Panel" (Jury)? Does the Commission choose the artist?" Aaron would like clarity on the Commissions role within the artist selection process.
 - Sam said he never seen any examples of the Commission having precedents over any artist selection panels for the city.
 - He mentioned the Lexington market project not being presented to the PAC
 - Aaron reads from the guidelines and awaits Kirks response. "recommend and select 2 PAC members to be apart of the panel. Aaron asked. "Will the PAC be selecting 2 Commissioners from the PAC, and just the 2 PAC members or will the commission also be recommending other people who aren't members of the PAC to be on the panel?"
 - Kirk says he doesn't recall it being done in that way in the past.
 - Kirk continued to explain the process in selecting artist for projects. He said that "Agencies send call out request from BOPA because they're aware of BOPA's pool of artist."
 - Sam Holmes asked if the said process was new?
 - Kirk responded, "no."
 - Kuo Pao Lian agreed with Kirk in remembering from the past that this was the process. "the agency comes to, BOPA, BOPA then puts out a call." He's unsure what happens to the list prior to reaching the PAC. In the past BOPA liaison Ryan would present a number of artists from the artist call to the PAC that were relevant to the specific project. Ryan would also ask if PAC members were available to be a part of panels and would choose the 2 members based off of PAC members availability, and or expertise on a specific project. He added, "the PAC

- doesn't choose artist. The PAC helps to score and shortlist giving recommendation/ vote on the artist to be selected"
- Kirk wants to revise the process and make it more clear and concrete for everyone to follow.
 - Aaron mentioned past projects that were in the works when Ryan was at BOPA.
 - The Zoo
 - Large scale sculpture in Mott Hill
 - Aaron volunteer to be apart of the artist selection panels for the above projects. Specifically, the Zoo project
 - Recommended that the PAC be updated on the said art projects, and the standing of the project, what's the commissions involvement?
 - Kirk made note to update on all projects.
 - Danielle Brock had question regarding page 7 section B 7th, "Administer the Artists recruitment and selection Process. "How is this the same with what we've discussed?"
 - Aaron explains that commission staff is BOPA, not the PAC.
 - Danielle Confirms her understanding
- No further questions regarding the artist selection panel

VII. Opens the floor for additional comments.

- George Collins
 - Triple A member and Advocate and loves the organization and the new executive director.
 - President and Founder of the African American Fire Fighter Historical Society (founded in Baltimore in 2009)
 - 2017 had a ground-breaking ceremony for the 10-year anniversary of the first woman to be killed in the line of duty. She was a black woman
 - BOPA sponsored the mural project to celebrate her legacy.
 - Working on establishing the International Black firefighter Museum and safety education center in east Baltimore on harford ave.
 - After the bidding process, the news about the museum will be available to the public.
 - Project will take about 3 years
 - Comments about Ms. Freeman: Before she went to Memphis, she was the community foundation executive director of the Greater Washington Community Foundation. She will be a great asset to her new position.
- Sam Holmes asked, what is the PAC'S role in the Lexington market project.
 - Kirk responded saying the project is funded privately and the 1% capital funds are being used for this project. BOPA are only responsible for the artist call.

- Sam let the group know that he is a part of the Municipal Society board for full disclosure purposes
- Ku Pao had to leave at 11.
 - Aaron said that this was an unofficial meeting being that nothing was voted on.
- No further question

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 11:06 am.