



BALTIMORE OFFICE OF PROMOTION & THE ARTS, INC.
BOARD MEETING – WEDNESDAY, December 14, 2022
BOARD MINUTES

Attending via Zoom: Brian Lyles, Board President; Laurie Rush, Anana Kambon, Michael Davenport, Michael Shecter, Jack Lewin, Paula Rome, Tom Crawford

Staff attending via Zoom: Donna Drew Sawyer, Chief Executive Officer; Lanece Taylor, Office Manager; Tonya Miller, Chief Marketing & Programs Officer; Brian Wentz; Chief Finance Officer

AMS staff attending via Zoom: Michele Walter and Lynette Turner

Absent: Sandra Gibson, Franklin McNeil

Welcome

Brian Lyles welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 10:06 am.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- September 21st minutes were approved and adopted as final with a change to be made to the Governance portion of the minutes

Governance Committee Report

- The board approved officers will consist of Brian Lyles (Chair), Michael Shecter (Vice-Chair), Jack Lewin (Treasurer) and Frank McNeil (Secretary) for the upcoming year.
- Out of the list of 5 potential board prospects, 3 have agreed to join the board. The new board members were approved by the board: Andrew Chaveas, Jeffrey Kent and B.R. Hammed-Owens.
- There are still finance, artist and fundraising gaps on the board to be filled. Anana would like to add 3-4 more board members but will need board support to do so.
- The board would like more recommendations from BOPA staff for potential board members.

Finance

- The finance committee motioned to present a revised investment policy for approval to construct investments in a more constructive manner. The motion was approved.
- The committee is working on making sure that internal and external auditors are in line.
- 1st quarter financials are delayed due to timing issues. They should be completed in late January or early February.
- Will continue to develop the finance dashboard.

CEO Report

- Donna will send the written CEO report later next month along with the financials.
- BOPA will be doing the NYE fireworks this year.
- Staff have moved into the new office at 7 Saint Paul St. Local artist Saba completed a mural on one of the office walls. The next board meeting will be at the office so board members can see the completed office.

- BOPA is in the process of year-end work with the city and has been working closely with the new Deputy Mayor, Justin Williams.
- Arts Council
 - Creative Baltimore Fund has closed awarding more than \$250,000 to individual artists and arts and culture organizations.
 - Arts in Action grant closes this Friday, December 16th.
 - Great exhibition season. Kei Ito's exhibition Shaded Remnants received national media attention.
 - Sondheim opens this week and runs until mid-January.
 - Scholastic Arts grants season has come to a close with 500 more submissions than last year, 3,900 submissions in total. The awards ceremony will be sometime in March.
 - Art at work summer intern program is coming back. This is a 5-week program for young artists.
 - Redwood Arches restoration is complete. The restoration ceremony, originally scheduled for fall, will be rescheduled to sometime in the spring.
- Marketing & Communications
 - Social media is up by 15%.
 - Launched the new Farmers Market & Artscape website.
 - Local band Soul Centered will be performing at the NYE fireworks celebration. We have partnered with Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore, and they have agreed to keep the ice rink open until midnight.
 - December 15th WBAL will announce that the fireworks will be returning to Baltimore's Inner Harbor for NYE.
- Development
 - Finalizing 4th quarter fundraising.
 - Funding from Whiting-Turner & National Endowment for the Arts has been received so far.
 - GO bonds awarded us \$50,000 for repairs to School 33. The funds will not be received until 2024.
 - Still working on the \$190,000 restoration from the city.

Other Business

- There being no other new business, Brian adjourned the meeting at 10:56 am