

**March 2024**

**Baltimore City Public Art Commission (PAC) Meeting**

Friday, March 15, 2024

10:00AM - 11:30AM

**MINUTES**

**March 2024 AGENDA**

1. Call to Order

- PAC Chair Aaron Bryant called the March PAC meeting to order at 10:06AM.

2. Roll Call

- PAC Administrator, Kirk Shannon-Butts, conducted the roll call:

Aaron Bryant, Chair - Present

Jacqueline Bershad – Absent (Jury Duty)

Lady Brion - Present

Jessica Bell Brown – Absent (Travel)

Danielle Brock - Present

Jaz Erenberg - Present

Sam Christian Holmes - Present

Evan Richardson - Present

Alma Roberts – Present

### 3. Minutes

- The PAC voted and approved the January 2024 and February 2024 PAC meeting minutes.

### 4. Updates

- The Baltimore Office of Promotion and The Arts' (BOPA) new CEO, Rachel Graham has started.
- PAC Chair Aaron Bryant agreed and stated the PAC and BOPA has a new start with new CEO Rachel Graham. The PAC has someone in touch with the mayor's office and to keep tabs on the 1% For Art process. Stated that Comptroller Henry mentioned from the current Baltimore City Capital Budget the 1% For Art would be \$800,000.00 for the PAC for conservation, commissions, and other operational costs.
- PAC Chair Aaron Bryant looks forward to working with Rachel Graham.
- Commissioner Alma Roberts asked, is there going to be a welcoming reception.
- PAC Administrator, Kirk Shannon-Butts said possibly.
- Commissioner Lady Brion requested Rachel's email address.

### 5. Discussion and Reflections on Comptroller Bill Henry's Visit & 1% For Art

- Commissioner Sam Holmes stated that the February PAC meeting was the "best meeting PAC" conversation so far. Cmmr Holmes expressed his satisfaction for with Comptroller presentation of the idea of getting the 1% For Art funds upfront from the agencies.
- Cmmr Roberts agreed and added until it is approved, the PAC has a lot of work to do. She added that legislation around funding regarding the 1% should be better organized. She added overall his transparency was very heartening.
- Commissioner Danielle Brock said that the conversation was great, and she feels like the PAC has an ally with Comptroller Henry.
- Chair Bryant agreed and thinks the commission can help untangle the process.
- Cmmr Roberts request that the PAC schedule working sessions with Rachel.

- Cmmr Brion echoed what the rest of the PAC feedback was. She specifically highlighted Alma's concerns. She requested that the PAC have a representative from the law office to assist in the Comptroller office providing a current plan that affect current issues.
  - Cmmr Roberts agreed with Cmmr Brion's statement.
  - Chair Bryant agreed and requested that the PAC follows up.
  - Commissioner Evan Richardson added it would be helpful for the Comptroller or the mayor's office to provide a monthly report.
  - Chair Bryant asked, is there a compliance office to report to regarding this?
  - Cmmr Holmes suggested that the PAC first start with a list of to-do's from the PAC first starting with working with the new director. He added Councilman Ryan Dorsey has been working in favor of the PAC. He added that they became endorsed by the entire council after review of reports from the PAC.
  - Chair Bryant provided public art programs should be in all communities. These national public funded percent for art programs are the zeitgeist for ensuring all communities have art and artists have opportunities. BOPA should take a strong leadership role in advocating for public art.
  - Cmmr Richardson inquired about revising the bi-laws.
  - Cmmr Brion offered that a law to set aside the 1% For Art funds off-the-top of the City's capital budget does not exist and will take a lot of political organizing. Cmmr Brion reminded the PAC that this off-the-top concept was presented as an idea from Comptroller Bill Henry.
  - Chair Bryant noted that organizing could start with Tonya Miller Hall from the Mayor's Office and Comptroller Bill Henry.
  - Cmmr Roberts asked if the PAC needed an amendment or a new law to enforce compliance.
  - Chair Bryant responded there needs to be an enforcement mechanism for the collection and compliance of the 1% For Art funds. Down the road, the PAC working with BOPA's new CEO, Rachel, Tonya Miller Hall, the Comptroller's office, and other city supporters and public art advocates is crucial.
  - Cmmr Evans stated sending a formal letter indicates the PAC is serious. A letter is key.
  - Chair Bryant agreed and acknowledged that Comptroller Henry is an alliance with the mission of the PAC and the role, compliance, and process of the 1% For Art ordinance. Chair Bryant follow-up was: (1) Thank you to Comptroller Henry. (2) Meeting with new

BOPA CEO, Rachel Graham. Rachel is now part of this process. The PAC will rely on her and the BOPA staff for their support.

#### 6. Project Presentation Requirements Document

- Chair Bryant asked if the PAC could receive documents two (2) weeks in advance of PAC meetings. Asked for the form to live on the PAC's website for public access. This form is part of the PAC brand. It will collect all the data, information, images, and details the PAC needs to review and vote on projects coming before the PAC. He said all elements are here to create the final updated documents.
- Cmmr Evans stated this information is universal to every project and presentation. No need to re-invent the wheel.
- Chair Bryant shared insight from his presentation process to collect and acquire artwork. He stated the PAC needs information on (1) Conservation needs for an artwork, (2) Storage information, (3) a maintenance plan, and (4) how the PAC can support the project.
- Cmmr Brock offered insight from the viewpoint of an engineering stating it is a lot of information and it is all necessary. This is a very thorough document.
- Chair Bryant agreed and said this updated document will make presentations easier to create for the public and for the PAC to make decisions.
- Cmmr Erenberg stated it is a good outline for a project. It is a little handholding for presenters to build a presentation to present before the PAC.
- Cmmr Holmes stated it is a good document and allows all types of projects whether new, existing or restoration to create a presentation to the PAC.

- Administrator Shannon-Butts asked the PAC to submit their additional fields, project requirements, edits, comments, revisions and updates for the form to him by Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

## 7. Commissioners Q & A

Cmmr Brion:

- Cmmr Brion inquired about serving on the Board of BOPA as well as a PAC Commissioner poses a conflict of interest.
- Chair Bryant offered support of Cmmr Brion's presence on both.
- Kirk will look into this.
- BOPA's Chris Brooks inserted that the City has an Ethics Board.
- Chair Bryant offered there should be PAC presentation on the BOPA Board.
- Cmmr Roberts is cheering for Cmmr Brion to serve on the BOPA Board.
- Cmmr Richardson does not see an ethical conflict and congratulated Cmmr Brion.

Cmmr Roberts:

- Legendary Baltimore artist, Joyce Scott, is having a retrospective at the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA).
- Cmmr Roberts shared that are events on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> for Members of the BMA and a Community Opening as well.

Cmmr Holmes:

- Shared that his wife worked with Ms Scott for this historic exhibition including a 9-foot beaded piece.
- Cmmr Roberts shared that her niece is part of Ms. Scott's "Thunder Thighs" piece.

Chair Bryant:

- Stated that Baltimore artists are represented on the national art scene including the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC.
- Chair Bryant requested a meeting with new BOPA CEO, Rachel Graham.

## 8. News from the PAC

## 9. Adjourn

- The March 2024 Baltimore City Public Art meeting adjourned at 11:41AM.