

BCA Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2021

3:00-5:00 pm

Meeting Conducted by Zoom

Advisory Board of Directors Voting Members in attendance: Mildred Beltre Martinez, Rachel Kahn-Fogel, Taylor Gamache, Billi Gosh, Jeffery Harkness, Lisa Lillibridge, Bryan Parmelee, Barbara Perry, Jacqueline Posley, Lori Rowe, Beth Montuori Rowles, Patrick Shank, Dana vanderHeyden, Jon Weisbecker

Staff present: Doreen Kraft, Sara Katz, Joyce Cellars, Melissa Steady, John Flanagan, Meara McGinniss

Meeting called to order at 3:08

1. Consent Agenda—Barbara moved, Rachel seconded. All in favor.
 - a. Approve Agenda
 - b. Approve Minutes of January 17
2. Public Forum –No public was present
3. Welcoming new board members:
 - a) Introductions from individual board members.
4. Financial Report- Laura Good year for fundraising, revenue for rentals and class registrations. Board giving is above target. Joyce has a great plan for major gifts.
5. One Percent for public art, Sara. An initiative that we have been trying to get off the ground for several years, finally are at the top of the list for the attorney's office. One percent of all capital projects will go to fund public art. The first time that BCA has enacted a law to fund art. It will be an important way to make a mark in the community. This board will have an expanded role in the commissioning of new art. A meeting of the public art committee will happen soon. It's a pretty significant change for BCA and this board. A more well understood process among colleagues in the city. Barbara what's the ideal revenue. We don't know that without knowing the specific project on the horizon. The biggest one we have ever seen just got scaled back. The fund will pool dollars, the fund can be re-appropriated to other projects. This board will play an important role in the commissioning process and ensuring best practices. The ordinance may be read for the first time by the city council as early as next week, then will be seen by ordinance, PAAC, and public art committees. Joyce-Is this based on a model established by other municipalities? Sara-yes, much research has been done. Doreen-The mayor is very excited about public art, Doreen is hoping the city might fund it to jump start it.
6. Committee Reports-
 - a. Equity and Inclusion Committee-Only met twice, lots of mission and passion based conversations. Jacq presented in the first meeting, an overview. Second

meeting was more practical concerns. The committee hopes to work closely with the city REIB. Assessing what BCA is already doing and figuring out how to assess in order to plug in. Possible trainings have been discussed. Who is Tyastia? Tyastia Green is the director of Racial, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging for the City of Burlington. A lot of legal discussion about the website to protect BIPOC employees of the city. Lisa-Great conversations about accessibility.

- b. Development Committee-Billi We are doing really well-donors have stepped up, the auction was a great success, and the emergency fund. The development committee agreed that for now it will act as the auction committee, perhaps bringing in some community members. The membership program has been revamped-one price for all model. Scholarship fundraising will make up the difference. Not a huge outcry from the community. Joyce shared some lessons from a post-pandemic webinar and that BCA is already doing things well including being a well-organized infrastructure, REIB centered, and be able to hold virtual events and be flexible-hold our donors close.
- c. Education Committee-Melissa Since the fall we have had 21 weeks of youth programming, also held summer camps starting in June. Strategically scheduling short programming to be able to be flexible around changing school schedules. In January, two teen institutes. Two big groups-elementary and teens. Thrilled to welcome Lauren Genta, Youth and Family Programs Coordinator. Melissa has been getting Lauren up to speed, camp registrations opened March 5. 172 kids registered so far. Still having to program for the pandemic-a combination of half and whole day camps. Headign back to robust numbers next summer. Later summer has plenty of spots. Processing a lot of scholarships. Spread the word that BCA camps are running and scholarships are always an option. Registration could take up to 30 minutes. Since the fall we have held 36 adult classes, mostly virtually as Home Studio classes with art kits. In-person classes have resumed and are filling up. Clay studio access members have been using the clay studio, about 30. Hoping to open up the other studios soon. Gallery ed has been mostly remote, the gallery is hosting 2 camps this summer. AFTH is creating an enourmous amount of kits, still no volunteers allowed in the hospital. Dana wanted to commend AFTH. Patrick asked for more information about scholarships. Melissa-the application is open to kids and adults year round. We do not ask for any financial documentation, instead ask about need. Melissa processes them all by hand-the turn around time is about a week. We give away \$50k a year. The only reason someone wouldn't get a scholarship would be capacity. We are getting a lot more bigger asks for scholarships this year-more weeks of camp, full scholarships. Would love the Equity and Inclusion Committee to help look at the scholarship process. Is there any demographic data for scholarship applicants and recipients? Yes, it is being collected on an optional basis. Doreen-the collection of

demographic data is under review by the REIB department to produce best practices city-wide. Our categories are based on the US Census, which can be problematic. Doreen- Explained BTV stat process, creating benchmarks was led. That department has essentially dissolved over the course of the pandemic. We are still gathering data but haven't had a chance to understand it in the context of the city. Lisa asked about high school student outreach and using the AFTH model to reach kids that don't get those scholarships? Lauren being in place will be able to reach out to the teenage community-increased capacity. They are a tricky group-they don't always enroll. AFTH kits a great opportunity. Sara-Also some teen based public art ideas.

7. Director's Report-Report was sent out to board ahead of meeting. Doreen will update on a few things and take questions. John will present the new website.
 - a. Radiant Thought by Clay Mohrman, previously at the BCA Center is moving to the high school. Prompted by a donor, the artist will install the work in April.
 - b. Jeffery asked when there was a sense that things return to normal. Doreen talked about a state wide effort and waiting game. Meara mentioned that the gallery does feel pretty normal. John mentioned guided tours with the curator. Dana mentioned the virtual tours. Doreen-Meg Lipke will do a virtual talk on March ??, there are private tours, Meg Lipke catalog should be available by early April. Heather is working to figure out how to present Bubblegum Pop, because the artist is in Australia. That is going to be great- a nice blockbuster, traffic-driving show during the summer. Kaelynn Two Trees will show on the second floor. What does it mean to have an entrance on the park? Something that the whole team is thinking about. We would love to have both those doors open. Seeing the high school students in the park recently has been wonderful! The park seems like it has provided an open classroom for the highschool. We will be announcing the first Diane Gabriel award towards the end of the show. The show closes on the ?? of May. That award will be announced and we will be joined by Diane's family- depending on safety we are hoping to invite board members etc. Mildred asked about the final list of nominees-is it public? Question for Heather. Barbara thinks that acknowledging the other nominees after the fact might be good. The summer Artist Market is coming back to City Hall Park. The farmer's market is staying on Pine Street for at least this summer. The park was built with both markets to return. Working with the downtown community and the mayor's office to get extra support for the artists this year. This is people's living so we need to help. Maybe a CSA model? Jeffery suggested making it more of an event. Doreen- Open Streets is happening again. Sara We are making the assumption that we can gather outside.
 - c. John presented the new website-will go live soon. Great to work with Hark and Jeffery's team. Looks great!

Billi moved to adjourn, seconded by Bryan. 4:58

BCA's mission is to nurture a dynamic environment through the arts that makes quality experiences accessible regardless of economic, social or physical constraints. We do this by:

- Supporting and promoting Vermont artists and advancing the creation of new work
- Offering a wide spectrum of arts education and engagement opportunities
- Presenting exhibitions and events that place Burlington in a global context, promote critical dialogue and encourage local participation
- Serving as the City of Burlington's cultural planner by making the arts integral to the area's economic and civic development, urban design, and livability.