

BCA Equity and Belonging Committee Minutes

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 3 pm

Held via Zoom and in-person at the Lorraine B. Goode Room at BCA

Committee Members: Milton Rosa-Ortiz (facilitator); Mildred Beltre; Lisa Lillibridge; Bryan Parmelee; Lori Rowe; Patrick Shank; Mary-Katherine Stone (absent); Jon Weisbecker (absent)

BCA Staff: John Flanagan; Heather Ferrell; Doreen Kraft

1. Public Forum—no public present
2. Milton made motion to approve minutes and agenda; Lisa moved; Lori second
3. Heather discussed gallery and exhibitions, doing work through equity lens, as well as gallery education and art sales and leasing. Stats since 2017:

Stats for BCA Center Exhibiting Artists

2017 – Present Spring 2022

42 original exhibitions	122 Exhibiting Artists	
84 Vermont (69%)	38 Non Vermont Artists (31%)	
73 Women (60%)	47 Men (38%)	2 Other Gender (2%)
90 Caucasian (74%)	32 BIPOC (26%)	

4. Committee discussed exhibition interpretation, balancing exhibition concepts and integrity with inclusivity, guest curator process and possibility for guest curators to help reach new audiences. Mildred proposed putting a call out to curators.
5. Heather shared ideas that she and her team have tried, such as direct outreach and adding new programs. Proposed bringing artists from elsewhere to BCA for residencies.
6. Committee discussed professional development to help artists merchandise and market themselves. Lisa proposed having previous artist market artists provide mentorship program to others.
7. Milton asked how we tap into the Latino community. Proposed a Latin night. Bryan proposed working with O'Brien Center in Winooski. Milton proposed film night collaboration with VTIFF w/ international films relevant to groups in communities.
8. Mildred noted reluctance for BCA to go searching for BIPOC people to bring in to organization, as opposed to providing what these communities need.
9. Committee discussed issuing statement in support of Ukraine. Discussion led to general view that a statement is perhaps too political without any concrete support. To be continued via email.
10. Committee discussed nominating committee questions, to be discussed further via email.
11. Next facilitator agenda to be decided via email.
12. Milton made motion to adjourn: Lori moved; Bryan seconded.