

BCA Equity and Belonging Committee Minutes

Tuesday, April 5, 2022 3 pm

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

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

BCA Staff: John Flanagan; Zach Williamson; Doreen Kraft (absent)

1. Public Forum—Jim Lockridge present.
2. Bryan made motion to approve minutes and agenda: Patrick first; Lisa Second
3. Jim shared concerns over One Percent for Public Art ordinance. Shared opinion piece from online publication: <https://hyperallergic.com/709621/the-power-of-cities-to-serve-the-arts-needs-to-be-harnessed/>

Jim submitted written commentary in Zoom chat: “Why is all the funding from this ordinance prescribed for the purchase of “visual art or an artistically designed feature created by an individual” and not to be invested in capital infrastructure that would serve other art forms, including the performing arts? By what other new permanent city funding mechanism will the performing arts be served, to achieve equity and inclusion, a baseline responsibility of BCA, the PACC, and full City Council? If no other new permanent arts funding source is being established coincident to Percent for Public Arts, will you revise the ordinance to accomplish fairness in how the funding is distributed among art forms in Burlington? If not, why not?”

4. Committee discussed these concerns. Patrick suggested BCA include how BCA is supporting the performing arts in formal memo addressing the ordinance. Mildred proposed a panel.
5. Zach Williamson presented on BCA events and programming through the lens of racial equity and accessibility. BCA supported/presented about 500 artists in FY22, most of them from Vermont. Noted booking diverse lineup creates a better programs rather than just checks boxes. Lisa asked about accessibility for signing at spoken word events, which BCA is working with CEDO to help find funding for.
6. John F shared link for upcoming James Buck talk.
7. Bryan made motion to adjourn: Lori first; Mildred second.