

BCA Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes  
March 21, 2023  
3:00-5:00 pm  
BCA Center, 135 Church Street

Advisory Board of Directors Voting Members: Lori Rowe, Lisa Lillibridge, Billi Gosh, Laura McDonough, Bryan Parmelee(absent), Patrick Shank, Jeffrey Harkness(absent), Milton Rosa-Ortiz, Mildred Beltre(absent), Robin Pierce, Deb Wilkinson, Parker Silver, Sarah Rogers, Livia DeMarchis

Honorary non-voting board members present: Rachel Kahn-Fogel

Staff present: Doreen Kraft, Joyce Cellars, Heather Ferrell, John Flanagan, Melissa Steady, Elena Rosen, Colin Storrs, Lauren Genta, Meara McGinniss

Meeting called to order at 3:07

1. Patrick Shank made a motion to accept the agenda and the minutes of the January meeting, seconded by Parker Silver. All were in favor.
2. Public Forum-No public was present.
3. Introductions were made around the room, including the newest board members.
4. Patrick Shank spoke to the Public Art guidelines, providing background and context. Colin Storrs outlined a proposed reevaluation of the ongoing Public Art selection process for the Great Streets Initiative: Main Street Project and pause of the process underway. Identifying City and Project goals, specifically in addressing systemic racism and underrepresented communities in Public Art, that were not met with the current selection of projects. The Public Art Committee is addressing the issues identified, and a vote will be called once the recommendations for selection are made by the panel.  
Parker Silver suggested reaching out to the Vermont Arts Council to learn about their grant selection panel criteria and training program. John Flanagan outlined the REIB's involvement and support in the conversation and thanked Kim Carson for her leadership.
5. Joyce Cellars gave a fundraising update. Fundraising projections look good—BCA is at 87% of its goal for the fiscal year. An Art from the Heart fundraiser was held in February-the fundraising goal for that program has increased because of inflation and the cost of supplies. There is a clear path forward with sources identified, including the virtual auction, major gifts, City Hall park programming sponsorships, board giving, and the spring appeal. Planning has

begun for Twilight Social on July 21<sup>st</sup> and the Annual Fundraiser in September. The Virtual Art Auction is live until March 26th-board members are encouraged to share the link with friends and family: [virtualauction.bid/BCAVirtualAuction2023](https://virtualauction.bid/BCAVirtualAuction2023)

6. Doreen Kraft gave an update on construction at the BCA Studios. Window installation is nearly finished and site work is beginning. Neagly Chase have been phenomenal partners and are helping to defray future cost increases by pre-buying materials. Doreen suggested holding a full board meeting at 405 Pine in the fall to see the work that will be completed then. A discussion was had about the site work and contaminated soil removal. Joyce Cellars quickly outlined the total goal of the capital campaign and the shorter term budget goals. Patrick Shank asked what percentage of the amount raised was debt and Doreen recounted the process of acquiring the building in 2019 and the details of the \$2M New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) loan that the BCAF received from Mascoma Bank.
7. Doreen Kraft gave a Director's Report:
  - BCA has applied for a Bloomberg grant that will have programming and budget implications if received. Finalists will be announced in the coming months. The grant addresses issues of youth alienation in our community--the grant was written in collaboration with the Mayor's office and the Burlington School District.
  - The current exhibitions are great--don't forget to check out Sarah Stefana Smith's exhibition on the second floor of the BCA Center.
  - A symposium in conjunction with the first floor exhibition is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup> exploring questions of Artificial Intelligence and art.
  - As part of the mayor's public safety plan, CSL (Community Support Liaisons) and CSO (Community Support Officers) will be dedicated to downtown moving forward. BCA Communications team will meet with other city departments and the Mayor's office to come up with a unified communication plan for summer events and programming.
8. Lisa Lillibridge, Milton Rosa-Ortiz, and Lori Rowe updated the board on the activity of the Equity and Belonging Committee. The committee was formed in 2020 and set out to do a systematic deep-dive into BCA's goals for equity and inclusion and the ways that, as an institution those goals are already being met and areas that require further work and attention. After over two years of this work, the committee feels that these goals have been incorporated into the workplans of the both the board and the staff. The committee has consulted with the REIB director Kim Carson and recommends that moving forward the committee will remain as an adhoc committee.

9. Lori Rowe and Doreen Kraft talked through the new city policy regarding stipend payments for board and commission members. The goal of this policy is to increase equitability and access to board meetings. Parker Silver shared their experience serving on a Winooski Equity commission and that being paid for their time has been key to their ability to serve on that commission. The communications team will add language to the board application page of the BCA website to ensure that prospective board members know about the stipend. If board members have not yet, please fill out a W9 and send it to Meaghan Diffenderfer in the City Clerk and Treasurer's office. These stipends can be donated back to BCA but a check will need to be issued first and then donated. Board members are also able to refuse these payments but these are not considered donations.
10. The board discussed timing of a possible emergency meeting related to the Great Streets Project.
11. Parker Silver moved to adjourn at 4:54, seconded by Milton Rosa-Ortiz. All were in favor.

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.