

City of Lawrence  
Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission (LCAC)  
Annual Retreat Meeting, January 8, 2017  
Spencer Museum of Art

Members present: Chair: Katherine Simmons, Joshua Falleaf, Patrick Kelly, Mike Maude, Sean Reardon, Richard Renner, Kristina Walker

Members absent: Kate Dinneen, John Hachmeister, Jerry Johnson, Michel Loomis

Also present: Porter Arneill, Director of Arts and Culture

## **MINUTES**

Chair Katherine Simmons called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in the conference room at the Spencer Museum of Art, 1301 Mississippi St, Lawrence, KS

### ***LCAC Business:***

1. Election of officers, Mike Maude made a motion that the current officers be reelected in total for the upcoming year. Motion seconded by Richard Renner. Motion passed unanimously, Katherine Simmons will serve as Chair, John Hachmeister as Vice Chair and Richard Renner as Secretary.

### ***State of the Arts Report:***

1. Americans for the Arts – Arts and Economic Prosperity 5 – Update: Porter Arneill reported that 1200 surveys have been returned to AFTA and he will continue to work with the City, Chamber of Commerce, Explore Lawrence and other civic leaders to share the information from the AEP5 and related economic and community development. The results of the surveys will be available on April 30<sup>th</sup> (per AFTA anticipated schedule) but will not be allowed to be publicly distributed until June 17<sup>th</sup>, after their national conference. Porter hopes to be able to attend a one-day, invitational AEP5 briefing in San Francisco in June prior to the national conference.

Discussion followed about creating an agenda and/or **communication plan** for getting the AEP5 information out. This planning session will be scheduled for the April LCAC meeting with follow up meetings in May and June.

### ***LCAC Policies Review/Updates:***

1. Phoenix Award – Discussion on the requirements, effect and changes to the Phoenix Awards. Porter offered some ideas including going to every 2 years with an expanded category to include emerging artists. Porter pointed out that the money in the off year could possibly be applied to other projects. Richard Renner objected to freeing up the money until we had something specific to spend it on. Mike Maude proposed putting posthumous awards in a separate category. Patrick Kelly proposed expanding the emerging artist category to include emerging creative industries.

Joshua Falleaf asked for greater clarity of what the commission wants from the changes. He said “Awards & money should be the same thing that propels the arts forward.” He asked that we clarify the language explaining what the award judge’s nominations by.

Porter spoke about a possible nomination process where we could strategically invite key community nominators to help assure that the diverse broader community is well represented and to encourage more nominations. Patrick Kelly added the idea of overhauling the process by collecting a list of nominations and having online voting for the finalists. The discussion opened up to the possibility of changing the award drastically like giving out fewer awards and a cash prize, changing the name, etc. Patrick suggested taking it from awarding people from doing their job well to those who go above and beyond to change the arts in Lawrence.

Mike Maude moved to direct the Grants and Awards Committee to review the Phoenix Award's purpose with the possibility of rebranding it in the context of the Cultural Arts Plan. Focus of this review will be on 1) define what the award is for, 2) Who is eligible, 3) evaluation process, 4) posthumous awards.

Patrick Kelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Percent for Art: Porter opened the discussion with a reading of recently updated Resolution 7070 that created the Percent for Art. It was pointed out using of the word "may" in the Section 1 makes the policy weaker—this makes the percentage discretionary and not mandatory. Porter pointed out that cities with strong percent for art programs often have an ordinance that requires a set-aside on specific projects to assure that the program is administered.

The CMO memo shows that the two percent for art may be applied to two projects in 2017. The Fire Station Rehab/Senior Resource Center project and the Kresge Solid Waste Facility. The city Manager has allocated \$25,000 for the FS1 project and 2% of the Kresge facility would be \$54,000. Katherine Simmons suggested the commission put the full 2% in the LCAC budget request that will be sent to the city commission and city manager. Consensual agreement by the LCAC.

***Role of LCAC:***

Katherine Simmons and Porter Arneill began the discussion by sharing the current Function of the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission – "The mission (purpose) of the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission is to enhance and enliven the community by promoting cultural opportunities and arts education while nurturing an environment of aesthetic vitality." Discussion then followed that focused on the evolving purpose of the commission in regard to the Cultural Plan and the city and state.

Mike Maude questioned how much of an advocate should the LCAC become? Should it be advocating the Cultural Plan to other arts organizations?

Katherine Simmons pointed out a main function of the LCAC is to bring cultural vibrancy to the forefront of the city commissioners' awareness.

Joshua Falleaf pointed out that the Cultural Plan is the "bible" of the LCAC and that we should make our actions come from its initiatives.

Katherine responded by saying that Cultural Plan implementation is our #1 goal and Joshua said it should be a part of our organizational strategic plan.

Porter pointed out that the Cultural Plan is an important and valuable tool and that it's incumbent on the LCAC to review and update the plan every 3 to 5 years. Also, we're still working with Callahan Creek to market and promote the Cultural Plan and there's \$25,000 set aside in the TGT to help that endeavor with Callahan Creek's pro bono support.

Patrick Kelly said the LCAC creates paths for arts to flourish and can bring together groups to brainstorm. A discussion followed among commissioners with these points being made:

- Is the LCAC an activator or collaborator?
- Creating a committee to develop ideas to bring together arts groups for “cross pollination” and sharing.
- A Cultural idea group that can select and award funding for innovative art creation. Funding for awards could come from sponsors and a portion of Community Grant funding.
- Form a creative think tank on the Cultural Plan
- Add a subcategory of grants program to implement parts of the Cultural Plan. This will be done by the Grants and Awards Committee.
- Work directly with the Arts Roundtable to consider creating an idea meeting(s) among local arts groups.

Mike Maude stated in summation that the purpose of the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission is organic to each commissioner. Joshua objected and asked that we have more concrete goals and purpose in order to better judge success and growth. Porter replied by asking how does the LCAC define itself? What role does and should it have? Mike Maude suggested we conduct a limited research survey/assessment with other similar towns to compare and learn other ideas. Porter will share a list of similar towns and ask commissioners to do some brief research.

Discussion ended here and a motion to adjourn was made by Richard Renner, Mike Maude seconded. Motions passed unanimously.

The LCAC meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.