



**LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
April 8, 2021
11:30 am
Zoom Video Conference**

Commissioners will be sent individual Zoom links to this meeting. If you are a member of the public and are interested in speaking at the virtual meeting, please send a written request by Noon on April 8, 2021 to PublicComment@libertymo.gov. Please direct questions Jeanine Thill at jthill@libertymo.gov or call 816-439-4537

Attendance: Garrette Brown, Greg Duncan, Shane Immelt, Heather Jones, Anna Knackstedt, Aaron Money, Katie McDonald, Amy Steinbeck, Bill Stilfield, Nathan Wyman, Phil Young

- I. Approval of Meeting Summary: March 11, 2021

- II. Current Business
 - a. Art Grant Applications- Katie McDonald
 - b. Make Music Day 2021 Bill Stilfield & Shane Immelt
 - c. TGT Budget Update Anna Knackstedt
 - d. Sculptures Update Staff
 - i. Selection Panel Purchase Piece & Site Recommendations

- III. Art Partner Reports:
 - a. Liberty Arts Foundation Greg/Heather/Shane
 - b. Library Katie McDonald
 - c. William Jewell Nathan Wyman
 - d. Corbin Theatre Bill Stilfield
 - e. Norterre Amy Steinbeck
 - f. Liberty Public Schools Garrette Brown

- IV. Other Business:

- V. Adjournment

**Next Meeting Date May 13, 2021
11:30 via Zoom**

An ADA accessible entrance is available from Missouri Street at the Police Department entrance. An Elevator will provide access to the third floor for meetings in the Third Floor Conference Room.



LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY
March 11, 2021
11:30 am
Zoom Video Conference

Attendance via Zoom: Garrette Brown, Greg Duncan, Shane Immelt, Katie McDonald, Aaron Money, Anna Knackstedt, Heather Jones, Bill Stilfield, Nathan Wyman, Phil Young

Absent: Amy Steinbeck,

Staff Present: Jeanine Thill and Mike Peterman as moderator.

Guests Present: Dr. Cecelia Robinson, Steve Rhodes, and Shelton Ponder represented the CCAAL and Cory Unrein represented the Liberty Symphony

The meeting was called to order at 11:33am by Chairman Immelt.

Commissioner Money made a motion to approve the January 2021 meeting summary. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wyman. The motion passed 10-0-0.

2021 Art Grant Applications: Vice Chair McDonald explained that the Commission will consider Mini Grant application and one Annual Grant application today.

Mini Grant Application- Liberty Symphony- Vice Chair McDonald introduced Cory Unrein with the Liberty Symphony. Ms. Unrein said they are thrilled to be back as of April 17th for their 15th Anniversary. They had their first concert in October at the Four Seasons with a reduced audience. The mini grant will help to fund the season finale, which will be at the performing arts center in Liberty with a reduced orchestra with strings only because woodwinds tend to blow germs, not ideal with the pandemic. The request is for \$1,000 to be used for marketing such as social media. They are doing less printed materials and have to pay a facility rental of \$800 for the LPAT. They are targeting people outside of the Liberty area, Jackson County, Blue Springs and the region. A motion was made by Chairman Immelt to approve the \$1,000 mini grant for the Liberty Symphony. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stilfield. Commissioner Money abstained because he is on the Symphony Board. The motion passed 9-1-0.

Annual Grant Application- Clay County African American Legacy (CCAAL)– Dr. Ceclia Robinson, Shelton Ponder and Steve Rhodes represented the CCAAL. Dr. Robinson asked Steve Rhodes to do the presentation. He gave a power point presentation. They are looking at memorializing a group of African Americans in an unmarked section of the cemetery. Steps they are taking:

- Ground Penetrating Radar
- Marking with Bollards
- Interpretive Sign
- Walkway
- Panels with Names

Art Granite Piece or Mural

The area is located in the eastern most section of Fairview cemetery. There was a roadway right of way since the 1950's they are looking at installing interpretive panels and storied stones to also include a Sankofa Bird Sculpture. The interior perimeter of the cemetery may have story stones of individuals buried here. They have received a grant from Freedoms Frontier. As for the art piece, there was discussion recently about the appropriateness of an art piece that cannot be seen from the roadway. They feel that it is more appropriate to have the art piece located on the North side of Liberty near Garrison School. The possible location is at the end of North Main Street, near the plaza space by the tree, overlooking the North side of Liberty. Dr. Robinson said as they tie in this project, it is tying in all of the historic sites with China Slaughter, Garrison School etc. These are all tourism stops, including the Mormon Jail. These are the same people that attended Garrison School. They are an integral part of tourism. This will be highly visible. They are looking back and looking forward, and the Sankofa bird symbol will help link this. It is a legacy that will extend from the school to the cemetery. Shelton Ponder said as co-chairman, his family has been in Liberty for 200 years. It is about the families from 1820's to the present day. The people that attended the school are buried in the cemetery, encompassing the entire community. They want to commemorate and dignify those were buried in the cemetery. Garrison, the churches and the cemetery all tie this together. This project memorializes those people. It brings all the pieces together. He said we are all here to beautify a place that has been neglected. It has significance to him and many others of African descent. Dr. Robinson added that this is part of the state of Missouri Bi-Centennial. They hope to have it done in September or October. Lucky Easterwood is the artist that is doing the Sankofa bird sculpture; he is the same artist that did the mural facing Water Street on the Garrison School building. Lucky is sculptor, a painter and artist. He is doing a Black Lives Matter mural at 18th and Vine and is well known as a Kansas City artist. In June of 2021 they will do a celebration for Juneteenth. It all ties in very well.

Vice Chair McDonald thanked them for their presentation and asked the Commission for any questions. Commissioner Jones applauded them and said she thinks that the City of Liberty will be a better place because of this project. She likes the connectivity they discussed between the Church, the School and the Cemetery. Dr. Robinson said she wrote a grant in 2018 and there is a brochure that highlights all of those areas they discussed, each one is in the brochure. All of those are listed and a description including the artwork at Garrison School. Mr. Rhodes said there is some curriculum for 5th graders that is being developed. Vice Chair McDonald said the grant application indicated the funds would go toward the sculpture. Mr. Rhodes said in the Sankofa bird represents that fact that you have to look back to move forward. The wisdom of the past helps us as we move forward. As we go forward the changes we are making are significantly changing human relations. We had to move forward from slavery and the civil rights movement. This is relevant now with all of the movements as we are looking for commonality.

Vice Chair McDonald asked for any additional questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Young said he was on the Committee several years ago to open segregated restaurants. He likes the idea of communicating what happened in our history and connect all of those things.

Commissioner Money said the approach and forethought is very solid and it brings the history together with the art and the cultural piece that we have talked about for some time. Commissioner Stilfield said he thinks it is a special project. Commissioner Jones said it will be a treasure and it will put the City at the fore front in the state. Vice Chair McDonald made the motion to approve the Annual Grant for the Sankofa Sculpture in the amount of \$5,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Money. The motion passed unanimously. 10-0-0

Make Music Day 2021- Commissioner Stilfield said they don't have a lot to report. They will be having the first meeting in the next week to week and a half. Planning committee will be Shane, Bill, Shawn

Garland and Pat Knauss, and City Staff. They are hoping they won't have to cancel due to Covid. We should be receiving the registration for the new platform.

Sculpture Program- Ms. Thill reported that she has not received an update from Christopher Knight on the status of replacing the damaged sculpture, Rusted Spire. The last she heard from him was a few weeks ago and he was in the hospital with Covid.

People's Choice Voting Results- Ms. Thill said the Otocast voting results showed Growing Wings with the most votes and the second highest was Tangerine Daydream. She reminded the Commission that the votes were not exclusive to Liberty residents. In an informal poll of the Arts Commission at their February meeting, Tangerine Daydream received the most votes and Growing Wings received the second most votes. Commissioner Money said that he encouraged students to vote also.

Commissioner Money made the motion to purchase Growing Wings. The motion was seconded by Stilfield.

Commissioner Jones said she pulled up the budget and there is \$3000 for maintenance of the permanent collection and \$6000 for supplies and signs and \$10,000 for the purchase piece. Commissioner Jones reminded the group that Tangerine Daydream had the most votes among the Liberty Arts Commission members. The Otocast vote is not necessarily a reflection of what the City of Liberty wants.

Commissioner Money made a motion to retract his original motion and to delay the vote to next month. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wyman. All was in favor to tabling the vote until the next meeting.

Other Business

Art Partner Reports:

Liberty Arts Foundation- No Report

Library- Vice Chair McDonald said that the Library has opened back up for independent browsing. Masks and social distancing is still being required.

William Jewell – Commissioner Wyman said on March 26-28 they will have a live performance for Jewell students only. The campus is still closed to outside visitors thru the end of the school year.

Corbin Theatre – The sound and lights should be done by the end of April. They hope to have the theatre open by May. He should have more information next month.

Norterre- No report

Liberty Public Schools- Commissioner Money said that more kids will be coming back. There are performances. They are working on hiring new Theatre teachers.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Stilfield to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:49 p.m.