



**LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY
April 14, 2022
6:00 p.m. Council Chambers**

Present: Greg Duncan, Shane Immelt, Heather Jones, Anna Knackstedt, Katie McDonald, Bill Stilfield, Nathan Wyman

Absent: Molly Hon and Aaron Money

Staff Present: Jeanine Thill, Community Development Manager

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Chairwoman McDonald.

Commissioner Immelt made a motion to approve the March 15, 2022 Meeting Summary as corrected. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Current Business

Consideration of Grants:

Chairwoman McDonald reported that the Art Grant sub-committee discussed all of the grants and has recommendations for each. We have three Mini Grant applications to consider and two Annual Grant applications.

I. Mini Grant- Corbin Theatre \$1,000 requested

- The Corbin Theatre Kids Camp is requesting \$1,000 for a master class and workshop. They want to partner with someone for two sessions. The sub-committee recommends to award this application.
- Commissioner Wyman asked how many can be awarded. It was determined that no mini grants have been awarded this year, so we have \$5,000 available in this budget line item. When the grant program started several years ago, we offered five \$1,000 grants, but we can be flexible with the amount as long as it doesn't exceed \$1,000.
- Councilman Duncan asked if we have any language in the mini grant guidelines addressing if applicants can receive multiple grants for the Arts Commission or from the Tourism Committee. Commissioner Knackstedt said we probably should have that conversation and clarify that in the guidelines. Commissioner Jones said there is nothing addressing that in the guidelines. The Commission agreed that they should make a formal decision on this in the future. Councilman Duncan commented that nothing should be nebulous when we are giving away money.
- Corbin's total project budget is \$14,000 and they were awarded a Tourism Grant this year for printed materials. Commissioner Jones said she is in favor of the program and

pointed out that the total project budget shows \$1,000 so we maybe they didn't give us the full information. She suggested that in the application we should ask what other grants they have applied for and what they have received. The group agreed that we should request this information for both the mini and annual grants.

II. Mini Grant- Dreamline Theatre Co. \$1,000 requested

- They have requested \$1,000 indicating a total budget of \$1,000. This project is planned to start April 25th.
- The sub-committee asked for clarification from the applicant, the most up to date application is in the packet. They clarified the event space will be in Liberty.
- Commissioner Wyman said they are donating their time for free and they just need support to fund the various aspects of the production.
- Jewell Theatre Co. will be helping with costumes.
- We do not have any stipulations in the grant that we won't fully fund a project. The sub-committee wanted the Commission's thoughts on fully funding a project. Vice Chairwoman Knackstedt said based on the spirit of the grant she doesn't have a problem with it. Councilman Duncan and Commissioner Jones agreed.
- Councilman Duncan asked if they are approved to perform on campus. Commissioner Wyman said he has given them approval to perform on campus. It is his impression is that it is viable and they are quite organized.

III. Mini Grant- TAM (The Artisan Market) "Art on the Side" Art Festival \$1,000 requested

- TAM is requesting \$1,000 for a new festival to be held in downtown Liberty. "Art on the Side" is a juried art festival with the goal of attracting 50 artists, including emerging artists. They are looking for funding for the cash award prizes for artists. The sub-committee felt that it would be a good fit for mini-grant funding. The awards would be sponsored or funded by the Liberty Arts Commission. Commissioner Jones would prefer "sponsored by." The Commission was agreeable.
- Commissioner Brown said we should have a presence with a booth otherwise we are just a sponsor. The group discussed that in the application it mentions that the project could be a line item in the Arts Commission budget and thought that was not part of this request, but was aspirational.
- Commissioner Jones commented that she is excited about it and is supportive. Councilman Duncan said it's good to see that she has a committee.

A motion was made by Commissioner Knackstedt to accept the sub-committee's recommendation to approve all three mini grant applications. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Duncan. The motion passed 7-0-0. Staff will contact the applicants.

Chairwoman McDonald reminded the group that we still have \$2,000 available in the Mini Grant line item.

Annual Grant Applications

I. Annual Grant- Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary \$5,000 requested for 100 Horses play production

- The sub-committee said there wasn't a lot of detail in the budget.
- The other concern of the sub-committee was that in the application it didn't state the cost for the public. In the past we wanted to have this information from applicants.
- Commissioner Immelt said he would like to see a finite budget.
- Councilman Duncan said that when the applicants don't use the grant application form that is frustrating. Also, there was zero reference to Martha Lafite in the application description, which can be confusing.
- Commissioner Immelt said in the past Martha Lafite profited from this and it is a Steve Carol production. Staff added that Mr. Carol applied for a grant in 2020, but because of the pandemic, grants were not awarded. He recently contacted Ms. Thill and asked her to resubmit the application for consideration this year. Councilman Duncan said we might want to disqualify this application on its own merit. The pertinent questions were not answered and there was incomplete information.

A motion was made by Councilman Duncan to deny the application for the Martha Lafite application because the Commission couldn't give full consideration based on an incomplete application. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wyman. The motion passed 7-0-0.

II. Annual Grant- Corbin Theatre \$5,000 requested

- Corbin Theatre is requesting \$5,000 for sound equipment. They've had sound challenges for many years and feedback from audience members that it is difficult to hear.
- The sub-committee recommended approval. Per the grant guidelines, the cash match can be monetary or in-kind contributions.
- Vice Chairwoman Knackstedt asked if we funded sound equipment for the Corbin in the past. Commissioner Stilfield said it was for the Corbin Kids Camp. Commissioner Jones clarified that it was wireless microphones for the Corbin Kids Camp.
- Commissioner Stilfield said the theatre doesn't have its own speaker system.
- Commissioner Brown commented that it would go a long way if we funded them. He said maybe we need a plaque on the wall at the theatre.
- Commissioner Stilfield said that they have the LAC sponsorship sign in the auditorium.
- Commissioner Jones reminded the group that in the grant guidelines the LAC logo and acknowledgement of funding should be in all marketing materials.
- Commissioner Stilfield said that Corbin prints signs to recognize their sponsors and they are looking at adding a TV monitor at the theatre.
- Vice Chairwoman Knackstedt said the Corbin Theatre is important in our community and she is favor of the grant application.
- Commissioner Wyman said he has recently shopped for this type of equipment and the pricing shown in the budget is on point.
- Commissioner Jones said she is in favor; but asked if it mattered that they receive a mini grant too. The Commission said they are comfortable with them being approved for both grants.

A motion was made by Commissioner Brown to accept the sub-committee's recommendation to approve the application from the Corbin Theatre in the amount of \$5,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Immelt. The motion passed 7-0-0. Staff will contact the applicant.

Recommendation from Art Selection Panel on Public Art - Katie McDonald:

- **Purchase Piece for 2022: *Out of Africa***
 - Chairwoman McDonald reported that the People's Choice Winner is *Out of Africa* and it is the recommendation from the Art Selection Panel to purchase this piece. They considered placement of this piece and they are recommending placing it along Southview Trail. They recommend that we start a sculpture walk along there as it has high visibility. Councilman Duncan asked how the asking price came down by \$10,000. Staff said she contacted the artist and informed him that our budget was \$15,000 for a purchase piece and the artist lowered the price.
 - Councilman Duncan asked for clarification on the proposed location and if its visible from 291 Highway. The group said it would be visible.
 - Councilman Duncan commented that where it is placed currently on the square there is great interaction with the sculpture and the permanent placement should allow for this kind of interaction. Chairwoman McDonald said she lives on the other side of the highway and there are always people on that trail.
 - Another consideration that the Selection Panel discussed was at Canterbury trail.
 - Councilman Duncan said this piece needs the visibility and accessibility. He added that until we have critical mass of art we shouldn't have one place that we bundle the art. If we spread them out around the city it will make the art more accessible to people.
 - Vice Chairwoman Knackstedt commented that the Rotating Sculptures placed downtown is an "Art Walk" of sorts.
 - Chairwoman McDonald reminded the Commission that we do already have *Open Heart* at Westboro and Canterbury. She added that the Parks Department shared with the Selection Panel a full packet of maps with art placement and potential locations. She asked staff to email that to the Commission.
 - Councilman Duncan pointed out that the sculptures don't have to be in a park. *Out of Africa* might work well at the entrance to a city building.
 - Commissioner Immelt said we have yet to consider China Slaughter Park as a location for a new sculpture.
 - Councilman Duncan commented that *Out of Africa* would be cool by the library entrance, but that could be tricky since it isn't on public property. He said we might want to consider this in the future.
 - Commissioner Jones asked if "Plumb Twisted" was still at the Community Center entrance. Chairwoman McDonald said it is, and the Art Selection Panel considered that as a location but decided that the sculpture might be too large for that spot.
 - Ms. Thill commented that a decision on the permanent placement does not have to be made now, that the Commission has until September to decide.

A motion was made by Councilman Duncan to accept the Art Selection Panel's recommendation to purchase *Out of Africa* for \$15,000 to add to the City's permanent collection. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairwoman Knackstedt. The motion passed 7-0-0. Staff will contact the artist, Dale Lewis.

Top Scoring Sculptures for Fall 2022 – Nine (9) to install:

- Ms. Thill showed a PowerPoint presentation of the nine sculptures and the recommended locations.
- Ms. Thill explained that the *With the Tides* artist requested that she be able to drop off the sculpture in Liberty at the beginning of May and for us to keep it for two years at the price of the one-year honorarium.
- Ms. Thill commented that the Parks Department has indicated they would help with the installation and moving the piece if it is placed in a temporary location.
- The Commission decided that we place this sculpture on Main Street in the bump-out between Franklin and Mississippi, near the front of The Artisan Market. This may be where it is for the full two years.

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Knackstedt to accept all nine sculptures as recommended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Immelt. The motion passed 7-0-0.

- Ms. Thill reported that the cleaning and repairs to *The Other Extreme* have been finished and the sculpture is re-installed at the Fire Station on Lightburne Street.

Transient Guest Tax Report:

- Vice Chairwoman Knackstedt said they haven't met recently.

Make Music Day:

- Commissioner Stilfield:
 - They started receiving registrations for Make Music Day.
 - They have 7 venues and 5 performers signed up. Traditionally they've had 53 performances. He feels confident that they will get that many this year.
 - They are doing some promotions such as banners from the light poles around the square, the digital billboard on I-35, and they will color the fountain outside of City Hall all orange.
 - Also, the Liberty Summer Band always performs on Tuesdays and this year MMD is on Tuesdays. He will talk to Shane Fuller.
 - Commissioner Immelt reported that they are getting 2000 hits a month on the website.

Other Business

- a. Art Partner Reports – No Report
- b. Liberty Arts Foundation – No Report
- c. Library – No Report
- d. William Jewell – Commissioner Wyman reported they have ended theatre performances. An opening reception will be tomorrow night at the Stocksdale Gallery from 6:00 - 8:30 pm and they will have beverages and snacks.
- e. Corbin Theatre – Commissioner Stilfield reported that the Corbin Theatre will have *The Laramie Project* from May 5-8th. A well-known Liberty saxophone player will be at the Corbin on May 14 or 15, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, and it is free. They have been worried about the lack of attendance for "Jazz at the Garrison" but it has improved recently.
- f. Liberty Public Schools – Commissioner Brown reported that an Art Show is happening, featuring some great artwork, especially ceramics. He will check out the hours and report back to the Commission. Also, South Valley is planning to do murals on porta potties in the parks. The artwork for this project will be coming before the Commission soon.

Other Business

- Councilman Duncan said that at a recent City Council meeting, at the end of the meeting during roundtable discussion, he touted all the good work that the Liberty Arts Commission is doing. It was nice to be able to end that meeting on such a positive note. The Commission thanked Councilman Duncan for taking the opportunity to tell the Council and public all that we are doing and advocating for us.
- Commissioner Jones said she wanted to give a shout out to Shane Immelt and whoever worked on the content for the publication put out by the Tribune. There are wonderful photos provided by Shane and the substantive content is great. There is a wonderful section about all about public art. Also, she added that she is now on the Starlight Theatre board and she attended her first meeting last night. She will give reports on things happening with Starlight at these meetings in the future. There are a lot of Broadway shows and concerts coming up. One thing that will probably impact the Liberty Schools is the Blue Star event.
- Commissioner Brown reported that Commissioner Aaron Money recently was recognized as “Outstanding Administrator of the Year,” a fine arts award.

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Knackstedt to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wyman. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.