



**LIBERTY ARTS
COMMISSION**

**LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY**

March 7, 2024

6:00 p.m. Stocksdale Gallery

Present: Greg Duncan, Molly Hon (called in), Brian Kelley, Anna Knackstedt, Kelley Wrenn Pozel, Karly Schieder, Bill Stilfield, Nathan Wyman

Absent: Garrett Brown, Shane Immelt, Katie McDonald

Staff Present: Jeanine Thill, Community Development Manager

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Vice Chairwoman Knackstedt.

Approval of Meeting Summary- Commissioner Kelley made a motion to approve the February, 8 2024 meeting summary as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wrenn Pozel. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Current Business

Art Grants- \$2,500 committed, \$2,500 remaining in mini grant budget

Mini Grant application from William Jewell Theatre- requesting \$500

- Commissioner Hon reported that the grant subcommittee is recommending approval. This is for a musical on April 11th the grant funds will be used for advertising of the event. It draws a lot of people outside of Liberty. The majority would be for Facebook ads and other marketing.
- Commissioner Wyman abstained from voting at the committee level and will abstain this vote.
- Commissioner Wyman added that they offer free tickets to the high school students.
- Commissioner Duncan commented that using grant dollars for marketing is right in line with the guidelines of driving tourism.

A motion by Commissioner Duncan to approve the \$500 mini grant, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wrenn Pozel. The Motion passed 7-0-1. Commissioner Wyman abstained.

Mini Grant application from HDLI Utility Boxes Artwork wraps- requesting \$1,000

- The grant funds are for custom designed artwork, by high school students. The designs will be on vinyl wraps to on utility boxes at Franklin and Water and Mill & Gallatin. The recommended designs are in the packet.

- Commissioner Hon said that the committee is recommending approval, this is another way to beautify downtown and involve local students. The funds are for materials.
- Commissioner Duncan suggested that the images and locations be considered in the future.
- Commissioner Duncan said when then did improvements to China Slaughter Park, they wanted to have something on the utility box.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wyman to approve the \$1000 mini grant for this project, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Schieder. Motion passed. 8-0-0.

Mini Grant application from Corbin Theatre requesting \$1,000

- Commissioner Hon reported that a revised grant application was submitted by Corbin Theatre for classes with Mamie Parris.
- Commissioner Duncan summarized that as he reads the grant application, there are two things happening one class is for 12 students, another is for 30 youth with a different subject with no auditors and no public.
- Commissioner Stilfield commented that isn't correct, that anyone can come to both events. Another is for a Master Class. If these are private events, then that is of concern.
- Commissioner Wyman asked if there is a limit of 30 that can the public participate?
- Commissioner Stilfield said he wasn't sure where the limit of 30 is coming from, he thought it was 12 and 12.
- Commissioner Duncan said it would be cleaner if we said it can be resubmitted and be considered next month.
- Commissioner Schieder commented that it seems it is just for a limited number of people, she would like to know if the kids perform, can the public can come and watch.
- Commissioner Stilfield said they could come to watch.
- Vice Chair Knackstedt asked what they added by offsetting this cost.
- Commissioner Stilfield said it would be in support of the Corbin Theatre.
- Commissioner Duncan asked if the grant isn't awarded, then how is the \$1400 fee paid?
- Commissioner Stilfield said the Corbin would pay for part of it and there would be participant fees. If the grant pays \$1000 and the student fee's cover the remaining, it seems the revenue would exceed the cost of the contract; 42 students X participation fees of \$125 each. If the cost to students is the same with or without the grant, then it is unclear how the public funds would benefit the public.
- Commissioner Wyman commented that he can get behind the idea of the grant paying a portion of the registration fees. The Corbin is welcome to clarify and reapply next month.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kelley to decline the Corbin Theatre grant application as written. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wrenn Pozel. 7-0-1. Commissioner Stilfield abstained. The reasons for denial are:

1. The largest of the events is closed to the public.
2. It is unclear how the public funds benefit the public
3. The budget details are insufficient. They don't address the revenue. Our understanding is that the revenue would exceed the cost of the contract.

Art Selection Committee

- Commissioner Duncan reported that the new name for this committee is the "Public Art Panel":
 - Dancing Figures was installed near the intersection of Wither & Blackberry

- The group will be making a recommendation for the purchase piece from the rotating sculpture program this spring. Public input so far is for “Champion” with 43 percent of the votes. That will likely be the recommendation for which piece to purchase. The asking price was \$25k and it is now \$16k – the location we are considering is in the Flintlock roundabout, not in the center, but off center. Icosahedron Fire and Ice... is a favorite too, and it was negotiated down to \$5,500. There may be a formal recommendation next month.
- They also talked about “Things are Getting Better” and where it might be placed permanently. The group discussed placing it in the median near Liberty Drive & Family Tree Nursery.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wyman to recommend this location, subject to all necessary approvals. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wrenn Pozel. The motion passed 8-0-0.

- The group discussed the new concrete pads outside of the City Hall at the Kansas Street entrance. The group is thinking it seems unlikely that we wouldn’t want two pieces that close together. They would recommend that a planter is placed on the smaller pad then later, we can put art there if we wish. For the larger pad slightly to the west of the planter bed, we could do a call for artists or request for proposals for an iconic permanent piece. The panel is recommending that we ask the tourism committee for \$75,000 for a signature piece for this location. The panel didn’t feel like the piece for this location should be from the rotating sculptures. Pending preliminary budget approval, the call for artists could go out in Fall of 2024 and installed in 2025. We may want to show how other funds might be used from LAC funding to help make this possible.
- This group is also asked with outfitting the City Hall Gallery. The old hanging system is reinstalled. Lee’s Summit has some display cases that are nice that we may want to consider purchasing. The panel will look at those and come back at a later date with a recommendation
- Permanent placement of C’est La Vie- The panel didn’t land on a recommendation for a permanent location for this sculpture, but the idea was to move it around the community on a quarterly basis and maybe have a public conversation about where he is located. The Commission agreed that was a good idea and would generate good publicity.
- Jurying the incoming applications for the rotating applications- Applications are due the April 15. On April 30 the group will then discuss the applications, scoring them and then coming to a recommendation. Commissioners Wyman and Knackstedt would like to be on the jury.
- Commissioner Duncan said city staff created an interactive map that is GIS created. The group suggested that we add the #2 pencil to the map and perhaps add “Thought of Treble Clef” to the map, it is located at Liberty High School. Staff will send the link to the Commission when it is updated and ready. Councilwoman Wrenn Pozel will present it to the City Council when it is ready.

Transient Guest Tax Report

- Vice Chair Knackstedt said the Tourism Committee met and voted on some of the tourism grants; some that were funded were the quilt walk, Art on the Side. She encouraged others to attend the meetings. They budgeted for murals and gateway art, that money is still set aside. If anyone is interested in working on that, let her know.

- Commissioner Duncan reminded the group that LAC discussed the murals and gateway art projects before and decided LAC should be involved but not take the lead.

Film Festival

- Commissioner Schieder reported that the committee met with B&B Theatres to start planning the Film Festival, it will be January 24 & 25 of 2025 at B&B Theatres. They are donating the space and will work with us on marketing. All expenses will be paid in the 2024 LAC budget. We will have two auditoriums for Friday and Saturday night. Film Noir at 6:30pm and Neo Noir at 9:30 pm. B&B will do theme cocktails at Johnnie's with possibly a \$10 pass and custom commemorative cups to be used at the film fest. Next steps we will come up with a list of films to show and narrow down to 10 top choices, then we will narrow it down to the final four that will then be brought to the committee. The Film Fest committee hopes to have the movie choices to the LAC by the April meeting.
- Commissioner Wyman suggested offering a student price.

Marketing

- Commissioners Schieder and Hon are meeting with Claire next week to discuss the website.

Recognition Sub-Committee Update

- Commissioner Kelley said the group has discussed who to recognize. They will mail some cards and hand deliver others.

Make Music Day Report

- The committee has met and the matching site only has one registered musician. The Men's Chorus has called and they plan to participate.
- Commissioner Stilfield will get notices out notifying past venues and performers that we are open for registrations. The men's barber shop chorus will want the south side of the courthouse steps. This year they will try to get more venues outside of the downtown and also involve B&B and other venues.

Art Partner Reports:

William Jewell- Commissioner Wyman reported the Spring performances.

Corbin Theatre- Commissioner Stilfield reported that Jazz at the Garrison will be starting up soon.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelley.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:49 p.m.