

**CITY OF BOULDER  
BOULDER, COLORADO  
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING  
MINUTES**

<b>Name of Board/ Commission:</b> Boulder Arts Commission	
<b>Date of Meeting:</b> April 20, 2022	
<b>Contact information preparing summary:</b> Celia Seaton	
<b>Commission members present:</b> Kathleen McCormick, Bruce Borowsky, Eboni Freeman, Maria Cole, Caroline Kert, Yaelaed Whyel	
<b>Commission members absent:</b> Georgia Schmid	
<b>Library staff present:</b> Matt Chasansky, Office of Arts & Culture Manager Lauren Click, Coordinator, Grants Mandy Vink, Coordinator, Public Art Cris Jones, Director	
<b>City staff present:</b> None	
<b>Members of the public present:</b> Devin Hughes	
<b>Type of Meeting:</b> Regular Remote	
<b>Agenda Item 1: Call to order and approval of agenda</b>	<b>[0:01:55 Audio min.]</b>
The meeting was called to order. McCormick provided an introductory orientation around the virtual procedure, as this meeting was held through Zoom videoconference. She asked the group for any other addendums to the agenda. Being none, there was a nod of approval for the agenda as presented.	
<b>Agenda Item 2: Review of Minutes</b>	<b>[0:03:22 Audio min.]</b>
<b>Item 2A, Approval/Review of March 2022 Meeting Minutes</b> McCormick asked the commission for changes or addendums regarding these minutes. McCormick had changes to the minutes sent along beforehand. Kert moved to approve the minutes as amended, Cole seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.	
<b>Agenda Item 3: Public Participation</b>	<b>[0:05:15 Audio min.]</b>
None.	
<b>Agenda Item 4: Commission Business</b>	<b>[0:05:37 Audio min.]</b>
<p>A. Swearing in of new member Yaelaed Whyel – Whyel took the oath of office as the newest member of the Arts Commission. They introduced themselves as a digital illustrator involved in drag and other performance art. Whyel is excited to help spread awareness about the grant opportunities to Boulder’s arts and culture communities.</p> <p>B. Leadership and Board Appointments – Cole made a motion to postpone leadership appointments to the July meeting. Kert seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<b>Agenda Item 5: Grant Program</b>	<b>[0:14:27 Audio min.]</b>
<p>A. ACTION: Community Projects for Individuals Grant Decisions – Click presented the collated scores (see Attachment One in the <a href="#">packet</a>.) She explained that commission has the option to approve the staff recommendation for the highest-scoring grants, approve individual grants, or postpone approval of individual grants pending the answers to specific questions.</p> <p>Freeman noted surprise at the low score of Bell’s application and asked for staff insight. Click emphasized the strong competition among applicants this year and noted that Bell scored only one point below the funding threshold of 30.</p> <p>Borowsky moved that Judy Nogg, Diana Sabreen, Grace Gee, Silen Wellington, and Mary Wohl Haan be awarded Community Project Grants in the Individuals category. Cole seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.</p>	

- B. ACTION: JLF General Operating Support Report Follow Up
- C. ACTION: Circle of Care General Operating Support Report Follow Up
- D. ACTION: Grant Reports – Click explained that Commissioners have the options to approve the grant reports, decline individual grant reports or postpone approval of individual reports pending the answers to specific questions.
  1. Luna Cultura, art, science and culture for thriving communities, LLC, Arte, proyecto de vida y justicia ambiental, \$3,000
  2. NAACP Boulder Authorized Committee, NAACP Freedom Fund Presents: FISK JUBILEE SINGERS, \$10,000
  3. NAACP Boulder Authorized Committee, The Withers Museum Collection: Civil Rights and Black History, \$10,000

McCormick praised all reports, including the folk art and Mexican traditions celebrated with Luna Cultura. The NAACP-sponsored Fisk Jubilee Singers performed for a full house at Macky Auditorium, and they sponsored a very well-attended exhibit at the Dairy of photographs of the Civil Rights Era by Black journalist Ernest Withers.

Borowsky wondered if the images provided within the reports are permissible for use by the Arts and Culture office – Click responded affirmatively that the applications have a built-in waiver permitting the use of these images by the Office.

Kert made a motion to accept the report follow up, the Circle of Care Report follow up, the Luna Cultura report, and the two reports from the NAACP Boulder Authorized Committee. Cole seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item 6: Matters from Commissioners**

**[0.31.25 Audio min.]**

- A. Appreciations for Devin Hughes – the commission provided nodding approval to reschedule this item until Hughes can be present. *(This item began at 1.55.47.)* McCormick read comments from various members of the public. Commission and staff likewise praised Hughes for his service, support, and insight while serving on the Boulder Arts Commission.

**Agenda Item 7: Matters from Staff**

**[0.32.32 Audio min.]**

- A. Manager’s Memo: see [packet](#).
- B. ARPA Funded Projects – Chasansky presented options for the funding distribution for the ARPA grant monies (see [handouts](#).) One category that emerged, a “Focus on Artists,” includes \$300,000 which could provide funding for a Program Manager as well as multiple programs for artists, COVID 19 Work Projects (Round Two), and the temporary artwork opportunities provided by Experiments in Public Art. Boulder City Council has also awarded Arts Workforce Grants including \$913,000 for Artist Hiring Incentive Grants and Arts Administration Rehiring Grants to restore staff positions that were eliminated because of the pandemic.

Chasansky posed several questions for the commission to consider. Regarding the Artist Hiring Incentive Grant criteria: should for-profit businesses be allowed to apply? Should grant awards be restricted to only one per applicant? Should this be restricted to Boulder or Boulder County Artists? Kert favors the idea of allowing for-profit applicants. She wouldn’t restrict the number of grant awards. Both these paths provide a smoother conduit to provide money to artists in revitalization efforts. She prefers focus to the City of Boulder applicants. Freeman agreed with Kert. Regarding the restriction around city versus county boundaries, Freeman would be open to discussion if Boulder County provided a matching fund source for the grants. Whyel, Borowsky, Cole, and McCormick agreed, though McCormick believes that the grants should be restricted to only one per applicant.

Commission members discussed the staff recommendation for administrative review of Artist Incentive Grants by formula versus competitive review by commission members. McCormick clarified that the second option would require reconfiguration of the grant cycle and would lengthen the entire process. Chasansky clarified that the

criteria, application, and timeline will be drafted by staff and presented for commission review. Cole favors the administrative path, as this will expedite the release of funds to the artists. The rest of commission provided a nod of approval for staff to move forward with the administrative process.

Regarding Experiments in Public Art, staff asked whether commission agrees with the concept and encourages staff to complete discussions in order to bring details back at the May meeting. Freeman inquired about the demographics of the COVID-19 cohort program participants. Vink explained that a “wide net” was cast, with over 60 artists receiving the opportunity. Community leaders were called upon to publicize the opportunities within Indigenous cultural organizations. The Standing Selection Panel desires expansion beyond the 60; Vink imagines that this will require strategic engagement for wider publicity and to meet diversity goals.

Regarding Art Administration Supplement Grants, staff asked commission which structure it prefers: competitive review by commission members or administrative review by formula. Staff inquired whether the commission members agree with the staff recommendation to direct funding as a supplement for recipients of GOS funding. Regarding criteria, commission discussed whether grant awards should be restricted to only one per applicant. Lastly, commissioners were asked whether contractors should be permitted in addition to regular staff.

Cole recommends administrative review (after criteria have been reviewed by commission). She would disagree with the supplement on GOS grant recipients, and prefers to distribute the funds more broadly. She would agree with the one-per-applicant restriction and approves of permitting contractors. Borowsky agreed. As this is such a “large chunk” of money, Kert wondered whether a more thorough review should be performed as opposed to “first come first served.” McCormick suggested that commission be allowed a summary review for commission after the administrative determinations have been completed. She approved permitting contractors and the restriction to one per applicant and desired applicants beyond the GOS applicants. Freeman agreed on one grant per applicant and feels it would be best to exclude contractors, as she has seen organizations taking advantage of contract workers. Kert said she agreed with Freeman on the contractor exclusion. McCormick said “good point,” but added that she supported organizations being able to apply for contractor positions because small and mid-size organizations often do not have the budget to hire full or even part-time staff, and contractors do most of the administrative work. Whyel agreed that this should be outside of the GOS awards; they feel torn over the contractor issue.

Staff will draft proposals, briefs, and criteria to be presented at upcoming meetings for commission review and approval.

- C. Indigenous Artist Fellowship – Chasansky asked for commission volunteers to join the brainstorming tasked with refining this fellowship; Cole volunteered.
- D. Return to In-Person Meetings – Chasansky relayed that it doesn’t look likely to be able to meet in-person in May. The first hybrid council meeting occurred yesterday, but there were still some challenges that need to be overcome with the hybrid technology and training. Staff are currently looking forward to a hybrid June meeting, with commissioners on-site and public on-line.

**Agenda Item 8: Adjournment**

**[2.10.00 Audio min.]**

There being no further business to come before the commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned.

**Date, time, and location of next meeting:**

The next Boulder Arts Commission meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, on Zoom.

**Commissioner McCormick approved these minutes on May 18, 2022; and Celia Seaton attested to it.**