



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved MADISON ARTS COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

5:30 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 313 (Madison Municipal Building)

*Note Room Change

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Briony Jean Foy; Kia M. Karlen; Yorel F. Lashley; Ginger A. Contreras;
Richard P. Tvedt; Yvette M. Pino and Barbara M. Schrank
Absent: 3 - Sheri Carter; Cedric A. Johnson and Sarah Sosa-Acevedo

APPROVAL OF September 3, 2015 MINUTES

A motion was made by Karlen, seconded by Pino, to Approve the September 3, 2015 Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

Rick Tvedt disclosed that the MAMA's receive a community arts grant from Overture, Kia disclosed that she is a member of Overture's Community Advisory Board and Arts Education Roundtable (unpaid appointments) and she is occasionally a paid performer for Overture events such as Kids in the Rotunda and International Fest; Yvette is on the Community Advisory Board and gets reimbursement for receipts for exhibitions, Barb Schrank works with Overture on Any Given Child (unpaid appointment).

Without objection, the Chair took #5 (32522) Review Overture Contract Out of Order so that Mr. DeDee can present data requested from Overture.

5. [32522](#)

Review Overture Contract

Overture has requested \$1,750,000.00 for the next fiscal year. Their fiscal year closes June 30, auditors come in July, printed annual report in

Mr. Ted DeDee provided the following documents (attached in Legistar):

- 1) Overture Report to the Community 2014-2015
- 2) Overture Audited Financial Statement FY 2015
- 3) Sampling of Programming Objectives, Goals & Strategies FY 2015
- 4) MAC Report Details FY 2015
- 5) Overture Programs for the Community 2015-16
- 6) Racial Equity Initiative

A motion was made by Foy, seconded by Contreras, that the contract include language expressing that MAC would like to receive the full report to the commission annually by the end of September. The motion passed by voice

vote/other.

1. [08046](#)

Poet Laureate program

Poet Laureate Sarah Busse attended to answer questions of the commissioners. Staff read a statement by Wendy Vardaman who could not attend the meeting in person.

"My personal vision of the PLship is communicative and facilitative--someone who acts as a liaison, as much as they can, among Madison's poetry communities, between poetry and other arts, and between poets and organizations in Madison, including the city, advocating for the inclusion of poetry in public arts on the one hand and the inclusion of various publics in poetry. I think that Caitlin McGahan, Oscar Mireles, and the team of Angela Voras-Hills and Rita Mae Reese, are all fully capable of doing that, though they represent some different communities of poets in Madison as well as different approaches to poetry/spoken word/performance poetry. At the same time, all of them have focused on public aspects of poetry, whether that means performing and organizing spoken word events (McGahan and Mireles), developing poetry workshops (all), editing anthologies (Mireles), creating conversation about multilingualism in Spanish/ Spanglish/ English (Mireles, whose three anthology projects bring together these three languages), working with school-aged poets (all), or creating new physical space for writers & performers (all--Mireles through his efforts on behalf of literacy at Omega School, McGahan through events at the Harlem Renaissance Museum, Reese & Voras-Hills through their newly formed literary center).

In my view, the MAC's decision isn't a vote on the worthiness of their obviously commendable efforts on behalf of local writers/artists, or even the quality of their individual poetry and spoken word, but more about how the city wants to go forward with developing this position, its vision for the relation of the position to the city and its overall arts plan, and what kind of role the Madison Arts Commission wants for words in public art. It will be a difficult decision to make, I have no doubt, and I hope those who are not selected will reapply in two years."

Commissioners discussed the applications. They like that Angela Voras-Hills and Rita Mae Reese were interested in working together. (Note, staff should encourage them to apply for a project grant). Caitlin McGahan (nominated by the Harlem Renaissance Museum) seemed great also. Commissioners thought that with more experience she would make a good fit for the position. They expressed hope she continues her work in the community and applies in a future cycle. Commissioners appreciated Jason Pelt's perspective but are looking for someone with broader reach into a wider community. Commissioners unanimously agreed that what Oscar Mireles could provide as a poet laureate would be a great gift to the City.

A motion was made by Foy, seconded by Contreras, to Recommend Oscar Mireles to be our next Poet Laureate. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The recommendation will be forwarded to Mayor Paul Soglin for his consideration.

2. [21297](#)

BLINK Proposal Review

Yvette presented the recommendations of the Public Art Subcommittee to fund two Blink projects at \$1500 each (Jenie Gao's "Light the Path" & Arts Wisconsin's "Memorial to Mildred Harnick").

A motion was made by Karlen, seconded by Contreras, to Approve two Blink projects at \$1500 each (Jenie Gao's "Light the Path" & Arts Wisconsin's "Memorial to Mildred Harnick"). The motion passed by voice vote/other.

3. [39931](#) Establishing a Percent for Art Ordinance

At the next meeting of MAC, Public Art Consultant Regina Flanagan will be in town to discuss the City's interest in establishing a Percent for Art Ordinance. Commissioners agreed to devote the bulk of their November 2 meeting to discussion of this item. Therefore they will refer #3 (39931) to next meeting for discussion.

4. [30511](#) Madison Art Commission Strategy and Direction

The Chair prepared a strategic document that contains: a) MAC's vision and priorities adopted in October 2013, and b) MAC's ongoing responsibilities arranged by category using the Ordinance governing the commission. At a future meeting she would like discussion on the responsibilities that we have as we determine our strategic direction going forward.

6. [21279](#) MAC Administrative Reports

7. [36538](#) 2015 Press and Publicity

attached

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 7:30pm