

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MORONGO BASIN CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL – MBCAC

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the above Corporation was held on **June 4, 2020**, via digital conference call using Zoom.

The meeting was called to order by President Marcia Geiger at 5:06 PM.

Board Members Present: Marcia Geiger (President), Ed Keesling (Past President), Raini Armstrong (Secretary), John Henson (Treasurer), Bill Green (Communication Director, Art Tours Director), Mitch Miller (Registrar, Membership Director), Sherri Sullivan (AIPP Director)

Others present: Aimee Buyea (Galleries Director)

Not present: Karan Murphy (Vice President), Julianne Koza (Chaparral Artists Representative)

QUORUM was established.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

Geiger is continuing to fill out surveys and apply for grants. So far, four have been submitted.

1. California Humanities, CARES Act funding – a request of \$10,000 was made. Most CARES Act funding for the arts and humanities is going through CAH
2. WESTAF CARES Relief Fund for Organizations – a request of \$8,000 was made
3. The Red Backpack Fund “Majority women-owned businesses and nonprofits with annual revenues less than \$5M, at least one paid employee, and with fewer than 50 individuals on staff are eligible to apply” – a request of \$5,000 was made
4. SBC COVID-Compliant Business Partnership PPE – a request of up to \$2,500 was made and it was accepted but the information on how to utilize the funding is non-existent, so we do not yet know how initiate purchases

Geiger asked for opinions on whether it is worth joining the Cal Nonprofits organization. The 29 Palms Guild is a member. Keesling could not provide further advice, so Geiger will continue to research.

Geiger signed up for a class on June 10-11 called, "Survival and Sustainability". The focus is on how to raise funds for organization, create endowments, etc..

Due to continued connection difficulties, Julianne Koza will be unable to attend the MBCAC meetings. She plans on attending once in-person meetings are possible.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

Murphy was unable to attend. No report shared.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Geiger asked Keesling about the upcoming 29 Palms Gallery auction. Since the gallery cannot hold the exhibit, the auction had been postponed. The new board will be announced during the week of June 8. A gathering will be held on June 11 to welcome the new Board Members for the 29 Palms Art Gallery.

Keesling shared that Yucca Valley held their grant applications already, but that MBCAC should watch for their 2021 applications to be announced.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The minutes of April 2020 had been shared digitally with the expectation that if seven approvals were received during the polling process, the minutes would be accepted. Only three approvals were received in the short time they were made available. The Board would like more time to review. Further email correspondence will be required.

The May 2020 minutes were not shared digitally with the Board in time for approval. The backlogged minutes will be shared as soon as possible. The Secretary will post the approved and signed minutes to the MBCAC website under Board Minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The beginning balance in May 2020 with Bank of America was \$34,743. The bank balance at the end of May was \$12,480.31.

The beginning balance in May 2020 with Chase was \$18,225.92. The bank balance at the end of May was \$17,255.90.

The corporation remains solvent.

The financial position report for 2020 indicates a drop off starting at the beginning of April amounting to approximately \$10,000. This drop is due to stagnation in membership and gallery income, as well as the refunds for art tours.

No income from grant money shows on the financial statement because it has not come in yet. One is scheduled to arrive in July. The inland empire grant, if approved wouldn't be received until September. Most of the grants that Geiger applied for - if approved - would be funded during the summer.

The only income received during 2020 lists at \$11,874, which is currently from ad-sales. The offer to refund this money must be made, so this will change come July.

Green asked President Geiger if certain purchases should be flagged as being covered by grant money to aid in bookkeeping processes. Geiger responded that the bookkeeper has been classing the expenses, and so far, it has been easy. Henson added that a note on the receipts will always be helpful to the bookkeeper.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The newsflash is being utilized to share new Basin wide events and upcoming Gallery 62 and JTAG exhibits. On the social media front, a select few individuals are sharing negative feedback, but otherwise social media has been positive.

GALLERIES DIRECTOR REPORT:

The newest “Lookout” series window show is on display. The exhibit is exciting, featuring bold and bright color that draw people to the window. The art is visible from the parking lot. Philippe Jenson, Rose Cefelu, and Sharon Davis. The ideal art size is 36”-48” wide. The images of this exhibit can be found at the JoshuaTreeArtGallery.com website and promotion is being done on the JTAG website and the MBCAC website. Previous shows will continue to be displayed on the website to provide longer term promotion of artists. This has turned out to be a wonderful art initiative.

Buyea called the County of San Bernardino to determine what is really going on with Covid19 and the upcoming opening of galleries and public spaces. The representative shared that galleries aren’t allowed to open until phase 4. The phrasing of these phases, currently, do not use definitive language that states whether these are mandatory closures or recommended closures. Buyea is treating them as mandatory for the safety of the public.

The Yucca Valley Museum and Town Center shared that they too will not open until phase 4. Matt Adrian will not reopen until September, for the safety of his employees.

Through the PPE program, Buyea has purchased thermometers for both galleries, disposable gloves and masks and disinfectant. The charges came to \$575. Unfortunately, the PPE program did not clarify how the money was going to be reimbursed or credited, so it currently looks like an uncovered expense.

Buyea shared photos of the construction endeavors of the JTAG west wall rebuild. There used to be a window on that side, and it was never closed off properly. Studs were installed, insulation added, and a backing of plywood was added, before the drywall was installed and the mudding and painting was completed. Buyea did some additional work with the JTAG bathroom and is working on the back office of Gallery 62, providing functionality to the storage of documents and general office use.

Elaine Levinson has shared her interest in starting up the figure drawing class again, but because of the County regulations, it doesn’t seem possible to start up again safely. Levinson has not responded back with her thoughts on the decision.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES:

Nothing has been happening with the program since most of the retail locations in AIPP are still shut down. Artists remain in contact, eager to know if the scheduling is being pushed out to cover locations that have been unable to show. Sullivan asked the Board for opinions on whether she should reschedule all artists moving forward, or just the last two months moving forward.

The suggestion offered was to plan on shuffling everyone that haven’t shown yet to another date as locations open.

The 29 Palms Inn continues to remain unhappy with the gallery wire system, but it is unclear whether the artist is using the system correctly. In the past, artist attempt to hang up to six small art pieces on a single wire, which is not possible without experiencing a jostling of art. While others attempt to hang a very heavy piece of art that is frame-heavy on top, with smaller pieces below, and this creates a loose wire without weighted support.

Ultimately, the wire hanging system is not working at the well-traveled 29 Palms Inn location. Use of museum putty is recommended, but not all artists will use the putty. MBCAC may need to step in and deal with training artists in the use of the system or move forward with taking the system back.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Membership is at 243 active members, 3 members are overdue on their membership, 12 of these considered lapsed, and 2 new members have signed up in the last thirty days.

71 lapsed members have been archived.

Registrar report – Miller verified with Alex that all refunds have been successful.

Miller would like to put together a committee to revise the MBCAC Board Election Process. He plans on sending out a proposal to Board Members for review of a new election process. Geiger shared an important section of MBCACs current Bylaws that highlights a prohibiting of large voting to determine the Board – cumulative voting is not allowed, currently. Geiger would first need to investigate the official process of changing the MBCAC bylaws before the election process can be altered.

The Board is very sensitive to anyone's feelings that it behaves in a cliquish manner, so it will look into changing the bylaws in order to initiate a membership vote.

Buyea mentioned looking into California's non-profit requirements for Board membership. She also suggested that if MBCAC changes its bylaws, the Board should consider putting in a requirement to stagger the Board Member terms so the entire Board doesn't change at the same time, leaving little support to incoming Board Members.

Green suggested MBCAC might revisit the bylaws and initiate a Code of Ethics for members and Board Members as well. Since MBCAC has access to a Code of Ethics written by Chuck Caplinger, simple updates could be made to refresh the wording before establishing its use.

OSAT (Open Studio Art Tours):

The 2020 Art Tours postponement announcement was received by 1390 recipients. This is a broad summary that groups email and social media recipients. Green is revising the Budget for the Spring session. The original 2020 budget will be reworked slightly to apply to the Spring and Fall tour plan. Green is taking some inspiration from the San Francisco Studio Art Tours model in that they define membership perks very concisely.

The overwhelming response to the postponement to Spring is positive, regardless of the few that were both disappointed and even angry.

Buyea would like to build a resource list that membership can review. This resource list should include people and vendors, like local photographers willing to take photos of art, art restorationists, art suppliers, printers, etc. The list will be sent out for review before publication. **(Action Item)**

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

GUEST COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on July 2, 2020, at 6:00 PM. Zoom online conference will be used. The meeting invitation will be sent out prior to the meeting date.

There being no further business, the meeting was duly adjourned at 6:41 PM.

These Minutes are certified by the Secretary.

Signature _____ Date _____