



ROWAN ARTS COUNCIL

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Name: Rowan Arts Council Board

Date of Meeting: February 5, 2019

Board Chair: Davis Cooke

Date of Next Meeting: May 7, 2019

Board Members Attending: Davis Cooke, Robert Jones, Mollie Ruf, Emily Perry, Bill Bucher, Anne Scott Clement, Edward Norvell, James Meacham, Keyth Kahrs, Dan Mickelson

Not Attending: Kelly Feimster, Janine Rhodes,

Davis Cooke called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Motion: Anne Scott Clement made the motion for approval of the December 2018 minutes as sent.

Second: Emily Perry

Motion: Approved

Edward Norvell shared with the board that Lauren Wilhelm was no longer with Piedmont Players Inc. and nominated Dan Mickelson to take the Piedmont Players seat on the RAC board.

Motion: Edward Norvell made the motion that Dan Mickelson for PPT seat.

Second: Robert Jones

Motion: Approved

Organizational History & Structure

James Meacham gave an informal history of the Rowan Arts Council since 2009 when the RAC was having several challenges including state and local funding due to the economy and organizational focus/purpose. In 2009, City of Salisbury administration approached TDA staff to

ask for assistance with RAC management. In 2010 the RAC faced some controversy that involved a local artist and the RAC Director which evolved into a creditability issue. The Mayor at the time once again approached TDA staff to step in and manage the organization. The TDA board agreed to enter into an agreement for the management of the administration of RAC. Meacham briefly reviewed the MOU and the restructuring of RAC Board, the board appointment process as well as the development of new By-laws. Four key board members that were recruited moving forward were Barbara Perry, Jenn Selby, Justin Dionne and Dick Huffman. This got the organization moving in the right direction and to the granting organization that it has become today.

The next challenge was to explain to the NC Arts Council what was going on regarding the TDA management of the Rowan Arts Council. The state sent their representative for multiple training sessions with the RAC board and it took about two years of relationship building for the state to understand and totally approve of RAC's new structure and relationship with the TDA. As time passed, RAC once again took control of the board member appointments. The RAC board brought in a state consultant for a strategic planning session which proved very helpful in implementing the new structure.

One of the main goals for the restructure was to regain integrity with the City and the County for funding purposes. This was accomplished first with the City and an effort was made to include Lee Street theater into the group of the "big three" (Salisbury Symphony, Piedmont Players Inc., and Waterworks). The City agreed to slowly build back to funding level prior to 2008 with additional funding in order for Lee Street to be brought into the funding agreement incrementally over three years. Meacham reported that at first the RAC agreed to take a portion of the RAC designated county funds to bring Lee Street in on the County funds as well. Over time, the County has agreed to increase overall funding and Lee Street was incrementally brought into the yearly county funds allocations with the "big three".

Question of "what do we do with the funds dedicated for RAC and how do we help individual artists that GG does not allow us to do and direct funding to the big three doesn't allow us to do?" RAC developed the ACD grant program built off of taking the City and County funds that come directly to RAC and granting those out. The ACD grant program launched in 2013 and has granted out 68 grants at \$83,725 at the end of 2018.

Meacham said this continued the RAC communicating back to the NC State Arts Council that RAC is not doing programming but instead has become a granting organization supporting the local artists and arts community in providing programming throughout the county. Grassroots Grant funds for 2018 were at an all-time high of \$42,000 and over \$35,000 of those funds were subgranted out to local arts partners.

Meacham reported that the TDA staff currently manages the administrative aspects of the organization, file state reports, follow-up on all grantees etc. Meacham briefly reviewed the Grassroots Grants application and reporting process. This year is the full designated partner application due March 31, 2019.

Meacham summed the history up by stating that the RAC Board can have up to 13 members, the RAC appoints those members now, each of the big four has a seat on the board and the RAC board has regained control and integrity with both the state and local funding sources.

Meacham reported that the new e-Newsletter came out this month. He encouraged everyone to sign up for the newsletter. This e-Newsletter will help to communicate both local arts events as well as grant opportunities and deadlines. The ACD grant application process is available online on the www.rowanarts.org website. Pullium reported that Michalec has sent out an email to the RAC and PAC Board members about the e-Newsletter and a link to sign up. The notification was also posted on the RAC Facebook page inviting Facebook friends to sign-up for the e-Newsletter.

Ruff suggested that Michalec might eventually want to reach out to this group about assisting with writing some of the blog content or could interview some of the board on events or their organizations etc.

Davis Cooke asked Anne Scott Clement to explain to the multicultural Grassroots Grant allocation for 2018-19. Clement stated that Waterworks Visual Arts Center is doing a Family Fun Day in May of 2019 and would like to include a multicultural art aspect into the day. Clement asked if it would be possible for RAC to partner with some of the other arts organizations to utilize the remaining multicultural Grassroots Grant funds (\$4,145) to provide multicultural arts programming at Family Fun Day.

The 2018-19 Grassroots Grant Panel was unable to grant out all of the required multicultural funds due to a lack of applicants. RAC can utilize the funds to pay the multicultural artists and performers to provide additional arts programming at Family Fun Day from 10 am – 2 pm at the F&M Trolley Barn.

Motion: Edward Norvell made the motion for RAC to use the remaining \$4,145 in multicultural funds to provide multicultural programming for the Family Fun Day event.

Second: Emily Perry

Motion: Approved

With no other business items to address, the RAC Board meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:
Lesley Pullium, RCTDA