

Arts in Common (Bristol Art District)

Governance Committee Meeting

Saturday, December 12, 2015
446A Thames Street, Bristol

MEETING MINUTES

The Arts in Common Governance Committee meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. Role Call/Re-Introduction

Committee members: Craig Fisher (Architecture), Michael Rich (Artist, Professor RWU), Nicole Downing (Yoga - Business Owner, tenant of Reynolds Blg, lives in Bristol), John Lusk (Architect, lives in Bristol), Antonio Teixeira (Town of Bristol Administration), Rebecca Riley (Tiverton, Future Search Progress, Arts and Culture Community Development, Fundraising), Doug Popovich (Branding and Marketing, lives in Bristol), Stephan Brigidi (Artist, RWU, Art Night founder, represent arts community, lives & owns business in Bristol), Donna Personeus (Art Night, BAM, Marketing, lives in Barrington)

Absent:

Marie Knapman (Bristol Theater Company, tenant of Reynolds Blg)

2. Name of Organization

Committee members reviewed and discussed items as outlined in Future Search. It was decided that the “Bristol Arts District” would adopt a name organizational name other than “Bristol Arts District” that would be scalable in the future. Mr. Popovich presented “Arts in Common” for consideration. After a short decision the committee selected to adopt the name of “**Arts in Common**”. The decision was unanimous.

3. Mission Statement

The committee wrote a working mission statement to better define the organization, with an understanding to revisit it in 6 months. The committee was in agreement that the mission should be scaleable. The following Mission Statement was agreed upon after a motion from Ms. Personeus, that was seconded by Mr. Lusk. The decision was unanimous.

“Arts in Common embraces and supports the shared goal, to stimulate, make accessible and sustain arts activities and organizations that promote educational, economic and cultural growth.”

4. Building of an Organization

The committee reviewed the reasons the steering committee began the discussions on the “Bristol Arts District” and found they were based on finding use and rehab solutions for the Bristol owned buildings surrounding the Commons (Walley, Byfields and Reynolds). Through the “Bristol Arts District” Future Search progress it became apparent that additional “Art Centers” in Bristol, like the Bristol Arts Museum, Herreshoff Marine Museum and Blithewold as well as art-related businesses should be included in the

discussion of a Bristol Arts District and that the buildings surrounding the Commons were only one phase of the plan.

Governance Committee discussions lead to the proposal the of organization becoming an official organization with non-profit status. Mr. Popovich stated he would front the \$500 fee needed for the application. The committee agreed their efforts should be focused on the following:

1) Redevelopment of rehab existing unused buildings

(Most urgent need: Walley - Heating, Lead Abatement, Abstract, Accessibility)

2) The creation of a scalable Art District (beginning in Bristol).

To include all art member partners, being mindful and respectful, not competing. The organization would work towards becoming an umbrella organization serving the needs of its members and promoting the District. It would fall on this committee, as the Governance committee to propose how to make this a reality.

5. Selection of Governance Committee Chairs

After discussion, Mr. Rich was selected as the Committee Chair, with a motion by Ms. Personeus, which was seconded by Ms. Riley. The vote was unanimous. Ms. Personeus was selected as Secretary with a motion by Mr. Rich, which was seconded by Ms. Downing. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Teixeira agreed to represent the Town as the Town of Bristol Liaison. The following positions remain open, to be filled in the near future, Vice Chair and Treasurer. The responsibilities of each chairs to be defined in future.

Chair: Mr. Rich

Vice Chair: TBA

Treasure: TBA

Recording Secretary: Ms. Personeus

6. Creation of Committees

The following committees were recommended by the governance committee.

Executive (Fundraising, Governance, Grant Writing, Finance, Affordability, Sustainable)

Facilities & Building Committee

Education & Community Engagement (Other)

Arts & Programming Committee (Artists)

Marketing/PR/Communications Committee

Future Search attendees will be asked if they would like to participate via a future email correspondence. It will be the responsibility of each sub-committees to create action item with timelines for completion and report back to the Governance Committee.

7. Action Items

- Engage with attendees of Future Search. Keep open lines of communication. Enlist ways that they can each get involved with “Arts in Common” if they wish through committees.
- Eblast to all attendees of Future Search to provide minutes of Governance meeting, get yes or no vote on “Name” and “Mission”, and invite with RSVP to next meeting.
- Engage Steering Committee

- Request Organizational Chart Model for framework from Peter Wilbur
- Reach out to Liz Tanner for legal counsel
- Next meeting rescheduled for Saturday, January 30, 2016 at 10:00 am, location TBD

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.