

Mayor's Advisory Committee of Arts & Culture Meeting

Thursday, April 17, 2025

5:30pm

Attendees: Tonya Miller Hall, Stacy Handler, Eze Jackson, Thea Washington, Abby Becker, Jason Steer, Robyn Murphy, Julia Di Bussolo, Jeannie Howe, Von Vargas, Gail Cooper, Amy Burke Friedman, Loucia

Guests: Ed Gunts

Meeting called to order at 5:37pm

Agenda & Notes

I. Welcome

- Approval of meeting minutes
 - First - Stacy Handler
 - Second - Jeannie Howe

II. Administrative Business

- Ethics form
 - Will share out with group. Please complete!
- Committee Executive Order
 - Sharing order with committee as a reminder of our priorities
 - Noting that a lot has changed since the creation of this document
 - Specifically around BOPA
 - Robyn shared that she can provide an update on BOPA's developments in the fall potentially
 - Question around sub groups - should we formally establish sub committees
 - Jeannie shared about the Arts Action Baltimore
 - Resolution to the City Council is in draft form
 - Can share list of folx involved
 - GBCA is providing framework for the group, but its a new coalition
 - Tonya encouraged Jeannie to leverage this committee and more collaboratively with the committee to advise on and move goals along
 - Stacy suggested resurrecting Sub Committees and getting members signed on

III. Updates

- Artscape
 - 38 days away!
 - Invested in long term change and transformation on the foot print

- Column murals have started this week!
 - 43 columns
 - Gaia is leading as project manager
- New, beautiful lighting installations to highlight murals and light up space
- Tonya went over site plan and programming for the weekend
- Robyn gave highlights of programming happening at Center Stage & Artscape After Dark
 - Film Series - shorts and full-length
 - In Conversation Series - unique pairings of individuals in discussion
 - Artscape After Dark - night life programming - speakeasy vibes, spoken word, Frenchie Davis
- Looking for Volunteers
 - Production Assistants - small stipend available
 - Docents - people who can help with SCOUT art sales. Thursday - Sunday
 - If you have any interested people, connect them with Robyn and Tonya
- What's the plan for sharing the plans with the public?
 - Some updates are on the website
 - We'll start rolling out programming updates in early May
- 1% For Art
 - The draft is at legislation reference - they are redrafting to fit form language
 - It will then go to City Council and then to the Mayor for signature
 - Successfully able to carve out the money requested
 - More announcements to come on Monday and the 1% for Art, news about BOPA, and Office of Arts and Culture
- ARPA Artist Grant
 - \$500k pot, each artist can get \$4k
 - Plan to announce winners by mid-May. Hope to award 115 artists
- Mayor's Portraits
 - The last 4 mayors are completed
 - Planning unveiling in September
 - Big deal - O'Malley is the last mayor to be represented in the portrait gallery
- Graffiti Task Force
 - Meets every other month with the group

V. Upcoming & Open Discussion

- Inviting Light
 - \$1M public art project
 - Central Baltimore Partnership is producing with Mayor's Office and Neighborhood Design Center
 - First unveiling was March 24
 - Series of 5 public lighting art installations
 - Treating 2025 as "A Year of Light"
 - June 14 is next unveiling - coinciding with Pride

- Lots of community engagement and research informed this public art project
- Thea gave opening remarks at Morgan State's performance of AIDA
 - Wants to get them connected to Robyn and Tonya to partner for Artscape
- Baker Artist Awards Season
 - Opening for Visual Arts Finalists at Current Space this weekend
 - Series of events for performing artists is coming up
 - Exhibition at BMA next Saturday
- Creative Alliance
 - Marquee Ball
 - Annual fundraiser
 - Next Saturday
 - 10th Anniversary of Baltimore Uprising
 - Devin Allen & Joe Giordano Event
- Charm City Cultural Cultivation
 - What's the Story
 - New exhibition of 4 photographers
 - Writers responding to those images
 - This Saturday
 - Charm City cultural Cultivation art opening on Sat. 4/19 6p-8p. Show is "What's the Story?" - features the work of four photographers with poems and stories inspired by/in conversation with the images. On view through June 29, Tuesday - Friday 11a-4p.
- Bloom Arts Partnership with MCB at Harborplace
 - Free space available for artists and arts organizers
 - Email Stacy if you want to learn more!

Meeting Adjourned at 6:38

Motion - Robyn Murphy

Second - Jeannie Howe