

BCA Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 19, 2021
3:00-5:00 pm
Meeting Conducted by Zoom

Advisory Board of Directors Voting Members in attendance: Rachel Kahn-Fogel, Taylor Gamache, Billi Gosh, Lisa Lillibridge, Bryan Parmelee, Barbara Perry, Jacqueline Posley, Milton Rosa-Ortiz, Lori Rowe, Dana vanderHeyden, Jon Weisbecker

Staff present: Doreen Kraft, Sara Katz, Joyce Cellars, Heather Ferrell, Melissa Steady, Sally Sheperdson, Zach Williamson, John Flanagan, Meara McGinniss

Meeting called to order at 3:04

1. Consent Agenda—Billi moved, Dana seconded. All in favor.
 - a. Approve Agenda-With a change in order of program updates.
 - b. Approve Minutes of November 17, 2020
2. Public Forum –No public was present
3. Program Updates(10 minutes each):
 - a) Development Committee-Billi-Will be included in Financial Report.
 - b) Exhibitions Committee-Heather- An Exhibition Committee meeting was held in December. Our summer exhibitions had 2500 people in attendance. Virtual programs reached 2100 participants. In-person attendance goes up and down with COVID numbers. Two weeks left of current exhibitions. New shows are Meg Lipke and Diane Gabriel, which will open February 12. With Gabriel show, a new award for an emerging artist will be announced. Nomination committee for this award has already met. Becci Davis, featured in the current exhibition *Unprecedented*, is doing an artist talk on Wednesday, January 27th at 2pm. Next committee meeting will be in late March. Lori went on a tour of *Unprecedented* and loved it! Rachel mentioned a nice Meg Lipke write up in the New Yorker. <https://www.newyorker.com/goings-on-about-town/art/meg-lipke> Dana asked if *Unprecedented* is available to tour virtually, Heather assured her that it is and there is a nice review in the current issue of Artscope. Are there any private tours still available? Board members are always welcome to call Heather to schedule and there a few slots left.
 - c) Education Committee-Melissa- Just launched a new session of youth programming. Two teen programs running on Monday afternoon- Darkroom and Pottery. Robust adult programming has been launched with both virtual and in-person classes, 44 people are enrolled, more

offerings to come later in the spring. The whole team has been doing a great job. Camp never really stopped, but putting next summer's camp structure together-probably will be a hybrid situation of both half and whole days. There are currently about 20 monthly clay members, with plans to open more of the studios in the next few months. Both AFTH and Gallery Education are working hard on virtual programming. Currently interviewing for a Youth and Family Programming Coordinator, a position that was supposed to go in front of City Council for approval the first week of COVID and got delayed. There are currently five top candidates, who are really exciting. Kiersten will focus on adult programming. This new position will help grow youth programming with increased capacity, with a March 1st tentative start date.

- d) Highlight Update-John and Zach- Happy New Year! Turned out to be a great event-it was kind of an experiment. Lots of people attended, great press. Over 100 different performers, new shows every 15 minutes, 1pm to 12:30. Run the World, the platform, really worked out and a very different feel than a lot of other virtual programming. Concurrent streams allowed for more variety and flexibility (for example at 4pm 14 different streams were happening). There was such a positive vibe-a real sense of community, so much support, lovely comments. Unique experience for the performers and the audience. Circus Smirkus was great! Dance, yoga, music, Bryan Parmelee! Really interesting office hour sessions in which performers were offered technical assistance and artists helped each other with the technology. BCA, Signal Kitchen, and other staff worked as the behind the scenes team. John put together a brief recap video: <https://youtu.be/KHrhHwTbIlgA> Marketing was not that different than last year other than budget and tight turn-around. The virtual nature of the event expanded the audience beyond Vermont. Collaboration with Signal Kitchen was great-they did most of the social media marketing. John and Ted did the rest, resulting in robust combination of digital and traditional media coverage. Recap website link <https://www.highlight.live/impressions>. Lori asked if there was a plan to have a virtual element next year. There may be, Zach says, because of the increased accessibility. Dana experienced some technical difficulties. Zach acknowledged some that the people had connectivity issues. Jacqueline asked if we had considered using a similar platform to expand our audience in general. Lisa thought it was the perfect quirky end to a weird year. BCA is moving toward a hybrid model in general.

e) Public Art Update-Sara- 4x8 Project-An RFP was put out in collaboration with the REIB department. Board member Jacqueline Posley was on the selection committee.
<https://www.bcahomestudio.org/4x8> This page contains info from the artists and all of this info is available onsite. The pieces will be up for 2 months and then move to the Old North End. There are not a lot of resources for Public Art within BCA but a lot of projects on the horizon. The Chief Greylock sculpture in Battery Park has suffered weather damage and BCA is working with the Parks Department and Abenaki tribal leadership to save it. The sculpture was gifted by the artist. Although it was not created by an Abenaki, it is a symbol of Abenaki culture in VT. BCA is working other projects with REIB, Tyeastia set aside \$20,000 for public art this year and 4x8 only used about a quarter of that. The remaining projects will probably be more site-specific but with the same intention to raise BIPOC voices up, possibly in connection with the city's Juneteenth celebration. Sara is still working on the public art map, creating new descriptions for every piece of public art in the city. It will be map based and will be embedded in our new website. Lori thinks it is great so much public art moving along successfully, considering early difficulties with 4x8. Milton would like to respond to the criticisms and follow up. One of the people who signed the letter was on the committee. Heather sent out a personal invite to that group and one of them participated in the Gabriel award nominating committee.

4. Financial Report- We are at the six month period and this is an important time to reflect on our budget for the year. This has been one of the most challenging budget years- nothing that we thought was true has borne out. It was assumed that classes would be up and running by now and rentals and studio fees would be bringing in revenue by now, but due to COVID they are not. BCA as a whole has had to focus on how to use the dollars that we do have to do the most important things we do-support children and families, artists, COVID relief. A lot of work has gone into finding funding sources to backfill lost revenue, several Cares Act grants have supported education programs and reimbursement for staff Resource and Recovery hours. We are going to get to our goal through fundraising campaigns continue. Billi presented on behalf of the Development Committee-it is quite amazing what we have been able to achieve in the face of COVID. The development committee has met twice since the last board meeting and is very engaged. State grants, board giving, and special events are on track. Major gift goal is very important to make up losses in Membership. Joyce thanked the Board for reaching 100% giving. Lori thanked the board and Joyce for getting the board giving clearer.

5. Board Candidates-The nominating committee thought that both candidates, Patrick and Mildred, were really exciting and would like to recommend them to the full board for approval. Lori never heard back from a third applicant or her reference. Lori would like to entertain a motion for the full board to recommend to the Mayor that Patrick Shank and Mildred Beltre Martinez be approved join the BCA Advisory Board. This was moved by Lisa Lillibridge and seconded by Billi Gosh. All were in favor.
6. Directors Report-Doreen- There is lot going on at 405, there will be big news in the environmental and planning areas. Sally Sheperdson reported that the majority of funds to support 405 have been from new donors. It is really gratifying that so many members of the community understand what we are trying to do. New partnership with BED to understand Net Zero goals has been kicked off and is really exciting. Doreen shared that one big lesson is how daunting this fundraising will be in a post-COVID economy. Sara and Rolf are digging into the budget-it has become clear that the budget needs to grow. A lot of the energy upgrades are not additive but need to be revisited. The energy and efficiency needs are going to be a bigger element, increase the budget and hopefully open a lot of doors for us including federal funding and other agencies and foundations. The budget may go up by as much as a million dollars but these new sources will offset these costs. By the end of this year we will have a much better idea of the timeframe. Lisa shared that the sustainability goals seem really important and that many donor's investments have done very well and there is a new federal administration which seems like an interesting intersection. Doreen explained that there will be a lot of competition for those federal and private dollars-the campaign needs to very smart, exciting, and targeted. BCA will work closely with Leahy's office. There will be a joint meeting of both boards in the coming months, possibly in March for further updates on the 405 campaign. Dana suggested having a celebration when things open up again and starting to prepare for that now. Billi asked if Doreen had participated in a training about board recruitment, the training hasn't happened yet.
7. Board Candidates and Racial Equity and Inclusion Committee- Initially a group of board members was going to get together to respond to concerns from the community on racial equity at BCA. It became clear that it needs to be a standing formal committee of the board. It was clarified that Bryan, Lisa, Jacq, Milton, John, Jon, and Doreen are the current board and staff members who are interested in sitting on this committee. Jacq pointed out that a meeting needs to be scheduled. Milton agreed and pointed out if we are serious about addressing racism it should be moved up in the agenda. Lori mentioned that she left this as last on the agenda in the hopes that it would leave more time for discussion. Jacq hopes that there is communication between this committee and the whole board, including other committees and feels that this work should be embedded in everything the board is doing. Doreen would like to staff this committee, at least at first, to ensure that the committee is in line with the equity work of the city.

8. Other Business- AJ LaRosa has officially resigned from the board due to time commitments but wishes to express his ongoing commitment to BCA and will continue to donate his gorgeous and generous dinner as an auction item. He has also committed to honoring the dinners that were sold at the 2019 board celebration which have been postponed due to COVID. Dana heard that Val Hird is having an exhibition in New York City at Nora Haim Gallery beginning on March 3rd and would love a virtual program from BCA to connect Vermonters and act as cross-promotion Heather offered to connect with Val on this, they are in close touch-Heather recently did a studio visit. Dana thinks it is a great opportunity to expand our audience. Doreen brought up updating what we are looking for from prospective board members on our website. Lori hopes we can find someone with financial expertise. Currently the website lists diversity and a CPA. Lori brought up a community member who is interested in joining the board but the timing with the last round of interviews did not work out. She will apply for the next round and in the meantime she has volunteered to serve on the REI and the Education committees.
9. 5:01 pm Dana moved to adjourn, it was seconded by Lisa and approved by all.

BCA's mission is to nurture a dynamic environment through the arts that makes quality experiences accessible regardless of economic, social or physical constraints. We do this by:

- Supporting and promoting Vermont artists and advancing the creation of new work
- Offering a wide spectrum of arts education and engagement opportunities
- Presenting exhibitions and events that place Burlington in a global context, promote critical dialogue and encourage local participation
- Serving as the City of Burlington's cultural planner by making the arts integral to the area's economic and civic development, urban design, and livability.