

**BCA Advisory Board Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting, Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**Conducted via Zoom**

**Advisory Board of Directors**

Voting Members Present: Taylor Gamache, John Gonter, Billi Gosh, Rachel Kahn-Fogel, Laura McDonough, Lisa Lillibridge, Lori Rowe, Beth Montuori Rowles, Bryan Parmelee, Milton Rosa-Ortiz, Jackie Reno, Jon Weisbecker, Dana vanderHeyden

Absent: A.J. LaRosa, Jacqueline Posley, Jeffrey Harkness, Barbara Perry, Sabah Abbas

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

**Called to Order at 2:00**

**1. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve Agenda
- b. Approve Minutes of January 21 meeting

Moved by Lori Rowe, seconded by John Gonter. Unanimously approved.

**2. Public Forum** No public was present.

**3. Executive Session** Board went into Executive Session to discuss the annual evaluation of the Executive Director. Executive Session lasted from 2:10 pm until 2:28 pm.

**4. Financial Report** Treasurer Laura McDonough gave the report. There is a spending freeze city-wide. The BCA budget is facing a \$70-75K shortfall. Many fundraising line items fell short of budgeted goal. Likewise, many spending line items have been reduced. Much of the short fall is due to the cancelation of the annual Art Auction. One significant board gift was redirected to the Artist Relief Fund. There is no need for the board to vote on the FY21 budget yet, awaiting more information from the City of Burlington CAO.

**5. Directors Report** Doreen Kraft opened up with thanking the board for attending and introducing new Development Director Joyce Cellars. Doreen requested that in place of the Directors Report individual staff members give updates, starting with Joyce.

**1. Development Update-Joyce Cellars**

- a) Joyce wanted to thank the board for a warm welcome and reassure any board members that she hadn't spoken to yet that she will be in touch.
- b) Joyce's first two weeks have been spend assessing and orienting to the team, introducing herself to BCA Staff, Board and donors.
- c) Planning and organizing now through the end of the fiscal year, mostly focusing on a spring appeal.
- d) Developing a plan for the rest of the calendar year.
- e) Ideally starting on a longer-term plan that aligns with the strategic plan.
- f) Joyce shared a quote from one of the artists who received assistance through BCA's Artist Relief Fund: [Insert quote here]

- g) Milton Rosa-Ortiz asked if there are still funds available in the Artist Relief Fund? Sara Katz: Yes, about \$8000. Applications from artists have slowed down. There is discussion about how to transition from relief funding to creation grants, possibly shifting the focus of the Artist Relief Fund to provide the kind of funding that artists need going forward.
- h) Lisa Lillibridge talked about how proud of the Artist Relief Fund she was feeling and wondered if there were plans to share it more widely.
- i) Joyce and Sally gave an update on the 405 campaign. The focus of the team has been to collect upcoming pledges and maintain connection with donors.

## 2. Education Update-Melissa Steady

- a) Children's Art Exhibition: One of the first events cancelled in March was our 33rd Annual Children's Art Exhibition Ceremony featuring student work from all six Burlington Elementary schools in City Hall. It is a much loved event, so the fabulous BCA team created an online platform for viewing all 189 pieces of student artwork with a lovely video message from the Mayor. We've been getting wonderful feedback from the art teachers, principals and parents and know that it's provided some joy and pride for students and families.  
<https://www.bcachildrensartexhibition.org/>
- b) Head Start Arts and IAA residencies: Although our on-site residencies at King Street, Sara Holbrook Center, and IAA were abruptly ended in March, Melissa was able to coordinate all of the sites to continue working remotely with BCA teaching artists, Jude Bond (King Street and Sara Holbrook preschool classes) and Kate McKernan (IAA 5th Grade Legacy Project). Video lessons connecting the students to our teaching artists are currently being created and special supply kits were provided for the preschool groups so the children had all the materials needed at home for the art projects.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40pyYpv42\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40pyYpv42_4)
- c) CAEC: The Community Arts Education Council has been sharing a list of resources and meeting via Zoom.
- d) Home Studio has been going great and is a great resource for sharing the work that the Education team has been doing.
- e) Camp: The BCA Education team has been hustling to learn everything they need to know in order to safely run camps. There are only 3 ½ weeks left until we launch the summer camp programs. The camps will serve the kids and families that need camp the most by offering full days only. There will a focus on social emotional learning at camp.
- f) Billi Gosh asked for an explanation of why camp might be more costly this season. Melissa explained that the biggest implication was the inability for kids to share supplies safely.
- g) Dana vanderHeyden asked if there was a good response to the survey that was sent out to camp parents. Melissa said there were over 100 respondents. It is very clear that there are a diversity of needs from different campers, some families are dire need of child care, some are wary about camp.
- h) Jackie Reno asked how staff are feeling, Melissa explained that it's been pretty emotional. Some teaching artists are not returning this summer due to Covid 19 fears, others are excited to start teaching.

- i) Lori Rowe asked if there would be a medical professional present at BCA Studios for the summer, Melissa explained that there will not be.
- j) Dana vanderHeyden asked if staff would be required to get tested. Melissa said no, but they would be welcome to get tested.
- k) Doreen explained that a huge amount of resources and leadership have been made available through the City for planning camps. BCA will follow the guidance of the Mayor. Safety is the biggest priority of BCA.
- l) Jon Weisbecker asked if there was support available to staff who chose not return. Doreen clarified that we are not able to pay teaching artists who choose not to work but there is a a lot of support in place for regular staff. Many of our teaching artists have received support through the Artist Relief Fund.
- m) Milton offered a statement of support to the staff and encouraged them to use the board as a resource.
- n) Lisa Lillibridge offered that there are a lot of 18-24 year olds in the area whose summer employment plans have changed who might benefit from the experience of volunteering at BCA summer camps.

### 3. Exhibitions Update-Heather Ferrell

- a) The current exhibitions will be extended until July when a new set of exhibitions will open. Executive Order 1-20 (Stay Home-Stay Safe) will feature Joanne Carson on the first floor. Carson splits her time between Shoreham, VT and Brooklyn, NY. She is the head of the art department at SUNY Albany. Her influences range from pop culture, Marsden Hartley, to primarily her garden in Shoreham. Her work explores creation, destruction, human interaction and nature. exhibit will be one that encourages social distancing. On the second floor of the BCA Center 15 local artists will invite an additional artist to create new, small, two-dimensional works that explore a common theme of home. They will be displayed in a grid.
- b) Heather wanted to thank the entire gallery team for their hard work. Many programs have shifted to online presentations including Family Art Saturday, artist talks, and curator tours.

### 4. Communications Update-John Flanagan

- a) The BCA Communications team has been working on:
  - Coordinating strategy, messaging, design, and promotion for BCA programs
  - Managing Home Studio
  - Coordinating with City on COVID-19 branding and assets
  - Managing BCA website overhaul
  - Leading City Cultural Services unit

- Coordinating with press and community partners
  - Supporting Re-Discover Jazz Festival and other community arts partners
  - Creating and dispensing social media content
- b) Lori Rowe asked if John thinks this online content will continue to be relevant. John said he does. She said that she likes that increases accessibility to BCA Programs.
5. Events and Festival Update-Zach
- a) Most of Zach's time has been focused on the Resource and Recovery Center which is made up of 49 people from 7 different city departments. Zach has been overseeing the distribution of homemade cloth masks, first to essential workers and then the general public.
- b) The Plant for the People initiative has partnered with Red Wagon Plants to give away over 600 plant starts with the intention of limiting food insecurity in Burlington.  
<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/COVID-19/plant>
- c) Zach has also been working closely with The Marketplace director to explore street closures to insure safe outdoor dining to encourage the reopening of downtown dining establishments.
- d) Summer Concerts are happening!
6. Art From the Heart Update-Rebecca
- a) Art from the Heart has created 9 different sites at the hospital where staff are invited to interact with art installations.
- b) An AFTH specific blog is in the works. The first post explored humor and the cultural history of masks using research. Future topics to include music and more research about art and wellness.
- c) Lori Rowe asked if we are able to touch patient lives at all. Rebecca explained that volunteer services within the hospital are currently suspended but AFTH volunteers have continued their service from home by making kits. Art making kits are available to patients in the hospital if they request them. Rebecca has also been exploring how the UVMMC closed circuit television service could be used creatively.

Beth Montuori Rowles reminded everyone that the next meeting is on June 16 and if anyone is interested in joining the Executive Committee to contact Lori Rowe.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.

**BCA's mission is to nurture a dynamic environment through the arts that make 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.