

AMAC meeting minutes for February 9, 2022, 5:30-7:00 PM
Arts West
132 West State Street
Athens, Ohio 45701

In attendance: Jeff Risner, Holly Ittel, Kelly Lawrence, Kelee Riesbeck, Chelsa Morahan, Josh Birnbaum, Beth Braun (digitally)

Guests: Emily Beveridge, Angela Sprunger, Andrea Baird

0. Changes to the agenda:

ADD Section IV: Special Guest, Angela Sprunger, Assistant Director of the Ohio Valley Center for Collaborative Arts (CoArts): Kelee Riesbeck

ADD Section V(e): Poet Laureate Update: Chelsa Morahan

ADD Section V(f): Arts Builds Business Builds Arts with the Air Institute: Chelsa Morahan

Motion to accept changes to minutes: **PASSED**

I. Call to Order and legislative updates: Andrew Chiki & Jeff Risner

Nothing to report legislatively. Parking garage 6th floor has seen some major graffiti.

II. Minutes from January 12, 2022 for approval: Josh Birnbaum

MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES: **PASSED**

III. Arts West / Arts of APRD Update: Emily Beveridge

The Moonville Print Shop Gallery Show will be on display through March 27th in the performance space gallery of Arts West.

Charlie Haskin's paintings will be on display February through April at The Athens Community Center

Passionworks may display the work of their recent OAC residency at Arts West the month of April.

Emily has submitted an intent to apply for an Ohio Department of Education Grant to fund an expansion of the After School Arts Classes for the next school year.

Starting the end of February through the end of April of this year, Arts West will be hosting a total of seven play productions.

IV. Special Guest, Angela Sprunger, Assistant Director of the Ohio Valley Center for Collaborative Arts (CoArts): Kelee Riesbeck

CoArts is interested in collaborations outside the university. Angela is teaching the capstone class for art students and wants to provide an experience that allows them to see how arts could impact their lives in the future, even if they are not solely artists. She would love it if AMAC could send a few members to class to discuss the role we play in city and community arts. Could there also be a larger civic event, perhaps a panel, that discusses how art plays out on the city level, as well as how to be a working artist? Capstones currently talk about professional practices beyond the gallery: what is the role of art in your life? What are the different pathways that can nurture this passion? Are they professional, civic, community?

Angela Sprunger can be contacted at sprunger@ohio.edu.

V. Ongoing Public Projects:

a. Art Outside the Box - Round 4: Holly Ittel & Kelee Riesbeck

Holly will write a press release and get that out, as well as social media posts. Holly will share that with Andrew Chiki and Scott Thompson. She has updated the jury with the adjusted deadline of April 1st.

b. Athens Community Center Mural: Beth Braun & Kelee Riesbeck

Kelee wrote the social media post, and she will send it to Beth to get a quote. They will try to tag all the school districts, and the schools can tag their own teachers. Then when ready, the post can be sent to Scott Thompson.

c. Possible future projects

i. Blue Eagle Bench

Kelly says that Blue Eagle will not want to deal with a bench (Frank would have to bring it in every night), so they will get something made at Donkey. Kelly met with Angie and Chris, the owners, and Wendy Viny

Minor, the artist chosen by JD Hutchinson's family. They are discussing what they want to do. Donkey might have something inside. The artist might get a guitar from Blue Eagle and make a special bench, as well as a panel that could be mounted somewhere (perhaps Jack Neal floral, which has a great open wall). There will be a retrospective of him and his work at the southeast Ohio history center. They are also thinking about making a songbook with his work if they can get all rights.

ii. 6th Floor Parking Garage mural / green space

Current issue at the 6th floor is graffiti. It might be best to wait until the area is secure, and security cameras installed. This will happen end-of-spring. If we want a mural up there to revitalize it, install time would be May through October (before it gets too cold). We could start to plan now for getting sponsors and write an RFP. If done well, that space can be utilized very heavily and cherished. It is a beautiful space. Perhaps one day after the meeting, we could go up there and start brainstorming. Green space could be incorporated. We could do parking day (<https://www.myparkingday.org/>) where people take over spots for something other than a parking spot. People could make mobile units, sort of like the parklets project. Could be utilized in the arts and music festival as well! Should AMAC form an ad hoc committee for this? There are paneled spaces along the walls so multiple artists could contribute. Adding art could decrease the amount of vandalism. We could have separate parts or murals that are mounted like the community center mural. A landscape architect could help us plan out what is possible (perhaps like Joshua Kvae of Joshua Tree). Let Chelsa know if you would like to be a part of the ad hoc committee.

d. OAC Heritage Fellowship Award

Kelly is nominating Susie Abramovitz for the award. Holly is nominating Don Macrostie. Athens County will have representations in applicants.

e. Poet Laureate Update: Chelsa Morahan

Chelsa has asked about who can be on the selection committee? A few individuals have been on the selection committee multiple times. Chelsa will also invite Wendy McVicker to the March meeting to share her work and thoughts on the laureateship. She is interested in working with us for the 20th anniversary celebration, to have a poem presented at the May event.

f. Arts Builds Business Builds Arts with the Air Institute: Chelsa Morahan

The committee to form the Friends of Arts West was stalled, but alternatively Emily Prince has mentioned bringing a workshop to Athens, called ABBBA. It's a

2-hour workshop, free and open to the public, tentatively scheduled Tuesday, March 29 from 5-7 p.m. at Arts West. The workshop is about building communities and bring all arts and business folk in a community together to foster conversations about how the arts build the economy. Emily would like AMAC to help promote this and help be a part of it. Facilitators will help lead conversations. Chelsa will send out a survey for members to fill out so Emily Prince can plan the workshop accordingly.

VI. Ongoing Commission Business:

a. Ohio Arts Council Governor's Arts Awards 2022

AMAC was not selected for this award. Should we attempt again next year? Was there any feedback on our submission from this year? AMAC is unique. Are people not understanding who we are? Should we emphasize that this is the poorest region in Ohio (8th poorest in the U.S., according to an article in the New York Times this week), yet we are a strong municipal arts commission? And we are serving people who normally don't have the benefits of the arts, like people in big cities. Let's look at the whole application and look at our letters as well. Chelsa will reach out to the OAC for feedback.

b. Athens Community Arts & Music Festival

Patty Witmer received a \$750 grant from Northeast Ohio public energy council that will go towards the festival, on top of the \$3,000. Unfortunately, Hocking College will not be backing the festival this year. Kelly is trying to find another sponsor and more money from the city. The stage is provided by Dewey Decibel System. This will be a couple weeks before the Nelsonville Music Festival, so Kelly will reach out to Tim Peacock to see if it could help build energy for that. Have we talked to local breweries to help sponsor? The Uptown Business Association could be a point of support.

c. 2022 Event Discussion/20th AMAC Celebration

AMAC members are meeting with Arts, Park, and Recreation staff at the community center to start planning. Emily needs to get an estimate for the frames for the "For the Love of Athens" show that will be installed at Arts West in conjunction with this, and then these frames will be used to put artwork up on the walking track at the community center. Dates of events are on third Thursdays from May through August.

VII. Commission Action Items:

a. New Member Handbook Items: Former AMAC Members discussion

Chelsa printed out the list of former AMAC members. Send Chelsa any information that you can add to it! There is an opening on AMAC. Chelsa is reaching out to folks who might be interested. If interested, Chelsa can send info.

b. Social Media Form: Holly Ittel

Holly created a social media form. Chelsa is confirming with the city that we can use this, since Google is not always compatible with city systems.

VIII. Announcements and other business

Request for ideas: Barb Campagnola of Circle Round the Square is retiring and looking for someone to take over the non-profit summer arts camp for kids in Nelsonville. Can Arts West be a part? Barb could reach out to Stuart's Opera House? Perhaps one of OU's Master of Arts Administration Students could be involved as they are required to complete a 20-hour per week internship. If further info needed, we could talk to Kelee Riesbeck at riesbek1@ohio.edu.

IX. Adjourn

Next Meeting: March 9, 2022, 5:30-7:00 PM at Arts West