

Baltimore Public Art Commission Monthly Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 22, 2021, Virtually, 10 AM – 11:30 AM

I. Call to Order

Commissioners

Aaron Bryant
Jaquelin Bershad
Danielle Brock
Sam Christian Holmes
Kuo Pao Lian
Alma Roberts

BOPA Staff

Donna Drew Sawyer, CEO
Kirk Shannon-Butts, Public Art and Curation Manager
Santiago Nocera, Communications Manager

Media

Ed Gunts, Freelance Writer

II. Greeting from Donna Drew Sawyer

Donna Drew Sawyer welcomes Commission and explains plans to meet with Mayoral team week of 1/25/21.

III. Review of Objectives for Meeting

Aaron Bryant reviews a few objectives for today's meeting.

- Continue to develop understanding of role and relationship to BOPA
- Review Commission's questions for follow up regarding procedures or language
- Establish a better understanding of the Commission's role as understood by the city

IV. Updates & Questions

Updates since previous meeting and questions raised about upcoming meetings.

- Kirk Shannon Butts introduces Devin Shacklett (absent), BOPA Arts Council Program Coordinator, who will join future PAC meetings and take minutes.
- Kirk Shannon Butts has been meeting with city liaisons to better understand how to make 1% systematic.
- Aaron Bryant requests whether virtual meetings are to be recorded, in addition to drafted minutes.
 - Recording useful in terms of historical data/media research/public access
 - Kirk Shannon Butts to look into for upcoming meeting.
- Aaron Bryant gives reminder that agenda and other important info for PAC meetings be circulated to Commissioners at least 2 weeks in advance.

V. Public Art Guidelines Continued Review

Continued discussion from December 2020 meeting reviewing public art guidelines. Prior to meeting, Kirk Shannon Butts circulated various sections of the Public Art Guidelines for review. Review and conversation to continue during February 2021 meeting.

Discussion of Public Art Commission (PAC) Definition

As outlined on Page 3, Section III a, of Public Art Commission Guidelines document.

- *Issues/Questions Discussed:*
 - Alma Roberts: the language is straightforward, but it does not necessarily happen that exact way in practice.
 - Aaron Bryant: We need better alignment between what's stated versus what's real.
 - Sam Holmes: What are we supposed to be able to do versus what are we actually able to do?

- *Commissioner's Request:*
 - Kuo Pao Lian: Requesting summaries on development projects happening in the city. Commissioners have not been provided with summary of projects before.
 - Summaries would need to include: projects on the table, projects available for 1% funding
 - Requesting for BOPA to provide at monthly PAC meeting
 - Projects should be communicated to commissioners on regular basis
 - Aaron Bryant: Recommends making this request official.
 - Kuo Pao Lian: Request to make a motion to receive regular status update for development projects in the city that qualify for 1%.

- *Official Motion:*
 - **BOPA to provide a report of qualified projects to commissioners for monthly meeting, outlining project status and organizations, including dollar amount and names of contacts. The purpose is to facilitate the commissioner's role and responsibility to advise on the use of the 1% for public art.**
 - Seconded: Alma Roberts
 - AYES: Aaron Bryant, Jaquelin Bershada, Danielle Brock, Sam Holmes, Kuo Pao Lian
 - Motion Confirmed: Aaron Bryant

- *Follow up questions:*
 - Alma Roberts: How will commissioners use the report?
 - Report will be received and used to facilitate and monitor projects.
 - Jaquelin Bershada: We must identify the responsibilities of staff vs commissioners.
 - Information on reports will be needed for context, but the responsibility for tracking should be for staff.
 - Commissioners to be updated in order to make specific decisions.

Public Art Commission (PAC) Appointment and Composition – Discussion

As outlined on Page 3, Sections III b & c, of Public Art Commission Guidelines document.

- *Issues/Questions Discussed:*
 - Three members are still needed to complete the Public Art Commission.
 - Aaron Bryant: What does this mean for the commission and how to operate?
 - Kirk Shannon Butts: After this guidance review, we may request from Mayor for additional members.
 - Sam Holmes: We should consider that once a member leaves, the Commission should immediately have nomination or recommendation process in place for replacing the member.
 - Kirk Shannon Butts: Nomination process is an open process; the pool of individuals to be selected is also open.
 - Kirk Shannon Butts to follow up with Nina Themelis in Mayor's Office to confirm the official process.
 - Jaquelin Bershada: The process to fill the 3 vacant seats on the Commission should be put into motion.
 - Kuo Pao Lian: A memo should be sent to Mayor for introduction of Commissioners and to inquire status of empty seats.

- *Official Motion:*
 - **Share the process with Commission for nomination and appointing new members as soon as possible. Put in motion the process to fill current vacant seats.**
 - Seconded: Danielle Brock
 - Ayes: Aaron Bryant, Jaquelin Bershada, Sam Holmes
 - Motion Confirmed: Aaron Bryant

VI. Final Questions & Updates

Final questions and requests for next month's meeting.

- Jaquelin Bershada: Would like clarity on the Artist Selection Process.
 - Kirk Shannon Butts: Confirms that the Artist Selection Process will be discussed during February 2021 meeting.
- Danielle Brock: Would like to know when the Commission will return to working on the art process for specific projects.
 - Once guidelines and processes are reviewed, Commission can return to focus on the art process for projects
- Aaron Bryant: What is needed as soon as possible is the list of public art and construction projects happening now.
 - Will help Commission understand role, relationship to city, and relationship to artists.
- Danielle Brock: Are there any projects from last year that still need to be accomplished?
 - Aaron Bryant: The upcoming requested report will be able to show us which projects must be picked up again.
- Aaron Bryant: For future discussion - how do we get access to public art in Baltimore? Is there a database of locations? A collection of images and photographs?

VI. Adjourn