

City of Lawrence  
Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission (LCAC)  
Monthly Meeting, October 9, 2013

Members present: Vice Chair: Grace Peterson, Christie Dobson, Mandy Enfield, John Hachmeister, Jerry Johnson, Kathy Porsch, Richard Renner, and Katherine Simmons.

Members absent: Patrick Kelly, Lois Greene, Jane Pennington

Also present: Diane Stoddard, City Liaison; Tommy Bohler, City of Lawrence Intern; Matt Hislope and Josh Meyer of the Rubber Repertory; and Dylan Lysen, *University Dailey Kansan*

## MINUTES

Vice Chair Grace Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. in the Lawrence City Council Chambers at Lawrence City Hall

### **Action Items:**

The September 11, 2013 minutes were approved with two typos and the band name for Eric Melin corrected.

### ***New Business:***

Founders of the Rubber Repertory, Josh Meyer and Matt Hislope, reported on their activities in Lawrence. The two men are KU alumni who until recently headquartered their performance based organization in Austin, TX. Based on the recent focus on the arts in Lawrence and the growing arts community here, they decided to form a pop-up artists' colony for a year in Lawrence at the old church at 10th and New York, which was built in 1872, "...as an experiment to see if two guys without a lot of money could accomplish something." After a year they will shut down the pop-up colony. They financed the effort with online fundraiser that raised \$10,000, signed the lease, and opened up to applications for short-term residencies of one to three weeks for two artists per session and more artists applied from both the U.S. and internationally than they could accept. They anticipate having from 75 to 80 artists in residence during the year the colony is in Lawrence and 12 have resided there thus far. The artists pay \$50/week to stay and people are getting a lot of work done, enjoying the Lawrence arts community, and forming collaborations within the community. "We have been invited to a lot of pot lucks," Matt said.

Among the projects thus far accepted for residencies are one capturing images for a silent film, another developing a biography of Mama Cass, and one developing a movement language for a play about killer whales. Thus, while the focus of the artists' colony is on performance art, not all the residents are engaged wholly in performance art projects. Things lean heavily towards a performance background, just because of our background, Josh said, but it is open to everyone. The work being done is all process work; the church is a retreat rather than a venue, although there may be a few showings in relationship to other events such as Third Thursday or Final Friday.

### ***Old Business:***

### ***Committee and Liaison Reports:***

**City Owned Art Maintenance Committee:** Chair Katherine Simmons reported she is working with the City IT department to determine whether Collective Access or a similar resource, would work to record and track city-owned art and provide the records necessary for adequate monitoring of condition and maintenance. Unfortunately, the City's current server set up does not work with Collective Access;

however, it may be possible to add the capability of using Collective Access after the first of the year. Katherine said Collective Access appears to be the most viable option and she will continue working with the City's IT department to figure out how to tap into it and use this free service.

John Hachmeister said he tried to contact Jon Havener to follow up on the repairs to the sculpture at Prairie Park, but John is in the hospital. This is why he has not gotten back to repair the damaged sculpture. The LCAC members expressed concern and wishes for his speedy recovery.

Lawrence Community Arts Grants Committee: Chair Kathy Porsch handed out an updated draft of the Community Arts Grants application instructions and forms and asked the members of the LCAC to review the draft and bring any suggestions for changes to the November meeting.

Nominating Committee: Chair, Christi Dobson asked the LCAC members to be thinking about recruiting, since three members' terms will end in January, and about officer and committee chair position nominations. These will be discussed at the November meeting and elections will be in December.

Outdoor Downtown Sculpture Exhibit Committee: Chair John Hachmeister reported everything is great.

Percent for Art: Chair Grace Peterson reported that she contacted the artist and he is waiting for the structural design from Zahner, a large metal fabricator located in Kansas City, for the big piece in the atrium and then the way-finding schedule from Gould-Evans Architecture Firm. As soon as he knows all the dimensions from Zahner, he will put the glass components on his kiln schedule and meet with the Percent for Art Committee to show the final design. Then, based on the schedule, he will begin the work of producing and fabricating the pieces.

Phoenix Awards Committee: Chair Mandy Enfield reported that invitations have gone out and passed some around to be placed at various venues for people to pick up. The artist, Alicia emailed to ask about transporting the awards. She said the pieces are in progress to be done. Had Saralyn Reece Hardy, Director of the KU Spencer Museum of Art as the keynote speaker, but something came up and Saralyn made some suggestions as alternatives.

Lawrence Arts Roundtable Liaison: Liaison Kathy Porsch reported that Karen Christilles, who was recently named the Kansas Art Foundation's first Executive Director, discussed the mission and operations of the Kansas Arts Foundation. Karen said the purpose is to work in partnership with the Kansas Creative Arts Commission, which replaced the Kansas Arts Commission and the Kansas Film Commission and is a sub-unit of the Kansas Department of Commerce, to support the arts in Kansas by providing funding through grants. The purpose of the foundation is to serve as a non-profit fund-raising unit. It currently has very little money, but does have a small grants program. Thus far the largest grant has been \$3,000. Grants are offered through two mechanisms, "distributive grants" and "foundation grants." Distributive grants are lump-sum grants to other arts agencies, which then distribute the funds through their own grants processes. This might be a possible future source for the City of Lawrence/LCAC to target for flow-through grants to expand the Lawrence Community Arts Grants program. Foundation grants are distributed specifically in seven "grant regions," (Lawrence is in grant region 3), with equal amounts of funding available to each of the seven regions. Karen said this is intended to ensure all regions of the state have equal access to funding from the foundation. At this point, the funding is available to entities, not to individual artists, but Karen said she will be working with the board of directors to refine both the granting process and the fund-raising process. She said the donors tapped so far do not cross boundaries with those with which she is familiar after 19 years of working for the Lied Center of Kansas and partnering with other regional arts organizations. She urged the Roundtable members, most of whom represent arts venues or organizations that formerly tapped into KHC funding, to visit the website at <http://www.kansasartsfoundation.com> and keep an eye on developments.

Lawrence Arts Center Liaison: Patrick Kelly was absent.

Cultural District Task Force: (The charge is posted at <http://www2.lawrenceks.org/boards/cultural-district-task-force>, the resolution is at <https://www.lawrenceks.org/assets/boards/cdtf/Res7021.pdf>.) Members Mandy Enfield and Grace Peterson reported on the last two meetings. Mandy reported the meeting began with a surprise presentation by Treanor Architects of drawings of how the district might look. As presented, it seems that Treanor Architects made an offer to provide drawings gratis and Susan Tate brought them to the meeting to present the drawings. Mandy said Task Force members felt a little blind-sided, since there had not been discussion of seeking out an architect to do drawings, and that members felt this was premature in the process, although visuals might be helpful in communicating the Task Force's recommendations once those are finalized. In a subsequent meeting of the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association (ELNA), neighborhood members voted to recommend that the Cultural District Task Force not use Treanor Architects to create drawings of plans for the cultural district. ELNA members felt like they would prefer not to work with Treanor Architects because of trust issues related to historic preservation in past East Lawrence projects that Treanor Architects was involved with.

Mandy also reported that there are exciting trail and walkability multi-model activities going on. The task force agreed that trails are positive and open up connectivity that will contribute to quality of life. Long-term plans might include a pedestrian bridge across the Kaw, maybe in conjunction with running a water line suspended under a pedestrian bridge.

Grace said she reported on artists' colonies in Paducah, KY at the meeting she attended, but then discussion of whether or not to work with Treanor Architects to produce architectural drawings took most of that meeting. The next meeting is Thursday Oct. 17th at 4:30 p.m.

Commissioner Items: No commissioners brought additional items before the LCAC.

Staff Liaison: No Staff Liaison items were presented.

Chair Items: Vice Chair Grace Peterson reported that the City of Olathe's Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition offers \$1,500 to artists to exhibit their sculptures for one year, and out of those selected for exhibition, the city buys a piece for permanent exhibit.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.