

BCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2024

3:00-5:00 pm

BCA Studios, 135 Church Street

Advisory Board of Directors Voting Members: Lori Rowe(absent), Lisa Lillibridge(absent), Billi Gosh, Laura McDonough(absent), Bryan Parmelee, Patrick Shank, Robin Pierce, Deb Wilkinson, Parker Silver(absent), Sarah Rogers(absent), Livia DeMarchis (absent), Michelle Buswell, Kristina Pentek(absent)

Honorary non-voting board members present: Rachel Kahn-Fogel, Barbara Perry

Staff present: Doreen Kraft, John Flanagan, Melissa Steady, Heather Ferrell, Sara Katz, Meara McGinniss, Elena Rosen

3:09- Billi Gosh called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of agenda and minutes were postponed until a quorum were present.

2. No public were present.

4. **Public Art Update**-Patrick Shank and Colin Storrs

- A lot is happening in public art! Artist Pheobe Lo completed her mural at the airport near security.
- *Embrace and Belonging* by Aiqiu Hopen and Chen Hopen, Humanity Memorial Inc is scheduled to open next Wednesday 11am. The BCA Board is invited to attend this unveiling! The sculpture, which meant to be permanent, will be installed across from Integrated Arts Academy in the Old North End. The mayor will be dedicating the sculpture.
- The Great Streets/Main Street projects, which will installed in 2026, include four pieces from Union to Pine, which was not the original scope of the project.
- Selection process for City Place is final and the works are scheduled to install in Fall of 2026. City Place was put out in 2018 and four projects were commissioned. The construction project was then put on hold, with only *Bird and Cattails*, located on Saint Paul Street executed. When the project restarted, we created two tracks, one just for the already selected projects, the other track targeted artists who do not have traditional access to public art processes. The final projects selected are: *Forest Stories*, a sculptural tree made of discarded books from the Fletcher Free Library; artist Chris Kojar is doing a multi-media installation that celebrates queer culture in Burlington in the 1980s and 90s. Rachel Kahn-Fogel asked about the materials used in *Forest Stories* and weatherproofing. Colin addressed these concerns. These projects are funded via TIFF, outside of the percent for public art capital funds.

- The next project on the horizon is the Shelburne Street roundabout, a foundation is in place ready for a sculpture. Funding from soil mitigation grants will augment the 1% for Public Art Funding. The final piece will have to be tall and thin to maintain sightlines for safety purposes. There will be a community engagement process including neighbors and city councilors.
- Another upcoming capital project that will have a public art component is the new terminal at airport, the projects will be selected in 18mos-2yrs. Project is \$34 million, meaning the artwork will have \$340 budget.
- VT Academy of Arts and Sciences would like to gift the city a recreation of a Greek ruin that will be large, marble, and placed somewhere along the waterfront. Need to work with Parks and Rec to see if it is feasible. This is the first time a gift of public art has been proposed since the Public Art guidelines were finalized—it will need to be approved by the public art committee, the BCA Advisory Board and City Council.
- *Kiss*, the Kate Pond piece at the Fletcher Free Library was restored; it had gotten moisture underneath the foundation after 42 years.
- The public art conservator from the state is scheduled to assess the restoration possibilities and cost for Sky Gate, a John Anderson piece at the Burlington Airport.

3. Mayor Emma Mulvaney-Stanak introduced herself, board and staff members introduced themselves to the Mayor. The Mayor discussed her background and some of her priorities as Mayor including building community, right sizing the budget, affordability for residents, and understanding the forthcoming efficiency study.

4. **Budget Presentation**-Doreen Kraft

- Doreen gave an overview of BCA's history and how accessibility is at the core of its mission. We are always driving toward greater inclusivity and looking for ways to expand the "big tent" of the arts. Historically BCA has maintained 40% reliance on the general fund, fundraising the other 60% of the budget. During the pandemic, that changed for several reasons including increased involvement in city-wide initiatives and an increase in employee benefits. In 2023, more than 590 learners benefitted from our scholarship fund. City partnerships are key to BCA's continued success—those partnerships have deepened over the last five years, especially in BCA's events division. Artists are critical for this organization, a lot of our funding and support goes directly to artists. They teach, make context and connection—bringing the community together. People cite these as reasons they want to be in Burlington—the arts are part of what makes this place so livable. BCA's work plan in FY25 is larger than FY24 and includes continuing to deliver a diversity of programs that are accessible to the whole community, while implementing higher fees and reducing costs.
- Sara Katz gave a brief financial summary: salaries and benefits go up every year, as those expenses go up if we are not able to raise revenues that the overall dependence on the General Fund goes up. Biggest change is in events—starting with Highlight in 2018 there has been a reliance on one-time money. Many of these grants and funding sources are sun setting this year.
- On the revenue side, the Eclipse was obviously a one-time event, so that line will look much different in FY25. Because of a planned project at UVM MC, art sales will be high this year. Fee increases result in a \$200K difference from FY24 to FY25. The new administration was under a

great deal of pressure to balance the budget. Careful messaging will go out to our community about our scholarship program in the face of increased fees for camps, studio access, and rentals, making sure that all those opportunities are available and accessible. In the face of these changes, the scholarship fund will need to increase. The total impact of BCA on the general fund will be reduced by \$255K in FY25.

5. Patrick Shank made a motion to accept FY25 budget as presented. Deb Wilkinson seconded it and all were in favor.

6. Lori Rowe made a motion to accept the May minutes and agenda, seconded by Michelle Buswell. All were in favor.

7. Fundraising totals-Elena Rosen

The BCA fundraising team has gotten to 92% of our FY24 our goal. Despite changes in turn over in the Development Director role and challenges in the business community that have affected corporate fundraising, the team is feeling optimistic about reaching our goal. The category mostly affected by understaffing is Major Gifts. Thank you to the board for 100% giving!

8. Raised Revenue- Michelle Buswell

Michelle gave an update on a raised revenue brainstorm that several board members participated in. Some ideas included selling BCA merchandise, rounding up when other sales are made, having vendors at the BTV Market offer a round up option on their sales. Deb Wilkinson offered an idea about involving the studio members at 405 in a tent or seconds sale.

9. Director's Report-Doreen Kraft

This report included an overview of a proposed mini-reorganization of staff that will impact the Development Team. Further re-organization and classification changes may be affected by the forthcoming efficiency study results. Increasing fundraising is incredibly important in the face of the financial realities of the next few years. Sara Katz explained that there is a feeling that a 40% reliance on the general fund is ideal for both donor and city relationships. The preference for going forward is greater revenue, rather than cutting back programs or staff.

10. A short discussion of the Community Fund Grants program was had. A list of the winners will be sent out to the board via press release.

11. Patrick Shank made a motion to adjourn at 4:54. This was seconded by Michelle Buswell and all were in favor.