**Board Members Present:**

Claudia Baker

Anne Boccuzzi

Ann Carey, Vice Chair

Dave Engdahl

Bill Ferry

Charlie Joseph, Chair

Kemal Gasper

Rebecca Ryan-Gonzalez

Tayloe McDonald

JaMario Stills

Penny Thompson

Scott Wooten

**Board Members Absent:**

Mac Bracewell (e)

Jackie Cornelius (e)

Franklin Danley (e)

Kevin Holzendorf (u)

**Staff Present:**

Ryan Ali

Tony Allegretti

Patrick Fisher

Christie Holecheck

**Guests Present:**

Senator Tony Hill, James Weldon Johnson International Birthday Celebration

**Guest Speaker**

Senator Tony Hill spoke to the Board about the James Weldon Johnson International Birthday Celebration, scheduled for Saturday, June 17 at the Ritz Theatre and Museum. The Cultural Council is serving as a sponsor of this event. Senator Hill also spoke to the activation of Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing Park and the work being conducted to establish it as a national park.

**Call to Order**

Charlie Joseph, the Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Scott Wooten proposed several modifications to April’s minutes and he discussed the proposed changes with the Board.

**UPON MOTION** duly made, seconded and carried, the minutes from the April 13, 2017 Board meeting were approved with the requested revisions.

**Executive Director’s Report**

Tony Allegretti provided an update on the ordinance changes related to Art in Public Places and the Cultural Service Grant Program. Mr. Allegretti informed the Board how the changes impacted the number of Board members that could serve on the panel.

Mr. Allegretti reported on the Cultural Service Internships and the timeline for the initiative, which starts next week with a student orientation hosted by Career Source. Mr. Allegretti has been working with program liaisons to assign students to CSGP funded organizations.

Mr. Allegretti next advised the Board on the Lift Every Student initiative, which is a partnership between the Cultural Council and Any Given Child Jacksonville. He also briefed the Board on State of the Arts, the Cultural Council’s luncheon annual report. Lily Yeh will be the keynote speaker for the luncheon, which is scheduled for August 30, 2017. In addition, Mr. Allegretti informed the Board that Patrick Fisher recently attended Figment in NYC and that the Cultural Council is partnering with MOSH to bring the event to Jacksonville in 2018.

Further, Mr. Allegretti reported that several Cultural Council staff members would be traveling to San Francisco to attend that Americans for the Arts annual conference. Mr. Allegretti will serve on a panel during the conference. He reiterated that PNC’s investment in Jacksonville occurred as a result of Ryan Ali meeting with PNC at a previous Americans for the Arts conference. The Board asked a variety of questions, including how many staff members are traveling to the program, the cost of attending the program, whether the costs are budgeted and the goals of attending it. Mr. Allegretti responded to the questions and the Board supported the approach.

Also, Mr. Allegretti commended the efforts of current interns that are working with Cultural Council staff members. He indicated that interns have helped increase staff’s capacity. Mr. Allegretti next expressed some of the challenges with predicting budgets at a City and State level. Mr. Allegretti informed the Board that the Cultural Council’s State budget is down approximately $38,000 from last year. Mr. Allegretti closed by speaking to advocacy efforts of the Cultural Council and the growth of the Creative Economy and its impact at large.

The Board also asked Mr. Allegretti what the cost was for the Cultural Council to help fund Cultural Fusion. Mr. Allegretti responded by saying the Cultural Council provides $10,000 in support and other organizations in the community provide additional support. The Board asked for additional information about Cultural Fusion at an upcoming Board meeting and Mr. Allegreti indicated that he would help arrange for that to occur.

**Committee Reports**

***Finance***

Mr. Wooten stated that the June Finance Committee meeting did not have a quorum. Mr. Wooten sent a written request of a report in lieu of the June meeting. Mr. Wooten has spoken with each Committee Member in preparation for the August meeting to confirm a quorum. Mr. Wooten asked Mr. Allegretti to speak to the April and May finances. Mr. Allegretti indicated that a snapshot of the finances would be discussed during the Old Business portion of the meeting.

The Board inquired why it had not yet received information pertaining to the April and May budget. Mr. Allegretti stated that Cedric Lewis was working to provide that information but that staff is behind on providing it due to heavy workloads.

Ms. Carey expressed a desire to better understand the CCGJ’s finances. As incoming Board Chair, Ms. Carey requested a meeting with Mr. Allegretti, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Wooten to discuss financial reporting to the Board. Ms. Carey stated that as a Board member she has the expectation that Board members are provided with up-to-date month end reporting so that the Board can have a complete picture of operations. Other Board members shared Ms. Carey’s views.

Ms. Carey also spoke to the lack of quorum present at the Finance Committee and stated that Board engagement is a commitment that should not be taken lightly.

Ms. Baker encouraged every Board member to attend Finance Committee meetings in order to have a better understanding of the operations of the Cultural Council. She opined that service on the Finance Committee should be considered when making determinations about Board leadership positions. Ms. Baker also encouraged rotation through Committees by Board members. Mr. Wooten indicated that any staff hiring related to finance should be dependent upon an interview with the Finance Committee Chair.

Mr. Joseph asked that better communication be implemented to indicate when Committees are meeting and he reaffirmed what is expected of Committee members. Likewise, he stressed that Committee members need to let Committee Chairs know when they are not able to attend. Mr. Wooten indicated that the Senior Staff member should also have a strong relationship with the Committees.

Mr. Allegretti stated that Mr. Lewis is available to address any questions Board members may have about finances. The Board also expressed a desire for further education about the CCGJ’s financial reporting approach and Mr. Allegretti stated that he would arrange for that to occur shortly.

***Art in Public Places***

Christie Holechek advised that the current APP collection consists of 93 pieces. Mr. Holechek said that the collection should grow by an additional six pieces after the completion of DIA Urban Arts Project Phase 2.

Ms. Holechek discussed the development of a project performance schedule. This is being implemented with the Water Street Parking Garage project. A previous concern related to this project was the condition of the garage’s exterior. Ms. Holechek commended the City of Jacksonville for taking the imitative to pressure wash the structure’s exterior.

Ms. Holechek also reported on the Cuba Hunter Park project and how it is the first community-initiated project posed to strengthen community identity. She indicated that the Winton Drive project is APP’s introduction to northwest Jacksonville neighborhoods. The project has the support of Council Member Reggie Brown.

In addition, Ms. Holechek said there is a lot of work occurring behind the scenes to identify best practices as it relates to artists’ rights. Staff is also doing a deep dive into conservation and maintenance to understand the current state of the pieces in the APP collection and what is necessary to bring them back to their original state.

Also, Ms. Holechek informed the Board that the Committee and staff are working to solidify a gifts process, through which private donations of art can be given to the City and then be exhibited in public space. She stated that the Committee is working to fill a community member seat on the Committee. Jackie Cornelius will be joining the Committee to fill a Board seat, which previously was held by David Engdahl.

Ms. Carey asked if a maintenance budget is being set aside when a piece of art is donated to the City. Ms. Holechek said that the Committee is advocating for a percentage of money be set aside by the donor to cover maintenance and conservation for gifts.

Ms. Baker spoke to the need for a curator’s eye as it relates to growing the City’s collection. Ms. Holechek responded to this by sharing information related to the current talent on the Committee. Ms. Holechek also used this as an opportunity to speak to the importance of a Visual Arts Master Plan.

Ms. Baker requested that as APP studies artists’ rights and contracts that they bring in artists to acquire their feedback and input. Ms. Holechek informed the Board that she is working directly with artist and lawyer Deborah Reid, the Office of General Counsel, and Kate Rowe, as they review contracts and artists’ rights.

***Cultural Service Grants***

Mr. Allegretti indicated that he had nothing additional to report outside of his Executive Director’s report. Ms. McDonald requested a list of all panel candidates be emailed to the Governance Committee for review.

***Development***

Mr. Allegretti spoke briefly on the Board dues and give-or-get policy. Mr. Allegretti indicated that purchasing tickets to the Arts Awards, or any transaction in which an organization or individual is getting something of value in exchange for their money, is not something that can be applied towards dues.

Mr. Wooten said that he thought that as a Board they agreed to remove the expectations of Board dues. Mr. Joseph said he had no recollection of the Board taking that stance. Ms. Carey said that she remembers a discussion around the term “dues,” but never removing the expectation that dues are required from Board members.

Rebecca Ryan-Gonzalez said that the Development Committee is visiting the policy around Board dues/contributions.

After further discussion, Mr. Joseph summarized the following proposed policy:

1. Board members are committed to a $1,000 annual contribution.
2. It is a give-or-get approach, meaning Board members can make the contribution personally or get it from other sources.
3. If a Board employer or foundation gives a donation to the Cultural Council that exceeds $1,000, that organization or foundation has the option to have $1,000 of their contribution applied to a Board member’s dues, but it must be stated through the proper channels in advance of the donation.
4. When a Board member purchases something for value (e.g., a ticket to the annual gala), that does not count towards his or her $1,000 commitment.
5. Special economic circumstances can be considered if addressed through proper channels, specifically the Board Chair and the Executive Director.

The Board agreed with the policy.

***Governance***

Ms. Carey informed the Board that there are three candidates with strong financial backgrounds to potentially fill an upcoming Board vacancy. Ms. Carey is working to schedule interviews with the candidates and will provide a proposed slate of nominees at the next meeting, which the Board as a whole will then vote on.

***Strategic Task Force***

David Engdahl provided an update on the Strategic Task Force. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 12. Mr. Engdahl informed the group that the Strategic Task Force has embarked on defining goals under key strategies. The intention is to present the Strategic Plan during August’s Board meeting or shortly thereafter.

**New Business**

None

**Old Business**

***41st Annual Arts Awards***

Ms. Ryan-Gonzalez and Mr. Ali provided a snapshot of the Arts Awards, which included a sold out event with over 600 attendees, a substantial reduction in costs, and an increase in revenue by 10% and a 72% increase in profitability.

Mr. Joseph commended Ms. Ryan-Gonzalez and Mr. Ali on their leadership and the outstanding result.

**Closing**

**UPON MOTION** duly made, seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.