**Board Members Present:**

Claudia Baker

Anne Boccuzzi

Mac Bracewell

Ann Carey, Vice Chair

Dave Engdahl

Kemal Gasper

Charlie Joseph, Chair

JaMario Stills

Penny Thompson

Scott Wooten

**Board Members Absent:**

Franklin Danley

Jackie Cornelius

Bill Ferry

Kevin Holzendorf

Tayloe McDonald

Rebecca Ryan-Gonzalez

**Staff Present:**

Ryan Ali

Tony Allegretti

Patrick Fisher

Christie Holecheck

Cedric Lewis

Mason Martin

Amy Palmer

Ashley Sedghi-Koi

**Guests Present:**

Christina Parrish, Art in Public Places Committee Chair

**Call to Order**

Charlie Joseph, the Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Scott Wootten requested that a modification be made to the minutes from the February 9th Board meeting. The requested changes relate to the Finance Committee report (page 3). Mr. Wooten stated that the discrepancy was not discovered by the Finance Committee but instead was discovered by Cultural Council staff.

**UPON MOTION** duly made, seconded and carried, the minutes from the February 9, 2016 Board meeting were approved with the requested revisions.

**Executive Director’s Report**

Tony Allegretti reported on City of Jacksonville Ordinance changes related to the Cultural Service Grant Program. Mr. Allegretti informed the Board that proposed changes have already been presented to the Rules Committee, who applauded the recommended changes and filed the proposed changes on behalf of the Cultural Council.

Mr. Allegretti highlighted the success of Public Art Week. He briefly elaborated on Phase One of the DIA Urban Arts Project and Art in Public Places’ partnership with JTA and other stakeholders.

Mr. Allegretti informed the Board that throughout the next two weeks he will meet with each Cultural Service Grantee to discuss diversity and how it relates to grant eligibility.

Mr. Allegretti updated the Board on the Cultural Service Internship Program. The Cultural Council has officially partnered with the Mayor’s Summer Jobs Program. 50 paid internship positions will be available to students of Young Men’s Leadership Academy and Young Women’s Leadership Academy. Mr. Allegretti stated that this is part of a multi-pronged approach to embed the arts and culture into Eugene Butler Middle School. Mr. Allegretti stated that in underserved low-income school districts the dropout rate is approximately 22%. However, if the arts are integrated into those schools then the dropout rate drastically improves to 4%. The program is being modeled after best practices outlined by the Smithsonian Institution.

The Board and Mr. Allegretti held a discussion about infrastructure and how the Board can be supportive of this program. The Board also inquired about time commitments of Staff, specifically Mr. Allegretti himself. Mr. Allegretti indicated that he believes he can effectively manage the time commitments. Mr. Allegretti highlighted that Rosemary Thornton would be contracted as a summer liaison for the program using funds acquired from Florida Blue.

Claudia Baker questioned whether it was within the Cultural Council’s capacity and covered by the Cultural Council’s mission to take on programs that feed the arts into Duval County Public Schools.

Mr. Allegretti briefly informed the Board on the Americans for the Arts 2017 Awards and that the Cultural Council nominated Christie Holechek, the Director of Art in Public Places, for a 2017 award. Americans for the Arts also invited Mr. Allegretti to lead a discussion at the annual conference. The topic of the discussion will center around urban arts. The conference will be held in San Francisco in June 2017.

Mr. Allegretti has also been selected to serve on the National Endowment for the Arts grant panel for 2017-2018 fiscal year.

**Cultural Equity Commitment**

Mr. Allegretti revisited the previously proposed Cultural Equity Statement. A number of Cultural Council programs, recommended best practices, and eligibility requirements are in support of this statement.

JaMario Stills said that the statement is the first step, but that a statement cannot feel like an obligatory add. He opined that the message needs to include why cultural equity is good for the community at large. It cannot be just about best practices.

Mr. Wooten suggested that the Cultural Council add Cultural Equity as one of the organization’s values. David Engdahl suggested that it be a statement that the organization not only adopt but also have the statement woven into the organization’s values.

**UPON MOTION** duly made, seconded and carried, the cultural equity statement was approved.

The Cultural Equity Statement will be distributed to all Cultural Service Grantees. The Cultural Council will recommend that each organization adopt a similar statement.

**Committee Reports**

***Finance***

Mr. Wooten stated that the committee met on April 6, 2017 and it was a non-quorum meeting. There was a previous discrepancy regarding the proposed budget and the actual budget. It was reported that the financial statements had been re-stated to reflect accrual accounting for CSG disbursements, subsequent to the April 6 Finance Committee meeting. Management has reported that the Cultural Council is reporting on budget through February. The Finance Committee has requested clarification of bank signers for the VyStar account, and also for an update on all bank account reconsolidations.

During the April 6 committee meeting a discussion occurred regarding Art in Public Places and DIA. The Committee would like some validation from the City of Jacksonville that the City has money owed or committed to Art in Public Places.

Time during the Committee meeting did not allow for the Finance Committee to discuss an amended budget for the current fiscal year. Several Board members shared a mindset that a budget is a budget and recommended not amending the current fiscal year’s budget but to maintain the previously voted upon budget.

***Art in Public Places***

Christina Parrish provided the APP Committee report. Ms. Parrish congratulated Cultural Council staff on a successful Public Art Week. Ms. Parrish stated that attendance of the Committee meetings has increased substantially and, because of that, meetings are now being held at the Don Davis room at City Hall. Ms. Parrish informed the Board that Committee members are also exhibiting a higher level of engagement in processes and procedures at all stages of a project.

Ms. Parrish updated the group about a previously vacant Arts Professional seat on the Committee. The Committee recommended Aaron Garvey for the vacant seat. Mr. Garvey will be referred to the Mayor’s Office for approval.

Ms. Parrish provided an update on projects that remain to be completed as part of Phase One of the DIA Urban Arts Project. Ms. Parrish is also involved with Leadership Jacksonville and she informed the Board that attending a public art tour was made a requirement for all individuals involved with that group.

Ms. Parrish outlined some of the upcoming milestones related to Phase Two of the DIA Urban Arts Project, which will occur in the Elbow District. Ms. Parrish did the same for the upcoming Courthouse project.

Ms. Parrish also highlighted the diversity of the Committee, including race, sex, and economics.

Mr. Stills thanked Ms. Parrish for her leadership and how she handled transitioning to the Chair position.

Ms. Holechek provided an update regarding neighborhood projects in presently underserved neighborhoods. She also informed the Board of some of the archiving efforts being conducted.

***Governance***

Ann Carey informed the Board that the makeup of the Governance Committee has changed because Ms. Baker transitioned to the Finance Committee. Ms. Carey also informed the group that Mr. Wooten and Franklin Danley will be stepping down from the Board at the conclusion of the current fiscal year. The Board will recruit an individual with a strong background in finance to serve on the Finance Committee and Board of Directors. Ms. Carey asked for recommendations and indicated that the Non Profit Center will also serve as a resource for recruitment.

Mr. Joseph asked for Ms. Carey to compose a list of qualifications that the ideal candidate would possess.

Ms. Carey also brought up the topic of engagement and absences, specifically unexcused absences.

***Cultural Service Grants***

Frank Watson will return to the Cultural Service Grants Committee as a community member. He participated last year as a Board member. The first panel meeting is in June and there are two vacant Board positions that need filled prior to then.

***Development***

Mac Bracewell provided a report for the Development Committee. The Committee has focused its attentions on Board fundraising and engagement. The committee is developing a proposal that would lead to opportunities for Board members to fundraise on behalf of the Cultural Council.

Mr. Bracewell indicated that as of today only one Board member has paid their dues. He is going to lead by example and pay his dues today. It was requested by the Board that an email be sent out from staff requesting that each member pay their dues.

Mr. Bracewell also provided an update regarding the Arts Awards. He celebrated Ryan Ali for meeting sponsorship goals. He informed the Board that only 86 tickets remain available.

***Strategic Task Force***

Mr. Engdahl provided an update regarding the first Strategic Task Force. The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 17. The Strategic Task Force will address revising the Cultural Council’s mission, values, and core strategies. The Board will be presented with recommendations in July 2017.

**New Business**

***Advocacy***

Mr. Allegretti informed the Board that the Cultural Council has requested a larger budget from the City of Jacksonville for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Mr. Allegretti is optimistic that the budget will be increased due to issues being resolved regarding the City’s pension funds.

***Dan Davis***

Ms. Baker asked the Board to donate money to an ailing artist in the hospital, Dan Davis. She is raising funds to donate to his family on behalf of the Cultural Council Board and Staff.

**Old Business**

 ***Dana Brown***

Mr. Allegretti provided a brief update regarding Dana Brown’s employment discrepancy.

***CSG Visits***

Board members will be visiting with each Cultural Service Grantee to build relationships and meet with the organization’s Directors.

**Closing**

**UPON MOTION** duly made, seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.