



**Reno Arts & Culture Commission  
Plan 2020 Ad Hoc Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**May 9, 2019, 3:00 pm.**

**Place: McKinley Arts & Culture Center Boardroom  
925 Riverside Dr., Reno, NV 89503**

<b>Commission Members</b>
Sharon Honig-Bear, Chair
YeVonne Allen
Doug Erwin
Lisa Genasci
Geralda Miller
Nettie Oliverio
Melanie Rudnick

---

**AGENDA**

**1. Called to order by:** Sharon Honig-Bear at 3:01 pm

**2. Present:** Sharon Honig-Bear, Chair; YeVonne Allen, Lisa Genasci (arrived at 3:15 pm), Geralda Miller, Melanie Rudnick.

**Absent:** Doug Erwin, Nettie Oliverio.

**Also Present:** Megan Berner, Public Art Program Coordinator.

**3. Public Comment**

Geralda Miller states there was discussion at the previous RACC meeting concerning the Sierra Arts Foundation and their presentation. It brought up the process of legacy. The funding they asked for went to education, which Miller believes should have been a grant.

Sharon Honig-Bear states she would like to discuss expanding the size of the Committee. This is something that can be on the next agenda.

**4. Approval of Minutes – March 26, 2019.**

No minutes to approve.

## **5. Approval of the Agenda – May 9, 2019**

Geralda Miller makes a motion, seconded by YeVonne Allen. All in favor 4, 1 absent, motion passes.

## **6. Discussion and possible recommendations to the RACC on the grants and sponsorship process.**

Berner recommends keeping the Grants Committee at a smaller number, as a larger Committee means making decisions becomes harder.

Honig-Bear states going back to Miller's point about education and grants, perhaps they should start with item 2 (structure of grants).

Honig-Bear brings up the idea of legacy; for organizations to be around for five years and then perhaps taking a break. There are also 'entitlements' – when an organization expects funding year after year.

Miller states the entitlements right now include:

- Artown (\$15,000)
- Art Fest (\$10,000)
- Sierra Arts Foundation (\$10,000)

Sharon Honig-Bear recommends that they dissolve the entitlement program to the RACC.

Geralda Miller makes a motion to recommend to the RACC to dissolve the entitlement program, seconded by YeVonne Allen.

### **Discussion**

Berner states that the Commission put a line item in their budget for Sierra Arts a long time ago and it was never re-evaluated.

Miller states that she recently talked to Christine Fey about this subject and the original intent with Sierra Arts was to fund artists.

YeVonne Allen makes an amendment to the motion.

Geralda Miller makes an amended motion for Plan 2020 Ad Hoc Committee recommendation to eliminate the RACC budget line items for specific organizations that could otherwise go through the grants process, seconded by YeVonne Allen. All in favor, motion passes.

Miller asks what percentage of the total budget goes into Artown.

Berner replies there are fourteen events that they have funded, seven of them happen in July.

Allen states there needs to be better understanding that the purpose of the art access grant is to engage underrepresented populations in arts.

Miller suggests starting with the macro and then move to the micro in the discussion of grants.

Honig-Bear states the creation grant was not funded, but rolled the money into the Light Festival. It needs a better definition. It is her recommendation to keep the creation category.

Allen states projects that are their concern include access, creation and youth specific.

Berner states they need more specific guidelines on what they want in the creation category.

One issue is that adding another category means that it will need additional funding.

It is possible for the next year to have three different applications.

Rudnick summarizes: they have a project grant for art access and youth arts, which is in the project category. Then a separate category for creation award (or grant/project/to be decided) and a third category for events.

These will be the three macro categories.

Rudnick states that perhaps there needs to be training for the organizations to become self-sustainable.

Berner states that some of the organizations are more interested in the partnership with the City. Perhaps there should be a sponsorship or partnership category.

Allen suggests the Commission decides the partnerships, but they can suggest a max.

Honig-Bear summarizes: they can make a recommendation for a partnership/sponsorship category, removing certain legacy organizations from the competitive process to a low set amount to keep that partnership. It is recommended that they apply, but with a smaller application.

Berner states they probably cannot give these organizations a small amount of funding without offending them. They shouldn't penalize them and make them feel as though they are not valued.

Allen states that once they get to discussing the micro aspects of the grants, perhaps they can make the partnerships a category and give it more weight. An example is if the Philharmonic partnered with the Noteables.

Partnering big and little organizations.

Rudnick adds they should also incorporate training; make it clear that this is what 'collaborative' means.

Honig-Bear clarifies all event grants have to be free, and they only require a 10% match. Whereas the project grants is a one-to-one match.

Miller states that organizations need to learn what percent of their grant should go towards administration.

Berner suggests teaching a grant writing workshop.

Lisa Genasci replies she would be happy to do so.

Berner states there is a need for more training on what DEI means.

While ethnicity and race is a focus there are other aspects of DEI like how do people get to events, is it accessible for someone who is hearing or sight impaired, or low income.

Genasci asks is there a way to emphasize that they encourage collaboration between organizations and when there is training they can talk more about collaboration. At some point they can add collaboration grants.

Honig-Bear suggests bringing together organizations in a fun way; a breakfast, or some other kind of get-together.

Miller adds they can put two orgs together and pose the question 'what can you come up with in five minutes' with the theme of diversity.

Honig-Bear summarizes stating with the collaboration subject is not make it a separate category this year, and to have some indication and scoring extra points if organizations were actually collaborating. In the future they can look at having a category.

Rudnick states they can look into non-traditional organizations, an example being baseball.

Honig-Bear suggests as they are running out of time the conversation of 'micro' continues at the next meeting.

Genasci summarizes topics for the next meeting as: looking at partner support, bringing suggestions/recommendations on the grants themselves, the process, what checkmarks they would like to see and the application process.

## **7. General Public Comment.**

Geralda Miller states there is a vacancy within the Reno Arts & Culture Commission they are looking to fill.

## **8. Adjournment.**

Geralda Miller makes a motion, seconded by Lisa Genasci. All in favor, motion passes.

Meeting ends at 4:50 pm.

DRAFT