

FAA Board meeting minutes
Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 5:15 p.m.
Film Co-op Board Room
Charlotte Street Arts Centre

Present: Allen Bentley, Sabine Campbell, Katie FitzRandolph, Will Forrestall, Russ Hunt, Krishna Khaitan, Kitty Maurey, Tony Merzetti, Penny Pacey, George Strunz

Absent: Heather McTiernan

1. **Call to order** by Katie at 5:19

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

Approval was **moved** by Sabine, **seconded** by Will, and **carried**.

3. **Minutes of April 4 board meeting**

Approval was **moved** by Russ, **seconded** by Allen, and **carried**.

4. **Treasurer's report**

Tony summarized the circulated [statement](#), as well as [the current cheque register](#) and [forecast](#). He said the bottom line is that we're okay; there's \$17,000 that isn't yet committed for anything, and further grants are, as usual, expected. He noted that with the move to an interest bearing account we received \$7.89 in interest, but this is offset by service charges of \$3.95, so there would be an annual gain of about \$9. After some discussion of what the uncommitted funds might support, Tony **moved** acceptance of the report, Krishna **seconded**, and the motion **carried**.

5. **President's report**

Katie said there wasn't much to add to the [report](#) as circulated in advance of the rescheduled May 2 meeting, but proposed we discuss the issues raised in the report.

a. *Art off the Streets*. She said we should clarify the status of programs. She asked about the potential woodworking program. Sabine still hasn't heard for sure from Bob Scott, but will pursue it. Will wondered about the status of the drawing program; he's the fallback, but would still like to pursue Stephen Scott. He wondered about the time frame; Katie said that really that's all to be negotiated with Warren, who makes decisions in light of the current clientele. Sabine said we need to move fairly quickly on this. The budget was discussed at some length, as was the issue of how much specific planning we should, or can, do, since so much depends on who the clientele turn out to be and who we wind up finding to work with them. Will said he would pursue the drawing project and be in touch with Warren.

b. *Art in the Schools, Canada 150*.

This is mainly, now, a matter of getting organized to be ready to offer programs in the fall. Will said he'd be working on that.

c. *Summer Students*.

Since she wrote the report, Katie said she's learned we have eight weeks' worth of funding for the summer events coordinator; she didn't know how long the SEED grants would be for; they vary from student to student. There was some discussion of the timing of the hiring process, and it was

agreed that the SEED grant positions need to be decided pretty much immediately, as the grants to students expire. Katie said we had two or three SEED applications in, at least (it's not always clear if the applicants have a SEED grant). After some discussion it was decided that Katie, Kitty, Krishna and Russ would be an *ad hoc* committee to read the applications (likely tonight and tomorrow morning) and prioritize them for interviews, to be conducted by at least Katie and Russ. Katie said she'd circulate the application emails. The Summer Student grants really can't be decided until after Friday, she said, because that was the deadline for applications – but they will need to be done ASAP after Friday. We don't want to be in the position we found ourselves in last year, being too late to contact the best applicants.

d. *Artists in Residence.*

Applications are coming in; we're going to need to arrange for a jury to assess them.

Katie said that constituted the President's Report, and **moved** acceptance; Will **seconded**, and the motion **carried**.

As they had been discussed in connection with the President's report, items 6-9 on the circulated agenda were determined to have been dealt with.

10. Gala 2018

Sabine said that she could confirm that the main entertainment this year will be the Jazz Collective, and that everything else is proceeding satisfactorily. Diane Roxborough has said she doesn't want to do it this year, so we're looking for someone to provide background while people circulate. Penny suggested a guitarist who sometimes works at Shannex; Sabine said that sounded good and she would explore it.

11. Other business

a. *CRA ruling on artists*

There was extensive discussion of the CRA's ruling that a sculptor had been denied legitimate expense deductions (for details see [Allen's letter](#), which was circulated in draft form). Krishna explained how the CRA makes these determinations; Kitty talked about some implications; it was agreed this was a terrible precedent. There was some consideration about what our most effective action might be. Tony said that CARFAC, the Canadian Arts Coalition, and other arts organizations are already organizing protests and perhaps legal challenges. It's clear, he said, that there's no precedent for this decision, and that eventually the courts will have to so decide. Will suggested one thing we might do is create a postcard people could sign and send to Matt deCoursey, and distribute them at the Casemates. He volunteered to set that up.

b. *Additional reflection.*

On reflection, Sabine wondered about gender balance for entertainment at the Gala, pointing out that we'll have a male auctioneer and all four members of the Jazz Collective are male. Should that be a concern? It was agreed this was a matter for the Gala committee to discuss.

c. *ARTSnews committee.*

Russ said that the committee had hoped to have a second meeting before this one, and have Bridget in attendance, but this hadn't been possible, and because there seemed to him less urgency about this matter than the student hirings, he'd suggest deferring it to the next meeting. He noted that the committee had conflicting views about urgency: on the one hand, as Heather

had argued, we might want to wait and see what sort of skills a student might have; on the other, as Kitty argued, we wouldn't want to hire a student without having a fairly clear idea about what we might want her to do. He said he was thinking about piloting a very short survey – three questions, the third of which would be, would you be willing to help us by responding to a few more questions – and circulate it to FAA membership (not all the subscribers to the *ARTSnews*), but had not had a chance to discuss that with the committee.

d. *Next meeting.*

Conventionally, it would be June 6, but Katie will be leaving on June 5 for Ireland, and the 6th would be difficult for others. It was agreed that an earlier meeting might be useful, as a number of issues need to be dealt with. The next meeting, accordingly, will be on Wednesday, May 30, at 5:15.

12. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:19.

Russ Hunt
Secretary