



**MORE  
ART.  
CULTURE.**

**CULTURAL COUNCIL  
OF GREATER JACKSONVILLE**

**MINUTES**

**Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville**

**Board Meeting**

**Thursday, January 23, 2025, 4:00 p.m.**

**Location: In-person, 40 E Adams Street, Room 318, Jacksonville, FL 32202; Virtual, Zoom**

**Present:**

Members – Lisa Johnson, Chair; Dr. Timothy Snyder, Vice Chair (virtual); Kevin Craig, Secretary; Ari Jolly, Immediate Past Chair; David Faliszek; Michael Freed; Monica Hernandez; Darrin Eakins; Suzanne Pickett; Heather Schatz (virtual)

Staff – Diana Donovan, Executive Director; Nidhi Every, Development Director; Kristin Livingston, Director of Operations; Milena Ruiz, Director of Marketing; Mary Pat Wallmeyer, Director of Grants Administration; Kat Wright, Director of Public Art

Consultants – Nan Kreamer, CFO; Bill Abare, Auditor

**Absent:**

Members – Joey Greive, Treasurer; Karen Feagins; Chris Lazzara; Dr. Darren Brownlee; Hon. Jimmy Peluso; Hon. Angie Nixon

- A. The Board meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Board Chair Lisa Johnson
- B. A quorum was confirmed. Lisa reminded members of the importance of maintaining a quorum throughout the meeting.
- C. There was no public comment.
- D. MOTION: Board Chair Lisa Johnson moved to approve the consent agenda, which included minutes from the October 17 Board meeting, October 17 Finance Committee meeting, October 14 and December 2 Development Committee meetings, and October 22 Art in Public Places Committee meeting.
  - a. SECOND: Suzanne Pickett
  - b. VOTE: All in favor, motion carried unanimously

- E. Finance Committee Report – Treasurer Joey Greive and Auditor Bill Abare presented the financial and audit report for FY 2023-2024, which highlighted:
  - a. A healthy balance sheet and liquidity
  - b. Strong financial performance
  - c. Significant increase in revenue and expenses due to the COJ contract
  - d. High program costs exceeding benchmarks for nonprofits
  - e. No material weaknesses or significant deficiencies found
  - f. MOTION: Board Chair Lisa Johnson moved to approve the audit report for the fiscal year October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024.
    - i. SECOND: Darrin Eakins
    - ii. VOTE: All in favor, motion carried unanimously
  - g. MOTION: Michael Freed moved to approve the corporate resolution certificate as revised, authorizing Executive Director Diana Donovan to execute grant contracts and related documents between the Cultural Council and City of Jacksonville.
    - i. SECOND: Ari Jolly
    - ii. VOTE: All in favor, motion carried unanimously
  - h. Grants Update – Director of Grants Administration Mary Pat Wallmeyer provided updates on grant programs, including:
    - i. COJ contract has been delayed due to the City of Jacksonville’s grants department transitions and reviews with OGC; contract revision awaiting Mayor’s signature with funding expected within two weeks
    - ii. Q1 & Q2 invoices have been submitted and will be processed upon receipt of funds
    - iii. PNC Grant (\$20,000) application will open before the next board meeting
    - iv. OPERATING Grant execution: 28 contracts executed, 5 pending
    - v. CAPTIAL Grant: open with \$500,000 available
    - vi. Individual Artist Grant: 59 contracts fully executed with \$50,000 in reimbursements processed in January
  - i. Financial Overview – CFO Nan Kreamer
- F. Kat Wright provided an update on the Art in Public Places program, including information about the Roosevelt/Edgewood Underpass project featuring sculptural lighting and mural work.
- G. Chair’s Report - Board Chair Lisa Johnson Welcomed the newest board member, Suzanne Pickett; highlighted recent accomplishments of board members and staff; thanked those who attended the holiday party; and reminded members about board dues.
- H. Development Committee Report - Director Darrin Eakins and Development Director Nidhi Every shared updates, including:
  - a. Arts Awards special meeting updates
  - b. Decision to move 48th Arts Awards to Fall 2025
  - c. 2025 Arts Awards scheduled for September 5 at Florida Blue Conference Center
  - d. \$30,000 title sponsorship from AT&T secured for Arts Awards, thanks to Board Member Kevin Craig
- I. Governance Committee Report - On behalf of Committee Chair Dr. Tim Snyder, Director of Operations Kristin Livingston reminded board members about:
  - a. Ethics training requirements

b. Conflict of interest form submission deadline

- J. Executive Director's Report – Executive Director Diana Donovan shared the organization's new advocacy initiatives, including a calendar created by Bachman Galnor Communications, in preparation for budget season. The advocacy calendar utilizes key messaging to highlight the economic impact of arts funding. Diana emphasized the need for sustained public funding. Diana discussed the workload management of quadrupling grants and high-level public art projects and the need for budget advocacy to ensure sustainable income for enough FTEs to manage the historical high of workload and to ensure staff retention. Diana shared they anticipate a tight budget year and that we will need the board's support in advocacy and fundraising.
- K. The board recognized Director of Marketing Milena Ruiz, who was preparing to move to Portugal, for her contributions to the organization, including:
  - a. Managing two unprecedented advocacy campaigns
  - b. Leading the cultural tourism campaign
  - c. Production of the Cultural Service Grant testimonial video, which was played for the board
- L. Public Art Director Kat Wright shared additional updates on public art projects, including:
  - a. The upcoming first installation of the year: "The Globe" at FIS
  - b. The CPAC public art initiative initiated by Mayor Deegan
  - c. The successful Legends Center dedication attended by board members Lisa Johnson, Karen Feagins, and Ari Jolly
- M. The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2025, from 4-6 p.m.
- N. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.