



MINUTES – PENDING APPROVAL

Board Meeting

April 24, 2025 | 4-6 p.m.

Location: In-Person, 40 E. Adams Street, Room 318, duPont Fund Conference Room,
Jacksonville, FL 32202; Virtual, Zoom

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Chair Lisa Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. and confirmed a quorum was present.

B. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

C. Meeting Overview & Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair Lisa Johnson presented the consent agenda, which included minutes from the following meetings:

- Board meeting on January 23, 2025
- Governance Committee meeting on August 9, 2024
- Art in Public Places Committee meetings on November 13, 2024, February 12, 2025, and March 12, 2025
- Cultural Service Grant Committee meetings on September 18, 2024, October 1, 2024, February 19, 2025, and March 18, 2025

MOTION: Ari Jolly moved to approve the consent agenda.

SECOND: Michael Freed

ACTION: Motion approved unanimously.

Chair Johnson outlined the agenda for today's meeting:

- Three voting items, including CSG Capital and Operating Grant funding for FY 2425 and organization eligibility for FY 2526
- Committee reports from the past quarter
- Updates from Diana Donovan and senior leadership on departmental activities
- 360 organizational review presentation
- Review of upcoming important dates

D. Chair's Report

Chair Lisa Johnson emphasized the importance of board member attendance to ensure quorum and optimal board governance. She reminded members to pay their annual dues and noted that the organization's unprecedented growth requires strategic board support.

E. Finance Committee Report

Ari Jolly reported on behalf of Committee Chair Joey Greive, with support from Nan Kreamer (CFO) and Kristin Livingston (Interim Director of Grants Administration).

Kristin Livingston informed the board about the Ritz Chamber's request to withdraw from the grant program. The iteration model was re-run to reallocate funds, and the CSG committee re-approved the allocation after confirming that remaining organizations could accept additional funds and provide the required matching funds.

MOTION: Chris Lazzara moved to approve the CSG Operating Grant Reallocation for FY2425.

SECOND: Lisa Johnson

ACTION: Motion approved unanimously.

MOTION: Tim Snyder moved to approve the CSG Capital Grant Scores and Funding Allocations for FY2425.

SECOND: Michael Freed

ACTION: Motion approved unanimously.

Kristin Livingston clarified that the next vote was for eligibility only, noting that all applicants were returning organizations and that funds indicated represented eligibility based on budget, not final award amounts.

MOTION: Michael Freed moved to approve the CSG Operating Grant Eligible Organizations for FY2526 Application.

SECOND: Darrin Eakins

ACTION: Motion approved unanimously.

Nan Kreamer provided a financial update, noting that the organization would be participating in the MBRC meeting on June 9th and would resubmit a flat budget (no increase from the current year). The financial report indicated that revenues and expenses were slightly ahead of budget, with a net income of \$136,000 for the first six months.

F. Development Committee Report

Darrin Eakins (Committee Chair) and Diana Donovan (Executive Director) presented the Development Committee report.

Key discussion points included:

- Fundraising plan implementation
- Director of Development search process
- Current donor list enhancement strategies

Chris Lazzara suggested leveraging the recent closure of certain art programs at Jacksonville University to connect with potential arts donors, though Tim Snyder clarified that while significantly reduced, JU still maintains some arts programs.

Chair Johnson requested a presentation of the Arts Awards budget to the Committee. Discussion continued regarding:

- The theme for the Arts Awards: “Fire and Ice”
- Mike Freed’s offer to meet with awardees to help leverage new donor connections
- Chris Lazzara’s pledge of sponsorship
- The open nominations process, with forms to be distributed by Allison Galloway-Gonzalez following the meeting

G. Governance Committee Report

Tim Snyder (Committee Chair) presented the Governance Committee report with input from Diana Donovan, Allison Galloway-Gonzalez, and Chad Sorenson (HR Consultant).

Tim Snyder thanked the board for their support and mentioned the upcoming board retreat in November.

Diana Donovan expressed appreciation to the Grants Team for their work during the transition period.

Allison Galloway-Gonzalez outlined hiring timelines for key positions.

Lisa Johnson provided context on the 360 organizational review process, highlighting historical challenges both financially and reputationally.

Chris Lazzara noted that CCGJ is in “a whole new place” with opportunities to reconnect with previous board members.

Chad Sorenson presented an overview of the 360 organizational review, which examines where the organization has been, where it is now, and where it is going through external and internal feedback. The process involved discussions with full staff and some board members, with additional input still being gathered from other board members and contractors.

The review focuses on:

- Mission purpose and alignment
- Organizational cultural dynamics
- Staff support, development, and retention
- Strategy, development, and communications
- Historical vs. current priorities

Karen Feagins inquired about emerging themes, to which Chad responded:

- Impact of high national turnover rates on organizational reputation

- Concerns about workload distribution, particularly on the Executive Director
- Balance between external and internal focus

Ari Jolly followed up on Karen's question, noting the broadness of the answers provided.

Chad acknowledged the need for more interviews and explained that the strategic plan should be central to the evaluation. He emphasized the importance of understanding and communicating the organization's "why" to stakeholders.

Michael Freed asked for clarification on the "external" feedback process. Chad explained that rather than directly surveying grantees, the process gathered insights from board, staff, and contractors about external perceptions.

Karen Feagins inquired about the timeline and distribution of feedback. Chad indicated that additional interviews would begin the following week, followed by analysis. The board would direct how information would be shared, with a focus on actionable recommendations for both board and staff.

H. Other Business

Diana Donovan reported that grants have tripled and public art initiatives have grown exponentially. She encouraged board members to help bring in donors, communicate to the public, and advocate to government officials.

She highlighted the organization's impact as an economic driver and announced that CCGJ would be presenting at the upcoming nonprofit center event.

Kat Wright, Director of Public Art, provided an update on active public art projects:

- Development of a dashboard tracking all active public art projects
- Private project updates, including the FIS investment
- Upcoming VyStar Memorial Arena project
- CPAC projects, noting challenges from tariffs and working to execute within budget constraints
- Recent artist selections via committee meetings, with two more committees pending

The presentation highlighted the transformational and historic work being completed within the Art in Public Places program, including 37 publicly funded city projects (10 with daily touch points, 6 expected to be completed by September 30th) and new opportunities for privately funded public art.

Karen Feagins mentioned a forthcoming Doodle poll for the Board Retreat in November and requested input on content. She noted there would be no expense to the Cultural Council.

Ari Jolly requested a focus on board roles and responsibilities at the retreat.

Michael Freed suggested moving committee meetings further in advance of board meetings to allow more work to be accomplished in support of staff.

Ari Jolly announced that Monica Hernandez had received the Ultimate CEO award.

Lisa Johnson noted that Ari was featured in the SpeakEasy podcast with the Chamber.

I. Upcoming Dates

Chair Johnson announced that the next board meeting would be Thursday, August 28, 2025, with quarterly committee meetings scheduled for the week prior (August 18, 19, and 21).

J. Adjournment

Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.