

**Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission  
City of Jasper, Indiana  
December 5, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at Jasper City Hall Council Chambers. Roll call was held with the following **Commission Members Present in Person:** Darla Blazey, Jasmine Bosler, Emi Donato, Corie Eckerle, Bibianna Green, Linda Kahle, Heath Kluemper, & Pat Thyen. **Non-Voting Student Representative:** Anna Uebelhor. **Observed Remotely via Zoom:** None. **Commission Members Absent:** Jay Hamlin, Beth Seidl, & Selena Vonderheide. **Staff Members Present:** Kyle Rupert, Emily Peak, Casey Uebelhor, Eric Herndon, Danny Kopp, & Liz Book. **City Attorney:** Renee Kabrick. **Guests in attendance:** Jane Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Jasmine Bosler** moved to approve the minutes of November's meeting. **Linda Kahle** seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

**City Financial Statement**

**Pat Thyen** moved to approve the claims as presented. **Corie Eckerle** seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

**Old Business**

- Kyle and Eric are collecting information to determine the proposed rental rate increases for the Cultural Center. Once more information is gathered from other local venue options, an updated resolution will be presented to the board.

**New Business**

- Pat Thyen and Jasmine Bosler volunteered to serve on the nominating committee for JCA's officers for 2024. They will present a slate of officers at the next board meeting.
- Danny asked permission to junk the riding floor scrubber at the Cultural Center. It no longer works, and more than a year was spent trying to find a solution to make it work again. It cannot be repaired locally. More research is needed to determine what the best option is going forward in ordering a new floor scrubber. Ideally, it would be purchased locally so it could easily be serviced. **Bibianna Green** made a motion to junk asset number 103217. **Heath Kluemper** seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

*Emi Donato arrived at 5:41 PM.*

- Kyle presented the Performing Arts Committee's recommendation for the 2024-2025 performance season. The proposed shows included the entire Backstage Series and five shows for the Main Stage. The proposed shows have formally accepted offers or have been accepted in principle. Kyle also shared the information that was gathered for the audience performance feedback survey. The survey was shared online and was emailed or a postcard was mailed to those who have purchased tickets in the last five years. The big takeaways are that patrons are more interested in seeing more well-known artists, even if the ticket prices are more expensive, and that they are not as interested in purchasing ticket packages. The restructuring of the season and the inclusion of flex ticketing packages will give patrons more flexibility in choosing what shows they would like to attend. Previous season ticket holders will be grandfathered in and will be able to maintain seat ownership as long as they purchase tickets to three or more shows. **Heath Kluemper** made a motion to approve the proposed shows. **Corie Eckerle** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

**Director's Report/Performing Arts**

Kyle reported:

- Kyle shared some data on the rentals that have taken place at the Cultural Center. The information shared included the number of rentals in each category and the number of participants that attended.
- During November, there were 382 visits to the galleries, and total usage across both facilities for the year is 48,886.
- Ticket sales are up over last season and over last calendar year.
- *Black Market Trust* performed at the Astra Theatre on November 17. Roughly 140 people attended and those that were there really enjoyed the performance.

- JCA's 2024-2026 Strategic Plan goes into effect in January.
- Kyle shared the department's open hours over the Christmas and New Year holidays. JCA's offices and galleries will be closed December 22-25, open December 26-28, and closed December 29 – January 1. The way Christmas and New Year fall this year creates more time when the offices will be closed than in normal years.

### **Building and Structure Report**

Danny reported:

- The City's safety committee inspected the Cultural Center, and it went well. A few small things were pointed out that needed to be adjusted, but nothing major.
- The broken window in the workshop wing has been replaced.
- He is researching and getting estimates to have the exterior Atrium windows cleaned. He hopes to have the windows cleaned this Spring.
- An upright bass was rented for *Black Market Trust*. There have been several contracts that have called for one, and he would like to look into purchasing a higher-end bass. The rented upright bass was from Indianapolis, and continually renting one will soon add up to the cost of purchasing one.
- *A Christmas Carol* is December 8. Load-in is from 12-3 PM. Volunteers would help unload items from the truck.
- Children's Center for Dance Education rented the Arts Center on December 2. The students presented the *Nutcracker*.
- The Community Room entrance of the Arts Center will be revamped to help make the space feel more inviting and current.

### **Visual Arts Report**

Emily reported:

- *The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Exhibition* has closed and two pieces were sold.
- *Rob Millard-Mendez's* exhibit opens on Thursday. He is from Evansville, Indiana, and is a USI Professor who has been in numerous Juried Art Shows. His work features playful political wood pieces. He will be at the reception to give a gallery talk along with *Robert Dunning*. The talks will start at 5:30 PM.
- 2025 Call for Artists has been sent. Those that are interested can complete a paper application or submit online.
- In January, Steve Poehlein will teach the next session of hand building workshops.
- Clay Open Studio has really grown in popularity from when it was first launched.
- Laura Pommier will teach a Zoom Sketch class. More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

### **Event Report**

Eric reported:

- Since the November board meeting there were five Atrium rentals, one gallery rental, two workshop rentals, and one multi-use rental.
- This time last year rental revenue was \$55,000 versus this year's \$88,000, which is a major increase from last year and has exceeded the anticipated revenue target by over \$35,000. He has continued to receive great feedback about the space. For each renter, he encourages them to think creatively about how the spaces are used. More wedding ceremonies are also being booked.
- Rental dates are available for 2024. He anticipates an influx of rental requests for couples that have gotten engaged over the Holidays.

### **Education Report**

Casey reported:

- The last workshops for the year will take place in the next two weeks. She has already started planning for the winter/spring workshops.
- A Spring Camp Create will be held Monday through Thursday mornings during Spring Break. Registration will be limited to 25 participants. She has planned the classes and has worked to secure instructors for the sessions.
- She will host a Homeschool Connections session this month and next month.
- The Indiana Arts Commission fellowship in creative teaching is complete. The fellowship was held in partnership with 10<sup>th</sup> grade world history teacher, Anna Grant, and teaching artist Jay Hamlin. The project took place over five days, and approximately 60 students participated. The project, *Capturing History*, was designed to provide students with an opportunity to recognize their place in history and to connect with their world through a

historical lens. The resulting photographs are displayed in the workshop hall of the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center. Casey invited the public to view their work and leave feedback.

**Public Business**

**Adjournment**

**Bibianna Green** moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 pm. **Pat Thyen** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Darla Blazey

Selenia Vonderheide