

# CREATIVE PORTLAND

P.O. Box 4675 | Portland, ME | 04112 | 207-370-4784

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

3:30 PM

### **Via Zoom Link Below:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86908536009>

Meeting ID: 869 0853 6009

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### **For Public Comment:**

To submit written public comment on an Agenda item, email [programassistant@creativeportland.com](mailto:programassistant@creativeportland.com). Submissions must be received by 12:00 p.m. the day before the Creative Portland Board meeting to guarantee their inclusion in the Agenda packet. All submissions must include the commenter's name and legal address. To help ensure your comment is submitted for the correct item, please include the name of the Agenda item (see below).

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome and President's Comments (Herb Ivy presiding)**
- 2. Consent Agenda**
  - A. April minutes - see attachment
- 3. Executive Director Report**
  - A. Staff Update discussion. Outreach Coordinator (marketing wheel)
  - B. April 24 Mini-Art Walk
  - C. "Time and Temperature" Opening Artist Reception May 2 from 5-7 PM CP Gallery
  - D. Monday Morning Drop By postponed til June 3, 2024
  - E. FY25 Work Plan & FY25 Budget - Board Discussion
- 4. Board Business**

- A. Board Sponsorship Outreach - Establish Sponsorship Committee
- B. Board Share
- C. Last Board meeting of FY24: Wednesday June 19th (unless we don't have a quorum)

**Creative Portland**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 3:30-5pm**  
**Via Zoom**

**Attendance:** *Board Members:* Kate Anker, Kirstie Archambault, David Brenerman, Maile Buker, Tae Chong, Lucy Comaskey, Eliza Ginn, Lindsay Hancock, Clare Hannan, Daniel Minter, Regina Phillips, Matt Schwach, Greg Watson.  
*Staff:* Dinah Minot, Executive Director; Holly Taylor, Operations & Program Manager.  
*Absent:* Gib Foltz, Herb Ivy, Dawn Reshen-Doty.

**Welcome and President's Comments:**

- Co-president Eliza Ginn, presiding over this meeting, welcomed everyone.

**Consent Agenda and Action Items:**

- The board voted to approve the consent agenda, February minutes, and February and March Financials.
- First motion: Clare Hannan; second motion: Kate Anker. Approved unanimously.

**Director's Update:**

- Monday Morning Drop By 3/4/24
  - Great turnout - over 3 dozen attendees
  - No special guest attracting people, nice demonstration of people wanting connection and Creative Portland's strides in the area of convening
  - April 1st MMDB had low attendance
    - Two representatives from the Westin came to talk about incorporating the local arts scene into hotel priorities; hopeful they will become a CP sponsor
- Open Call for Time & Temperature Exhibition
  - 7th Juried Exhibition in Creative Portland Gallery
  - Jury consists of Ebenezer Akakpo, Sadie Bliss, Maile Buker, CJ Oppershauser, Dinah Minot, Pamela (Posey) Moulton & Holly Taylor
  - Deadline extended until April 8th for artists submissions due to low number of submissions
    - Fewer applications could be because...

- Infrequent sales of pieces hanging in our gallery?
  - Most local artists have already shown in our gallery?
  - Our price bracket is lower than artists want to sell at?
  - In future we may consider guest curators/organizations to host shows in our space, instead of facilitating our own open call
- May 2nd, 2024 Artist reception/show opening - put the date on your calendars!
- Refining Artist Directory on website, generating buy-in from City and State:
  - PPAC is linking to our artist directory
  - Maine Office of Tourism requested our involvement in Governor's Conference on Tourism to curate a self-guided mini art walk tour (see below)
- MOT Art Walk
  - April 24th, 2024 from 3:30-5PM
  - Open to anyone, not just conference attendees
  - 10 venues - including Creative Portland and Loquat Shop at their new location as Mechanic's Hall's tenant! - are participating
- Community Outreach
  - Boulos Beats - Dinah was a guest on this podcast targeted to developers, to help spread word about the app and solicit partnership and involvement. Will air in late May.
  - Met with HEDD, Mayor, City Manager to give update on 6-months post split from City, and to reinforce our gratitude for their continued financial investment
- Bus Shelter Project Update
  - Greg Jordan at GPMetro joined City as Assistant City Manager - relationship continues, but need to figure out GPMetro and other partners, and overall interest in expansion project.
  - NEA ArtsHERE Grant - Creative Portland did not receive funding, potentially because opportunity was geared towards organizations whose work explicitly and consistently engages underserved populations
  - To secure necessary funding, we can return to NEA and apply for an Arts Projects Grant, or solicit sponsorships
  - We could include bus shelter expansion project in our Work Plan if we have sponsors/funding
  - Q: Did riderships go up after we put in the creative bus shelters?
    - Additional data could allow us to pursue opportunities beyond strictly arts funding - like environmental/eco focus for example
    - Greg Watson will ask Greg Jordan about ridership stats at their meeting next week

- Q: Have there been any conversations about DEI work in Creative Portland?
  - Creative Portland works with community and government partners on DEI work: Office of Economic Opportunity and Justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director at the City, and Immigrant Welcome Center, Indigo Arts Alliance, MIRC and others.
- Fiscal Sponsorships:
  - New Fiscal Sponsee: 82Parris
  - Unsure what their timeline is for 501c3 status
- Work Plan - Brief review of draft Work Plan for FY25
  - Orange programs are on hold - including Summer Stage for staff capacity and weather reasons
  - Marketing Wheel is core program
  - First Friday all the more important in light of Congress Street vacancies
    - Suggestion to Ask Cary Tyson at Portland Downtown for FFAW sponsorship? Beyond police/safety
      - Downtown should be investing in arts because that's the only business there right now
      - It was suggested that there might be a Reluctance on the part of property owners to make space available downtown even if they are technically vacant.
  - App as Revenue stream
  - AR Experiences (funded by NEA Grant)
  - Fiscal Sponsors - would like to review with Board whether to actively solicit fiscal sponsees beyond the five we have this year
  - CP Gallery - Time & Temperature extension for open call
  - Arts & Culture Summit - date placeholder for Sept 24th, 2024
  - Fundraising & Advancement - need to establish Board committee to oversee these initiatives
  - Board Development - ongoing
  - Board will discuss Work Plan more in detail in May (possibly with a retreat) and then again in June
  - Feedback on Work Plan:
    - Applause for realistic goals in light of capacity issues!
- Ms Minot suggested a Creative Portland workshop for City Councilors about what services we provide - could we schedule one?
  - Protocol is to ask Mayor and City Manager - Councilor Phillips will send them an email; meeting won't happen until City budget is done, in June; new councilors will be joining after September, if we want to wait to give a workshop until new faces are in place

(David Brenerman took over notetaking for HT at this point).

Clare Hannan stated that she believed Dinah's proposed Work Plan is realistic.

Dinah noted that the allocation for Creative Portland is in the City Manager's proposed FY '25 budget.

## **Board Business**

The board welcomed three of its new board members (Councilor Regina Phillips, Greg Watson, Lucy Comaskey). Each board member and Dinah introduced themselves with brief personal background and reasons for joining the CP board. Dinah also discussed CP's role in the community and in the creative economy.

### 15th Anniversary Fundraising appeal:

The board was responsive to the appeal, but contacts with the community through mailers was not successful. Competing for gifts and grants with individual arts organizations is difficult for a convenor. It is easier to request funds for events, such as the Arts and Culture Summit.

### **Share Circle:**

Each board member shared recent or anticipated activities in the arts. Of note, Visit Portland was featured in a recent telecast of Maine Life on Channel 6. Mayor Dion visited board member Kate Anker and artists at Running With Scissors.

### **Meeting adjourned at 5:04pm**

Minutes submitted by Holly Taylor with support from David Brenerman on 4.11.24