

MINUTES  
COCA Executive Committee Meeting  
Thursday, April 20, 2023  
4:00pm  
COCA Office at DOMI Station

Attendance—Nathan Archer, Dan Taylor, Lucia Fishburne, Kathy Maiorana, Rachelle McClure,  
Virtual—Kristen Summers  
Absent— E. Marie Sissle  
Staff—Kathleen Spehar, Samantha Sumler, Sahara Lyon, Nick Pavlovik (virtual)  
One member of the public attended

I. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME GUESTS, and PUBLIC INOUT

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Dan and Kathleen agree to read aloud no longer the governor’s hybrid meeting order model.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2023
- b. Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – March 30, 2023
- c. Balance Sheet Statement as of March 31, 2023
- d. Budget v. Actual Statement as of March 31, 2023

Lucia mentions that in the March board meeting minutes she is not listed as absent. Nathan motions to approve minutes with amendment, Lucia seconds, the motion was unanimously passed.

III. REPORTS

- a. COCA Connects FY23 Sub-Committee Reports

Kristen Summers, Membership Committee Co-Chair, deferred to Kathleen Spehar to provide the report. Kathleen updates that we have had about 13 new members and 21 expired members. Currently, COCA has 251 members. Another email will be sent out at the end of the month asking people to renew. We are in our “Build to 300” campaign. This month, we have not focused on social media presence, but instead, continued to invite people to events. Attendance at a variety of in-person events took priority in April, but the “Build to 300” campaign will be more active on social media in May. Kathleen elaborated that each board member was asked to recruit three new members and volunteer at public event tabling. Sahara shared the renewal rates for 2021, 2022, and 2023. Kristen asks if members on TAG (Tallahassee Arts Guide) are considered new members; Sahara explains that she counted members who had expired on Neon and signed up on TAG as renewals. Dan asks if we are having trouble getting volunteers for events and the organization. Kathleen explains that we are having lower volunteer turnout and invited committee members to sign up.

- b. No Grants Committee updates.

- c. No DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) Committee updates.
- d. Chair Report

Dan reports that there are lots of events going on in April and that COCA continues to have presence at them, such as LeMoyne Arts and Word of South.

- e. Staff

*Sahara Lyon, Arts Education Manager*

Sahara reported that COCA's reception at City Hall for the *Women Empowering Fiber Traditions* (WEFT) exhibition was successful and had 55-60 attendees. The show was deinstalled the following day, then *Creative Tallahassee* was installed. *Creative Tallahassee* features 40 artists and approximately 80 works. There is a reception and awards ceremony scheduled for May 4. COCA is shifting to Eventbrite for event reservation, reporting and planning purposes. In the previous month, Sahara worked with Carrie Ann Baade, Studio Art BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts) program director at Florida State University (FSU), to arrange visits and plan upcoming summer arts education programming. Sahara plans to visit Arts Education grantees and write articles about their projects. And she is working with the Junior League and Sabal Palm Elementary School to run the artist call to create a mural at the school.

*Samantha Sumler, Marketing & Communications Manager*

Samantha reported positive responses to COCA's newsletters, and they are continuing to recruit new subscribers. Event and Classified forms have been made easier for users to navigate. The marketing workshop held with Visit Tallahassee on April 5<sup>th</sup> was successful, and Samantha hopes to host another workshop on video content by the end of the summer. Artsopolis will be sending Samantha a draft for the Public Art page updates next week. They have received a new shipment of COCA mugs and other merchandise, and they are finalizing new sticker sheets, creating a QR code decal for the DOMI Station door and ordering more membership cards.

*Nick Pavlovik, Business Manager*

Nick reported that grantees are submitting interim reports for the Cultural Grant program. He is onboarding two new staff members and reviewing procedures, policies, and membership software. Nick is also searching for a new auditor. Kathleen, the staff, and executive committee congratulated Nick on the birth of his daughter, Nina Vera Pavlovik.

- f. Executive Director

Kathleen provided her report. In advocacy, COCA has asked the Senate to match the House's funding recommendations. The FY24 budget has not yet been presented, so there is time to advocate for additional funding. Dan asks about advocacy in the newsletter; Kathleen confirmed that there are advocacy updates every Thursday in the Classified newsletter, along with email and newsletter blasts. The goal is securing \$68 million, but COCA will continue to advocate for the \$50 million currently being debated. Leon County grantees are at 100% funding. The CRA Art, Culture and Heritage Grant recommendations will be reviewed this Tuesday. Kathleen encouraged all board members to volunteer at Word of South to promote COCA and ask attendees to fill out the Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6) survey.

The mayor has filled COCA's Practicing Artist board seat, choosing Brinda Pamulapati of Venvi Art Gallery. Kathleen explained that there are three upcoming seats to be filled, with one seat being renewed by current board member Beth Keating.

COCA has hired two new staff members. Sam Joslin will start as Public Art and Exhibition Manager part-time remote on May 1, then full-time in-person on May 15. Summer Callahan will start as the Grants Manager full-time in-person on May 4. Following the May 18 board meeting, Kathleen suggested COCA hold a reception for the new staff and board members.

Kathleen then provided a series of updates. The Bicentennial steering committee, which COCA is a part of, is waiting until after legislative session to announce the Bicentennial and the City and County's plan. All board members are encouraged to attend the Tallahassee Music Week Forum on April 26 at 5:30 pm. Guidelines for COCA grant programs are on the website and the Submittable portal will open on May 1. *Creative Tallahassee* will be posted at City Hall through June 5. Isabella Al-sharif's exhibition *Her Golden Renaissance* is currently on display at the Airport Gallery. COCA's Asphalt Arts Project is moving forward; works by 12 artists were chosen for the community to vote on, and 3 murals were chosen. The Paint Day for this project is scheduled for April 29. Former Public Art Manager Sarah Painter will stay on to see this project through, including participating on the day of. Kathleen asks the board to invite visitors, promote the event and if available, attend.

#### IV. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

#### V. NEW BUSINESS

##### a. Bylaws revisions

Kathleen explained that during the last board reappointment cycle last year, suggestions were made to clarify language surrounding board appointment and reinstatement. The bylaws were reviewed with our legal counsel and the following language changes were made:

- Page 3, section C.1., adding the phrase "apply to." Board members can apply for a second four-year term, rather than be automatically approved for a second term.
- Page 4, section D.1.C, adding the phrase "a member's term expires."

Lucia moved to approve, Kathy seconded, and the motion was passed.

##### b. Board of Directors Seat: Business/Economic Development (County)

Kathleen shared the applicants for the County seat:

- Neil Mooney, Attorney with the Mooney Law firm. Mooney has participated in community service, volunteered at art galleries, Big Brothers Big Sisters and 4H.
- Gia Williams, CEO of Grover Creatives. She works with clients regionally and nationally on marketing and brand development.

- Reenee Williams, Rapid Response Coordinator at CareerSource Capital Region. She is an experienced volunteer and grant panelist and was formerly the Entertainment Director and State Manager at Ready for Life in Tallahassee.
- Alternate: Aaron Michael Hanselman, church musician. He has experience in finance, operations, marketing, public speaking, and performance.

Dan explained that these applicants will be submitted to the board, then the Board of County Commission. Nathan motioned to move the applicant slate forward, Lucia seconded, and the motion passed.

#### VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan announced Word of South this upcoming weekend.

Lucia will travel to Vermont in May and will not return until October; this will be her last in-person COCA meeting. She hopes to remain involved with COCA as a volunteer. Kathleen thanked Lucia for her time, her work and dedication to COCA.

Considering the recent anti-trans bills in the legislature, Rachelle emphasized that COCA should continue supporting LGBTQ community members. Lucia chimed in and thanked Rachelle for her comment. Samantha requested that COCA also support organizations navigating new bills and laws. Kathleen explained that our organizational values will continue to guide us and our work in the community. She invited the board to continue to share information about community needs.

#### VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Summer Callahan and Sahara Lyon.