**In Attendance**

* Marion Atherton, Crowden
* Jennifer Boesing, Youth Musical Theatre Company
* Lisa Bullwinkel, Another Bullwinkel Show
* Michael Caplan, City of Berkeley
* Tefari Casas
* John Connor, Downtown Berkeley Association
* Bruce Coughran, Indra's Net
* Sharon Dolan, Freight and Salvage Coffee House
* Audrey Faine, The UC Theatre
* Alexandra Frappier, Indra’s Net Theater
* Chris Gilbert, Berkeley Community Chorus & Orchestra
* Cherie Hill, Luna Dance Institute
* Archana Horsting, Kala Art Institute
* Laura Inserra, Samavesha
* Rebecca Johnson, Shawl-Anderson Dance Center
* Marian Kohlstedt, West Edge Opera
* Liz Lisle, Shotgun Players
* Aimee Le Duc, Berkeley Art Center
* Gregory Magofna, City of Berkeley
* Susan Medak, Berkeley Repertory Theatre
* Melanie Mentzel, Berkeley Community Media
* Mary Ann Merker, Civic Arts Coordinator
* Katelyn Nomura-Weingrow, UC Berkeley
* Vanessa Ramos, Central Works Theater
* Julia Robertson, Berkeley Civic Arts Commissioner
* Kathryn Roszak, Danse Lumière
* Julie Saltzman Kellner, Aurora Theatre Company
* Brian Scott, Berkeley Community Media
* Ann Trinca, Berkeley Art Center

**Update from Julie Saltzman Kellner on the Berkeley Arts Connect:**

We had almost 40 applicants, with ten 10 arts organizations chosen. Selections will be made this week, interviews to follow.

**Update from Mary Ann Merker, Civic Arts Coordinator, and Julia Robertson, Civic Arts Commissioner.**

**Grants Consultant**

Civic Arts Grants is busily reviewing its process with the aid of hired Grant Consultant Diane Espaldon. Research so far shows that the area of concern/opportunity for growth is a sense of isolation of art community and arts organizations; there is a potential for greater connection and collaboration, etc.

Discussion is leaning towards the grant sizes being increased, even if that limits the amount of grants awarded. Two public forums will be scheduled and dates will be announced soon. Diane will use those discussions to make a recommendation to BCAC. The final report is set to be due September/October.

**Private Percent for Art**

The City Council has approved a framework that 1% of construction costs for all future private development in Berkeley be set aside for either the installation of public art or put in a ‘in lieu of’ fund that could be distributed to arts non-profits for capital improvements. (A 1.5% for art program already exists for City owned buildings.) Many details need to be finalized. At the March City Council meeting staff was instructed to provide more information about how the funds would be managed and distributed and to get more feedback from the community. A public meeting held by BCAC will be held on Monday, April 13, 6:30 pm at Berkeley Art Center. Julia Robertson, BCAC Public Art and Policy chair explained the benefits of such a measure being enacted and noted the BCAC has done tremendous research on this issue and how percent for arts programs are managed in other cities.

While it is just at the draft stages, this legislation is moving quickly; BCT needs to come up with a clear consensus on what it intends to change about the original proposal; Commission wants to move the 1% proposal forward by June, as that is when development is beginning.

**Community Benefit**

Definition of art in municipal code has been expanded and updated; now includes social practice art.

Currently, any new building constructed in downtown Berkeley that is over 75 feet is required to reserve part of its footprint to an entity that provides significant community benefit. The definition of community benefit has been intentionally left vague so the City could assess greatest needs and tailor those spaces to fit those needs. BCT must decide whether it is appropriate for the arts to fight to be a community benefit (in the affordable housing advocates, the environmentalists, etc.) or if we should only support the percent for art program or both.

Public comment meetings about community benefit will be held on April 15 and on May 5th. BCT needs to have a position; i.e., is ‘community benefit’ exclusive to a non-profit?

**Update from Aimee Le Duc on Berkeley Cultural Trust Current Projects:**

Subcommittee has put forth a goal for BCT: Creating a long-term, multi-use space for performance theatre and visual arts. To start, BAC would be the steward and principle non-profit of this space. In addition to looking for and securing a space, we need research and will have to meet with reps from similar organizations (ex. Flight Deck) that are currently in existence.

A Google doc has been built where any participating BCT members can add and write in their questions regarding the pending legislation.

**CONFIRMED:** The BCT unanimously agreed to move forward with the development of a multi-disciplinary arts space in downtown Berkeley.

**ACTION:** Subcommittee to create a list of parameters of advocacy that BCT will and will not pursue.

Aimee has invited a Civic Arts Commissioner to future Executive Committee meetings to engage in a conversation with BCT reps about the current legislation up for redrafting.

**Discussion on Harrold Way Project**

This is one of five new developments happening. It could potentially be a performing arts space as well as house cinema theaters: a multi-use space. Development, however, is happening imminently, the Berkeley Cultural Trust would need an operational model, and research to know further whether this would be a development that BCT should advocate for.

**Upcoming Public Meetings:**

Monday, April 13th, 6:30pm

Berkeley Arts Center, 1275 Walnut St (Live Oak Park)

*Discussion on private percent for art*

Wednesday 15th, 1pm

Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709

*Discussion on the definition of “community benefit”*

May 5th, 2015

Special Meeting –TBA

*Discussion on community benefit*