**In Attendance**

* Lisa Bullwinkel, Another Bullwinkel Show
* Louisa Balch, Berkeley Repertory Theatre
* Bruce Coughran, Indra's Net
* Patrick Dooley, Shotgun Players
* Susan Felix, Art Ambassador
* Karena Fiorenza Ingersoll, Berkeley Rep
* Alexandra Frappier, Indra’s Net Theater
* Josh Hessler, UC Berkeley TDPS/Music
* Cherie Hill, Luna Dance Institute
* Archana Horsting, KALA
* Laura Inserra, Samavesha
* Joyce Jenkins, Poetry Flash
* Stephanie Anne Johnson, Berkeley Civic Arts Commissioner
* Marian Kohlstedt, West Edge Opera
* Aimee LeDuc, Berkeley Art Center
* Melanie Mentzel, Berkeley Community Media
* Mary Ann Merker, Civic Arts Coordinator
* Cherilyn Parsons, Bay Area Book Festival
* Kathryn Roszak, Danse Lumière
* Julie Saltzman, Aurora Theatre Company
* Roz Sarah, Stage Door Conservatory
* Kristin Sbrogna, La Peña Cultural Center

1. **Brief Update from Mary Ann Merker, Civic Arts Coordinator**

The Mayor had a meeting with the UC Berkeley Dean of Arts and Humanities Anthony Cascardi. The Dean has orders from the new Chancellor to better integrate students with the City of Berkeley. The specific details of how that will be attained are still TBD but the arts community should know that there is a new openness (and subsequently, opportunity) to collaborate from Cal.

1. **Update from the Civic Arts Commission on the grant process and procedures**
* Stephanie Anne Johnson was reelected as the Chair of the Civic Arts Commission.
* Berkeley Civic Arts Grants applications are due March 31st.
* The commission is working hard with BART to ensure that performing arts will be at the plaza once renovated.
1. **Discussion about Berkeley Arts Connect (BAC)**

The first year of BAC is coming to a close. Organizations are currently working on their student evaluations. Overall, BCT members felt like it was a successful and useful program for the interns and for the organizations alike.

The organization application window has closed and ten organizations were chosen for the upcoming year. More organizations applied during the second year than the first year. The student application window closes soon (March 21st), which will then be followed by the interview and student-organization matchmaking process.

Julie Saltzman is currently putting together a training model for the interns next year. BCT members helped brainstorm what other training opportunities would be beneficial to interns other than general marketing and development sessions.

Funding for the future life of BAC is unknown. We received seed money through the Chancellor’s Grant, which is only good for two years, and we are entering the second year. Julie estimates hard costs are roughly $5K but will analyze that in the coming months. BCT members started to discuss and brainstorm how we can fund this worthwhile program in the future. Some ideas: BAC Festival benefitting the program, partnering with Haas to build strategic/fundraising plans, passing costs on to participating orgs.

More information about the future funding of this program will be discussed at our next meeting.

1. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**BCT LEADERSHIP:**

Julie Saltzman’s two-year term as president is drawing near. BCT is taking nominations for the next president. BCT members are encouraged to talk to Julie if interested in the position or if they want to nominate an individual. Julie will continue to shepherd the Berkeley Arts Connect program through the end of the second year, however.

BCT has an Executive Committee that is need of more members. If interested, please contact Julie Saltzman at jsaltzman (at) auroratheatre (dot) org.

 **ADVOCACY:**

BCT members expressed interest in advocating for more arts funding from the City. Lisa Bullwinkel and Patrick Dooley will be spearheading efforts to lobby councilmembers and the mayor. Reach out to Lisa at lbullwinkl (at) aol (dot) com, if interested in participating. BCT members asked the following questions: How does our percentage of art funding compare to other cities? Is there a way to benefit from Berkeley’s transfer tax? What is the revenue projection, and potential benefit, of upcoming planned hotel development in Berkeley?