**In Attendance**

* Rick Auerbach, WEBAIC
* Lisa Bullwinkel, Another Bullwinkel Show
* Bruce Coughran, Indra's Net
* Susie Falk, Cal Shakes
* Karena Fiorenza Ingersoll, Berkeley Rep
* Alexandra Frappier, Indra’s Net Theater
* Cherie Hill, Luna Dance Institute
* Joyce Jenkins, Poetry Flash
* Marian Kohlstedt, West Edge Opera
* Melanie Mentzel, Berkeley Community Media
* Mary Ann Merker, Civic Arts Coordinator
* Nancy Ng, Luna Dance Institute
* Cherilyn Parson, Bay Area Book Festival
* Julia Robertson, Berkeley Civic Arts Commissioner
* Kathryn Roszak, Danse Lumière
* Julie Saltzman, Aurora Theatre Company

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

The commission is currently busy reviewing grants and working on the BART plaza remodel. Here’s the recap:

**GRANTS:**

Fifty-five applicants applied to the grant program this cycle. Fifty-three of those projects will be funded (allocation amount is still $239K total). The award notices will be sent in July/August. Awardees should return the invoice right away to get funds quickly. The full disbursement will be sent in September. If funds are not used they go back into the City’s general fund.

The commission is looking at how to restructure the funding program. Two outside panelists were brought in to assist the process. Some questions asked: What are we doing? How does it compare to other cities? The commission received great feedback and plan on hiring a consultant to help with the next stage. There will be more public conversations, as the plan progresses.

**DESIGN OF DOWNTOWN BERKELEY BART PLAZA**:

The City and BART have invited the Commission to help in the renovation and redesign of the Downtown Berkeley BART Plaza. The Plaza is slated to be in construction in the near future with an estimated ribbon cutting in 2017. The City gave BART full control of the renovation process so they, not the City, are driving the process. Once done, however, BART will give the Plaza “back” to the City. The Civic Arts Commission will then be responsible for curating any cultural space incorporated.

The Commission is advocating for infrastructure with a focus on open, flexible and programmable space. The desire is that performances can occur, visual/audio/media elements are possible (e.g. by way of a monitor/screen and speakers), and arts are exhibited (e.g. sculptures). There are diverse opinions on what to do with the south end of the Plaza (near Walgreen’s). Local businesses would like café tables but the commission would like to see it used as a performance space. Still up in the air is how curation of a possible performing arts space would be funded.

This topic will be discussed at the next Public Art Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 21 at 8am at City Hall.

*[DISCUSSION: BCT members in attendance also discussed the importance of coordinating the construction occurring in Downtown Berkeley in the near future (i.e, BART Plaza, BAM/PFA, Center Street garage, Hotel on Center St, etc).]*

1. **Election of the next Berkeley Cultural Trust Chairperson**

Karena Fiorenza Ingersoll, Associate Managing Director at Berkeley Repertory Theatre and current Secretary of the Berkeley Cultural Trust, was elected as the next Chairperson of the Berkeley Cultural Trust. Her two year term will begin in August.

1. **Berkeley Arts Connect updates and fundraising brainstorming**

A recent meeting with the new leadership of the Public Services Center (PSC) highlighted the need for BCT to shoulder more responsibilities/duties, as PSC won’t be able to funnel resources to the program like in its inaugural year. BCT Chair Julie Saltzman will meet with PSC leadership and members of their auxiliary programs to discuss existing programs that may be mutually beneficial.

The Chancellor, Nicholas B. Dirks, and the new UC Berkeley Dean of Arts and Humanities, Anthony Cascardi, have both expressed the importance of connecting the Cal community with the Berkeley arts community. How can we connect these two points? What is the next “big thing” that we can propose to make this a reality?

At the next BCT meeting, we will continue to discuss this topic in addition to reviewing evaluations, budget, and general data from the past year.

**NEXT MEETING: JULY 9, 2014 AT 9AM AT AURORA THEATRE COMPANY**