DREAMS Center for Arts Education  
Board of Directors Meeting  
27 January 2021

Call to Order by Board Chair, LaToia Brown at 5:37 PM.

Quorum Established.

**PRESENT**: LaToia Brown, Chair; Jill Morris, Co-Chair; Fidias Reyes, Secretary; Melissa Baird, Bill Anlyan, Marlon Ramos, Maria Speaks, Lettie Shumate, Mike Williams, Patty Sutton, Melissa Baird, Kevin Blackburn, Executive Director; Amy Jeffrey, Scribe.

**ABSENT**: Fran Scarlett.

1. Consent Agenda: December Financials and Board Meeting Minutes unanimously approved.
2. LaToia introduces Ashley Bethea, Program Director and welcomes her to the meeting!
3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Kevin:
   * Please refer to report sent via email.
4. PROGRAMS REPORT – Ashley:

* Working on virtual experiences for students such as Vision Boards.
* One on one classes will be happening and will be videotaped for posterity.
* Several outdoor and offsite events also in the works.
* Outreach classes are increasing as virtual aspect making that easier.
* Bill asks about how Ashley would judge the psychological health of our students and Ashley shares that there is excitement to be at DREAMS in any capacity and that when we try to encourage them, they end of encouraging us! Our kids have been through lots and show us their resiliency in many ways. Ashley also shares that we have an alliance with Cape Fear Life Center (Hospice) and they are willing to offer virtual classes at no cost to any of our students but luckily none have had need for those services yet.

1. FINANCES & OPERATIONS – Amy J.:
   * Please see report sent via email.
   * Upcoming expense increase for security due to recent thefts and truck being broken into twice.
   * Maria asks about another round of PPP – we do not qualify as a 25% reduction of income in one quarter is required.
2. FUNDRAISING – LaToia and Kevin:
   * Kevin describes the Fundraising Menu and will send it to everyone by email soon or you can access it on the new Board portal.
   * Asking everyone to push BB and send out at least 50 invitations. Will be sending out scripts for you to use and/or edit to help with invitation.
   * LaToia talks about inviting people to just log on! Nothing major! If all goes as planned, the event will be very unique, fun and like nothing else! Focused and quick, less than 45 minutes.
   * Number of attendees is not a concern – will be supported by platform.
   * Bill offers to drum up some donated “door prizes” for attendees. LaToia will connect Bill with Jamie for this great idea! Maria says Waterline can donate gift cards, gift cards for kegs, etc.
   * Mike asks LaToia to describe event. LaToia shares there will be a dedicated link on our website that can be used to watch BB or they can connect via direct link. We will ask for people to give contact info but they can skip if preferred. There will be some content for those that join early and live stream will begin and there will be multiple opportunities for giving instead of only an ask at the end. Various ways to give will also be available and focus will be put on recurring gifts. Will be able to watch a condensed version after the event is over, like a recap which will tell what is still needed to reach our goal.

1. RACIAL EQUITY – Lettie and Bill:
   * Lettie shares that last meeting was very productive. Ashley attended and updated on programming. Committee had opportunity to ask lots of questions about how the bigger picture of Racial Equity and Social Justice and Programs are collaborating. Discussed a Needs Assessment.
   * Meeting helped the Committee to see through the lens of Racial Equity and Social Justice and ask how we can dream big.
   * Bill shares that we need to take all these ideas and put them into action despite the challenge of COVID.
   * Mike shares about putting a plan together with an attitude of “we can do it, we are going to do it, let’s go do it” instead of looking at what barriers may prevent us from doing it!
2. NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Jill:

* Jill, Patty and Kevin met with Jim Graziano, CPA last Friday.
* Patty shares that he’s passionate about nonprofit work and is involved with a couple of other initiatives but she feels sure he wouldn’t have come if he didn’t have time to commit. He lost a daughter to addiction and is involved with a nonprofit that helps women with substance abuse disorders. He was very interested in DREAMS.
* Kevin shares that he was also impressed and was very thorough. Jim asked to see financials. He has a very unique background…a corporate life at IBM, small business owner now – Accounting Agency. He is very passionate about racial equity and social justice.
* LaToia will reach out to Jim with another Board member and move on from there.

1. OLD BUSINESS:

* New Board Portal created. LaToia will email you the link and the ED evaluation information. Please complete the eval thoughtfully. Will also be links for updating Board documents such as contracts, etc. Don’t hesitate to reach out to LaToia if you need assistance.

1. NEW BUSINESS:

* Kevin shares the quiz to determine asking style for fundraisers and encourages all to take it…less than 3 minutes total! Can be helpful in situations other than fundraising.
* Kevin also asks that everyone complete the Board Matrix form on yourself. He will be emailing it out soon. This will help us determine future board membership to help us fill in the gaps in needed areas and ensure diversity.
* LaToia asks you to please respond to her email request for updated contact information.

1. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:32 PM.

Amy Jeffrey  
Scribe for Board Secretary