

DREAMS Center for Arts Education
Board of Directors Meeting
18 November 2020

Call to Order by Board Chair, LaToia Brown at 5:32 PM.

Quorum Established.

PRESENT: LaToia Brown, Chair; Jill Morris, Co-Chair; Chasity Chace, Treasurer; Fidas Reyes, Secretary; Mike Williams, Melissa Baird, Iris Cooper, Maria Speaks, Melissa Baird, Lettie Shumate, Kevin Blackburn, Executive Director; Amy Jeffrey, Scribe.

ABSENT: Patty Sutton, Fran Scarlett, Bill Anylan, Marlon Ramos.

- I. Consent Agenda: October Financials and Board Meeting Minutes unanimously approved.
- II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Kevin:
 - Please refer to report sent via email.
 - 18 DREAMers came out earlier tonight for the Chalk event in the parking lot. Pizza and ice cream sandwiches, live music performances by teachers and lots of good footage!
 - 2 major donations recently: \$10k and \$3k.
 - Please promote Giving Tuesday on your social media, text, calls, emails!
 - Research shows matching doubles contributions!
 - Still have a dire need for fundraising!
 - Shout out to Mike and Lettie – screening of “Front Lines” was a huge success!
 - Also shout out to Lettie for being recognized by Cucalorus Leadership Award!
- III. FINANCES & OPERATIONS – Amy J.:
 - Please see report sent via email.
- IV. IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES:
 - **Lettie:** would have after high school version of DREAMS with a racial equity focus; provide services to those students regardless of where they are located, housing, legal aid, etc.
 - **Maria:** wants DREAMS to survive forever! Kevin's music studio, deepening programs with famous artists, guest speakers, positive role models, a city-wide mural project, sending kids to competitions or pay for art submissions, help them get to the next step in their career, expand DREAMS to Raleigh.
 - **LaToia:** invest at least \$1M to ensure longevity, expand staff for different organizational model, Creative Director, a specific person for performance and visual arts so we can expand programs, Culinary Arts expansion, would like to see DREAMS in Durham County, increase teaching artist compensation, would like to see some teachers employed full time – homeschool expansion.
 - **Mike:** Put DREAMS out of business – help kids so much it isn't needed anymore! “Teach them to fish!” Do an extensive needs assessment of the community and figure out how to help in the best way and build offshoots into other communities perhaps

consulting with other existing organizations thereby building careers for DREAMers. Alumni might be running their own version of DREAMS.

- **Chasity:** Wants to reach kids beyond their graduation from DREAMS. Want to educate kids on real life skills, managing finances, getting insurance, marketing your art, etc.
- **Melissa:** Community outreach, transportation, create apprenticeships, learn how to make a living through art.
- **Iris:** Also would like to see investment for sustainability and expansion of locations and programs. Would love to see financial literacy classes. Scholarships, transportation. Biggest idea is to take the students and maybe their families places they've never been like France for ballet...see things they've never seen that will inspire them! Make students aware of how the starving artist lives. Loves idea of apprenticeships. Ask for more money from donor. Or ask for regular contribution of \$1M annually.
- **Jill:** 75% invest and use dividends to keep a good base level of security, set up career counseling center, help with next phase of life.
- **Fidias:** Share the expertise of DREAMS with as many people as possible. Partnerships with all the schools in our county to help develop extensive arts programs, employ teaching artists full time, more opportunities for more teachers. Extend throughout county and then other locals. Make the contract services of DREAMS the signature of our county.
- **Amy:** All accounts payable are already paid up to date and we have ZERO debt! Purchase outright this entire piece of property as well as the one across the street. Raze all buildings except ours and start creating a mini-metropolis for positive youth development, special safe place for teens, community resources and EMPLOYMENT. Buy a fleet of buses and employ drivers. Make the garden huge and community accessible. Build a Learning Kitchen all by itself and make it huge – where the Quonset hut was. Set up more, bigger scholarships. Fund visiting artists from all over the world to come teach workshops or intensives. One whole building just for dance. Give all our teaching artists pay increases and attract more. Use \$1M for investments so to ensure sustainability.
- **Kevin:** Different locations more locally between East and South side, Durham later, needs assessment first like Mike said, scholarships, focus on engagement and empowerment of life skills for post-DREAMS, recording studio, arts incubator studio, teen center, fleet of vehicles and drivers, a portable version of DREAMS like DREAMS in a Van packed with all the art supplies possibly needed for outreach, Development Director, Artistic Director.
- LaToia lets us know we will discuss this again too so start thinking and DREAMING boldly for the future of the organization!

V. FUNDRAISING– Kevin & LaToia:

- Melissa reviews that the last committee meeting reviewed Kevin's Fundraising Plan.
- Committee is working on #ArtSustains Logo Contest. Looking for sponsors for prize money. Will be sending everyone the details by the next Board meeting so all will have all the information needed to promote contest.
- Don't forget about Giving Tuesday! Post your Unselfie! Be an Ambassador!

VI. RACIAL EQUITY –No report.

VII. NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Jill:

- Nothing to report now but soon!

VIII. FINANCE COMMITTEE –Chasity:

- Additional relief funds have been received. Need to learn more about the restrictions of those funds.
- Really, really, really need to fundraise!

IX. OLD BUSINESS: If you haven't had your head shot taken for the website, please do so as soon as possible. Bri will be at DREAMS this coming Sunday after the screening – between 4 and 5 pm.

X. NEW BUSINESS: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:25 PM.

December meeting is the 16th at 5:30 pm via ZOOM.

Amy Jeffrey

Scribe for Board Secretary