

AIR BOARD MEETING – AUGUST 9, 2021, 1:00PM

Attendees: Peggy Shearn, Joan Minsky, Kate Sullivan, Casey Strauss, Beth Peterson

Executive Director's Report: Beth

- 501(c)(3) status: Beth talked with AIR attorney James C. Provenza and reported that AIR's nonprofit status for incorporation is close to being finalized. Attorney said that the State of Illinois website was hacked during pandemic with ransomware threat and the state is behind because of that. James Provenza specializes in nonprofits and is a CPA.
- Our nonprofit status has been approved with the IRS so donations can be accepted.
- Workshops: Beth reported that the first few workshops were successful, with Sandie Bacon kicking off with a free product demo; 8 attended (11 reserved but Covid uptick may have affected attendance). Gels and Grounds workshop took place on July 28; 5 attended. Rick Katz, photographer who used to run a photography school in Chicago, presented an afternoon workshop on August 1st teaching how artists can photograph their own artwork. 5 attended. Workshops will continue to be created and scheduled for Fall if COVID wanes. Sandie Bacon was suggested for workshop teacher. Hopefully, some of our AIR members will teach, as well.
- Colleen suggested that group shows could be less taxing than individual shows. Beth noted that there is more to deal with when there are so many artists participating (getting images, art details, dropping off and picking up work, etc.).
- Casey felt that AIR is "on a good track" and that things should get better, "the pandemic has hurt us."
- Beth is networking with artists who have previously shown work in the AIR gallery, and especially groups are helpful to network.
- Casey suggested that AIR reconsider renting the space for events and consider half or all of the AIR space be available. Beth will explore options, but suggested caution until the pandemic is better.
- Casey suggested exploring the art rental business for local painters and AIR members. Corporate offices often rent and/or buy artwork. Also, real estate brokers who stage properties rent artwork. Beth is currently sending out show announcements to local interior designers, so could add local real estate brokers to the list. Beth will explore more information and also look for professional staging companies.
- Judy Solomon inquired about possibly having a ceramic show at AIR with several ceramicists in December. Beth and Peggy will meet with Judy to discuss.
- Ann Rosen's show for October 2021 will be postponed until 2022 due to the pandemic.
- Gallery shows 2022: Beth suggested scheduling some weekends for popup shows in addition to the regular schedule. Joan Minsky suggested having a show for Joanne Epcke in 2022. We will work with her family to coordinate. It was suggested that the show be two weekends with one connecting week. AIR has been contacted by several artists inquiring to have a show at AIR. Included is Dianne Kittle, who is an art teacher at the Chicago Botanic Garden and photographer. Also, Rick Katz, who wants to give workshops at AIR would like to trade for a show. AIR member Iwona would like a solo show for 2022. Also, the Chicago Photographic Society has spoken to Beth about a 2022 show at AIR.

- Membership status: Beth suggested having workshops will help with getting new members and give AIR credibility as an organization. Membership contracts need to be updated and each member needs to sign a contract to commit to one year. Current members should also sign a contract. We discussed raising membership to help pay for overhead. We discussed raising monthly membership by \$35.
- AIR building still scheduled for re-painting but date is unknown. Awning was removed by Beal Properties.

Financial Report: Peggy and Joan

- Bank account balance is \$52,207.16
- AIR needs incorporation status to open AIR bank account.
- Peggy reported that the average income for the last few gallery shows was \$365, which helps pay for overhead.
- Peggy recommended charging more for gallery shows. Currently AIR charges \$375 per show to cover materials (paint, etc.) and labor of installations (James Lambert), show posters/postcards, balloons, ice, water.
- Analysis will be done by Peggy and Joan to review monthly income and expenses.