



**Golden Triangle Creative District  
March 2, 2023 Board Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
3:00-5:00 PM – In-Person (Westword) & Video Conference**

**Board Attendees:**

Kristy Bassuener, Lisa Beauchamp, Alvin Cooper III, Jennifer Gance, Anthony Gengaro, Alice Harris, Andrew Iltis, Tracy Kontrelos, Sara Leitch, John Mosley, Adam Perkins, David Pietsch, Sean Walsh, Byron Zick

**Not Present:**

April Chase, April Denmon, Pete Dikeou, Rachel Fewell, Lindsay Hauck, Mathiba Kgopa, Steve Strunk, Pablo Zacarias

**GTCD Staff:**

Jennifer Larsen

**Guests:**

Maggie Conboy (Assistant District Attorney, Denver DA's Office)  
Maro Casparian (Community Engagement Director, Denver DA's Office)  
Tariana Navas-Nieves (Director, Cultural Affairs, Denver Arts & Venues)  
Mike Sullivan (Silver Spur Marketing)  
Johan Ehde (Meow Wolf)  
Shelly Oren (City Council District 10 Aide)

**Welcome and Call to Order (L. Beauchamp & J. Mosely)**

- Welcome board members and guests
- Motion to approve January 2023 Meeting Minutes
  - MOTION: Approve minutes (A. Harris/J. Mosley)
  - Minutes approved unanimously

**Denver DA's Office (Maggie Conboy & Maro Casparian)**

- Maggie is one of two Assistant District Attorneys, working for Denver District Attorney, Beth McCann. Part of administration and also oversees special victims' units.
- Maro is Community Engagement Director for the Denver DA's Office
- Office prosecutes felonies & misdemeanors that occur within City & County of Denver
- Office has 260 employees, 100 are attorneys, has a victim advocate, and about 30 investigators
- Works closely with DDP, when cases filed, they get passed to District Attorney's office
- Works closely with City Attorney's office – they prosecute violations of city municipal code. Might be some overlap.
- Works with Rose Andom – Center for victims of domestic violence

- Beth McCann is known as an empathetic prosecutor – some people can be helped with diversion. Various programs within the office provide off roads from the criminal justice system. Staff works collectively – no one size fits all. Charged with upholding public safety.
- Q: When a person is arrested by DPD, if there's a question about whether a person is guilty of a crime, is it your office that decides to prosecute? (B.Zick)  
A: When DDP makes an arrest there's a narrow window of time when they need to present the case to us. DA's office makes charging decision. There are several intake areas: general intake, child crimes, domestic violence, economic crimes, gaming. Is it appropriate to file charges and what are those charges? Ethical standard – I know something happened, but will I be able to prove it beyond a reasonable doubt? Can't file case if not enough evidence. (M. Conboy)
- Q: If no charge is filed, is there still a record of arrest? (A. Harris)  
A: Yes – and these records can be pulled for reference. (M. Conboy)
- Q: Are there ways that the GTCD can collaborate with the DA's office, including sharing data and information, talking about ways we can improve our community, marketing. Allocating money towards neighborhood improvements, looking for hot spots where areas of crime are happening? (A. Gengaro)  
A: See DA's website for examples of data we're collecting (denverda.org). Two dashboards – daily updates and overall data for the State. Look for trends, including demographics. We can work together on community solutions. Can't track for just Golden Triangle.

#### **Urban Design Discussion (A. Iltis/A. Perkins)**

- 5280 Trail on Acoma St. – Prepared a letter to DOTI requesting GTCD involvement in trail development process. Opportunity to play a closer role in project management. Letter is a request of city to include a member of GTCD Board on the selection committee and the project management committee. Additional letter drafted by Acoma Maintenance District for their involvement. Open conversation – those who have an interest can let Andrew know. Project management team will likely meet regularly – possibly twice a month, or when hitting milestones. Two phases: design and construction. GTCD would have more of a role during design phase. Maybe maintenance district has more of a role during construction.

No Board vote necessary, Lisa and John as GTCD Co-Chairs will sign the letter.

#### **GTCD Budget (J. Gance/A. Harris)**

- Current financials
  - January good, finalized budget
  - Budget issue – expenses off between CNDC and Wild Apricot. May have something to do with Denver Arts & Venues grant.
  - Need to start spending money for spring fling, so we need to watch expenses

#### **GTCD New/Renewal Membership (J. Larsen for T. Kontrelos)**

- Membership renewals (February 1-31). Total \$4,650
  - Ten10 Brownstones HOA - \$250
  - Mathias Lock & Key - \$100
  - MegaStar Financial Corp - \$1000
  - Brent Snyder - \$1300
  - Denver Public Library - \$1000
  - Shift Workspaces - \$1000

#### **Committee Reports**

- Executive Committee – J. Mosely/L. Beauchamp

- Short EC meeting. April Chase was offered great job opportunity and will stepping down from the Board in May. She will still be involved on occasion as a volunteer. A. Harris and J. Gance are getting up to speed on financial systems. Need to bring in a new EC team member. Board will vote on new EC member at April Board meeting.
- Finance Committee – A. Chase
  - Membership Committee – T. Kontrelos
    - J. Larsen following up with lapsed members, making progress
    - Membership brochure is in corrections
    - Talking with Egan printing. Maybe can offer a discount or membership swap.
    - Sponsorship tie in with Board forum – sponsor could present information about their business.
    - Cling distribution continuing – will start in March again with better weather
  - Grants Committee – B. Zick
    - Identifying all grant opportunities (evaluation process) to distribute to appropriate committee for application. Grant opportunity to help with DEI goals. Will be circulating up to 20 grant opportunities to committees. We have a contractor grant writer available to assist. At the next meeting we will narrow these down.
    - Bonfils-Stanton grant opportunities – S. Leitch can help set up a meeting.
- Governance Committee – L. Beauchamp
  - No meeting in February
- Community Engagement Committee – L. Beauchamp
  - February Thirsty Thursday event at The Process. Good meeting, smaller turnout possibly due to other neighborhood events.
  - March Thirsty Thursday is at the Element hotel on March 23 – please attend.
  - Neighborhood Improvements – A. Perkins
    - Meetings have been on hold. Will start up again March 23.
  - Urban Design – A. Iltis
    - See above (Urban Design Discussion)
- Business Networking – A. Denmon/A. Cooper III
  - Feb 10 meeting was at 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Hostel. Eleven attendees, a couple were new to the meeting.
  - March 10 meeting will be at The Spot climbing gym
- Events Committee – J. Larsen for A. Chase
  - GTCD Events Committee
    - Save the date went out February 9 and information was repeated on March 1 in Prism newsletter. Event is listed on the GTCD website and Facebook page.
    - Final sponsor deck has been sent to Board members – please share with your networks!
    - The committee has selected a platform (MaxGiving) for running ticket sales, silent auction, and check in.
    - Tickets sales should begin next week
    - Please secure your silent auction items and two bottles of wine. I can collect your items.
  - External Events Liaison – R. Fewell (from committee report)
    - March 11, 9:30am - [St. Patrick's Day parade](#), Grandstand at 20th & Blake in front of Coors Field
    - March 12, 10am - [35th Annual Runnin' of the Green 7K & 2 Mile Run/Walk](#), Wash Park
    - March 14 - [FREE day at the Denver Art Museum](#)

- COLORCON – S. Walsh
  - Event scheduled for Saturday, August 26
  - We have a proposal from Sydney Malone for marketing support. Also reaching out to Mary Valdez, who was our artist liaison last year.
  - Budget reduced in 2023 from \$15K to \$10K – need to step up fundraising and sponsorships and probably reduce number of artists selected to paint.
  - Xcel sponsored us for \$6K last year, probably won't have that support in 2023
  - Alley not chosen – share thoughts on alley location? Will need assistance with property owner outreach.
  - Westword has considered having a mural painted on their building wall – there may be some funds available to help produce that mural. A portion of the event could be held at Westword. (T. Kontrelos)
  - Are there grant opportunities for producing COLORCON? (S. Leitch)
  - Shine Music Festival also on August 26. May be a good event to overlap.
  - A. Gengaro would like to join COLORCON planning team
  - Pure Dispensary has a wall available on Bannock St – maybe they can be part of the event. (J. Larsen)

### **Staff Report (J. Larsen)**

- Annual meeting minutes – not up for review until next year. CBCA and CCI provided a lot of links to resources you may want to reference. If anyone did a quick read, do you have questions or comments?
- Is the committee document report of value? Lately committee leads haven't been responding with their information and I've been mostly piecing it together with information I can gather. I know people are busy, so if this isn't of value, I won't continue to provide one. (Consensus is that we will continue to provide committee reports for review prior to the Board meetings.)
- I shared an email about the CCI Convening on May 31 and the CCI Summit on June 1 & 2 in Crested Butte. April, Lisa, and Jennifer have said they would like to attend – are any others interested? Christy Costello thought we could probably register more people if there is interest. In the past GTCD has reimbursed Board members for hotel accommodations, mileage, and conference registration.
- Something that came up in a conversation with John. The Board of Directors page on our website has each Board member's name, place of business and say if an individual is a Golden Triangle resident. This page is set up so that we can add a photo and brief bio if we would like to do that. Are Board members interested in having your photo and bio on this page?

### **Tariana Navas-Nieves, Denver Arts & Venues (4:15 pm)**

- Discuss/Educate/Learn Land and Labor Acknowledgements
- Possible Motion/Vote to read Land and Labor Acknowledgments at the start of GTCD Board meetings
  - Land Acknowledgement – Formal statement recognizing Indigenous Peoples and their relationship to the land, Acknowledgement of our country's history, and celebration of Indigenous Peoples and their contributions.
  - We should engage in this practice for the right reasons. Are we committed to acknowledge contributions and build upon Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)?
  - Denver Arts & Venues recommendations, things to consider:
    - Why do you wish to engage?
    - What do you hope for from attendees?
    - How do you show your ongoing commitment to Indigenous community?
    - Do your research, share context

- Don't sugarcoat our history
    - Share the past, present, and future
    - What does your ongoing commitment look like?
    - Don't ask Indigenous people to create it
    - Compensate people for their time if they have been engaged
  - Follow up acknowledgement with an action – for example, visit the Sand Creek Massacre exhibit at History Colorado
  - This is one step in DEI process. What are your goals for DEI? How do you utilize your strategic plan in this process? What are the tangible goals?
  - Goals around make up of Board. What voices to we want to bring to the table. GTCD mural program is an example of how we can bring DEI goals into practice.
  - Use the acknowledgement practice as part of a bigger plan
- **Q&A:**
  - Q: Important point, what's the action for our neighborhood? We can do this one step at a time. (L. Beauchamp)
  - A: It can be overwhelming. People want to do this work, but they don't know where to start. What does that mean for our organization? How do we operationalize our values? Strategic Plan is a great place to start. Consider who are we not thinking about?
  - Q: Tariana brought up the best way to approach this – what do we want? What are our goals? Don't want this to be lip service. Support land acknowledgement if it's part of our goals. (B. Zick)
  - A: Don't want to break trust before you build it. Be mindful of what this means for your organization.
  - Q: We've been doing this work at the Denver Art Museum (DAM) – I would be happy to participate in this work for the GTCD. Won't make a statement without backing it up with an action. (K. Bassuener)
- Labor acknowledgement similar, acknowledging and celebrating a community. City developed their own acknowledgement, and Denver Arts & Venues modified it for their purposes.
  - Need a commitment to support work that will come
- **Discussion:**
  - As creative district and RNO we represent a place. What we say and how we say it matters. It needs to be a part of our conversations. Need to be reflective. With COLORCON we are thoughtful about artist selection, representative of community, neighborhood, and city. View acknowledgements as a first step. Uncomfortable, but moving in the right direction. Cultural organizations in the GT doing great work – actions backing up statements (like DAM and Curious Theatre). If we do the work, we invite more people in, function as a leader. (J. Mosley)
  - Be mindful of the second step. (A. Harris)
  - Conversations need to be had within our Board – how do we take actions that show we're making progress. If the acknowledgements happen, what else are we doing? As a white man, I might not be in a position to move this forward. Need to engage with people of color, but not putting the work on them. What are we doing and where to we want to get to? (B. Zick)
  - Okay to take a step back and learn in this journey. (T. Navas-Nieves)
  - What does more Board conversations look like? We're having a conversation now. (L. Beauchamp)
  - Need to understand history and future. Community engagement in GT. Maybe more research is needed? (A. Gengaro)
  - Arts & Venues looks through lens of DEI as we approach projects and events. Can we do the same? (J. Mosley)

- First time of tangible action brought forward, show support. To take this step is being brave – being nervous shows you care. (T. Navas-Nieves)
- MOTION: Read land & labor acknowledge at the start of every Board meeting (A. Gengaro/J. Mosley)
  - Have we seen the language of the acknowledgement? (B. Zick)
  - I would like to be able to read language before deciding on the action (B. Zick)
  - Before we vote on it, what are our next steps? Should be part of the conversation. (A. Harris)
  - Remove motion: Look at content and decide on action at April Board meeting (J. Mosley)

**Board Members: New/Old Business (3-minute comment max.)**

- Preparing a blog/interactive map of GT developments for the website. Will be discussing with Tracy for her team's assistance. (A. Harris)

**Adjourn**