



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

Board Attendees:

Kristy Bassuener, Lisa Beauchamp, Alvin Cooper III, Rachel Fewell, Jennifer Gance, Andrew Iltis, Tracy Kontrelos, Sara Leitch, John Mosley, Sean Walsh, Pablo Zacarias

Not Present:

Pete Dikeou, Anthony Gengaro, Alice Harris, Mathiba Kgopa, Adam Perkins, David Pietsch, Steve Strunk, Byron Zick

GTCD Staff:

Jennifer Larsen

Guests:

Shelly Oren (City Council District 10 aide)

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

- Welcome board members and guests
- Read Land and Labor Acknowledgements (J. Mosley)
- October Call to Action
 - Exhibit at Denver Art Museum (DAM), “Soul of Black Folks”. Includes 30 pieces by Ghanaian artist Amoako Boafo. Traveling exhibit opening October 8. (J. Mosley)
 - Two exhibits at the McNichols Building. “Culture Cloth” co-curated by Paul Ramsey, independent expert and gallery owner, and Shanna Shelby, chief curator for Denver Arts & Venues, this exhibition explores multiple cultures through the lens of cloth and textiles, including clothing. Beautiful hand-woven pieces, some are very old. Also, “Community Cloth” exhibition highlights contemporary artists and current designs being created with fiber and textiles. (J. Mosley)
 - Cultural Runway Show connected to this theme on October 14 at McNichols Building. Purchase tickets. Local designers, with competitions in different categories. (J. Mosley)
 - Monday is Indigenous Peoples Day – show respect for and acknowledge the original people living in this location. (A. Iltis)
 - Dia De Los Muertos Parade on Santa Fe and Festival at Civic Center Park on October 28. First of its kind in Denver. Family friendly, all-day celebration. (S. Leitch)
- Motion to approve September 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - MOTION: Approve minutes (J. Mosley/S. Leitch)
 - Minutes approved unanimously

GTCD Budget (J. Gance)

- Financials are in dire straits
- Expenses include Jennifer's payroll and about \$200 in other monthly expenses, expected through the end of the year.
- \$10,500 has come through for COLORCON sponsorships. Paid artists and Mary Valdez with these funds.
- Account balance fluctuates daily, yesterday \$500, today \$1200
- Expecting \$2500 check from DAM soon
- Recently talked with CNDC. Received tax acknowledgements for (Sean Walsh Consulting) COLORCON and Spring Fling sponsorships. This is the first time I've received tax acknowledgements from CNDC. (S. Walsh)
- I also received tax acknowledgements for sponsorships in 2023 (for Global Security Solutions). (L. Beauchamp)
- Alice is working on audit process with CNDC. (J. Gance)
- 2024 budget will need to be addressed in November, may have questions for Board. (J. Gance)

GTCD New/Renewal Membership (T. Kontrelos)

- New & Renewal Memberships to Acknowledge
- Memberships (September 1-30). Total \$4,300
 - Renewals:
 - 11th Avenue Hostel - \$300
 - Kirkland Museum - \$300
 - Clyfford Still Museum - \$1000
 - Denver Art Museum - \$2500
 - Nancy Ewing - \$100
 - Pints Pub - \$100
- Thank you to GTCD members for your support! (L. Beauchamp)

Staff Report (J. Larsen)

- I'll be leaving the meeting at 3:45 pm today
- I've received some kind offers from community members recently I wanted to share:
 - Donald Rossa at Dazzle Denver offered to sponsor an end of season brunch for our Litter League volunteers. Our volunteers will be treated to a Sunday brunch jazz show with complimentary food and coffee. I'm currently working out details with Dazzle and Liz Orr, but that should happen later this month.
 - Councilmember Hinds said he would like to help support the GTCD with money from his 2023 budget before the end of the year. He's also interested in helping to sponsor our Litter League group, as well as a new Golden Triangle mural. Regarding the mural, he would ideally like it to be somewhere along the 5280 Trail on Acoma – he's looking for location suggestions. He's been talking with local artist Pat Milbery to produce the mural – he would like a non-car transportation theme for the mural.
 - GTCD member Neil Macey with Denver Equities recently contacted me to arrange for a meeting and tour of The Acoma House, the boutique hotel on Acoma across the street from the Evans School. He knows the owner and thought we should connect with him. It's quite a unique space with each room painted with murals by a local artist. He thought the Golden Triangle community would be interested in visiting as well and suggested we could hold a Thirsty Thursday event there. We're currently working on setting up a time for the EC to do a tour and meet the owner.
 - We thank Dazzle Denver, CM Hinds, and Neil Macey for their generous offers!

Staffing for GTCD (L. Beauchamp & J. Mosely)

- Looking into Colorado Creative Industries (CCI) requirements to fulfill creative district status. (L. Beauchamp)
 - Need to address some diversity issues
 - Waiting for response from Christy Costello with CCI. Requirements, what we need to be doing? Staff? DEI? Are we implementing all the required items?
 - Next month will be a vision meeting. Why are we a Creative District? RNO?

Tiny Home Communities Meeting (L. Beauchamp & J. Mosely)

- Update on September 28 meeting and general discussion
 - Held in the Evans School Auditorium. Mayor Johnston & CM Hinds speakers. Discussed plan. First half of meeting attendees asked questions. Second half rapid fire questions answered by speakers at the end of the meeting. One of a series of meetings hosted all around Denver. Many of the questions focused around why two sites were selected in the Golden Triangle. Majority of the unsheltered homeless people are in our area. Selected sites were paired down from 2000 sites considered that met basic requirements – access to water, utilities, electricity, permitting, adjacency to schools, etc. I'm personally in support of the (micro-community approach). I had one of these sites (SOS) in my neighborhood, it was a non-issue, hardly aware it was there. (R. Fewell)
 - These are not SOS sites, which were only permitted for 6 months. Micro-communities can be permitted for up to 4 years, but they are temporary. (R. Fewell)
 - I also attended. It was communicated that there is always a minimum of two staff 24/7. Safer scenario than current encampments. Not necessarily in agreement with one of the locations (on Bannock St) (A. Cooper III)
 - If we had the two sites in the neighborhood, would they address other problem areas in the GT? (K. Bassuener)
 - Because police would no longer be responding to so many calls to encampments, response time to troubled areas could be addressed quickly. Many resources will be offered to residents at these sites. Probably best approach for neighborhood. Two sites not a done deal. 30-50 units per location. (A. Cooper III)
 - Condos next to Elati St site. Is there a buffer between site and condos? (S. Walsh)
 - Structures look nice. I have comfort in this approach. (A. Cooper III)
 - Proximity? Does this conflict with other things needed in the neighborhood, like childcare facilities? Opportunity for providing comments? Board action? How can we be involved? (A. Iltis)
 - Denver Arts & Venues involved in a grant through Downtown Denver Partnership. Opportunity for us to be involved in an activity to help beautify neighborhood, hold events, activities for kids, etc. These will be gated communities. Maybe we hire an artist to help beautify the exterior fencing – becomes a positive for the neighborhood. (J. Mosley)
 - October 12 there will be another community meeting. Maybe we have a Board presence? (A. Cooper III)
 - Maybe this will be a positive for the neighborhood. (S. Leitch)
 - Concerned about perception of security/safety. DAM evaluating this. (K. Bassuener)
 - Helpful if information shared onsite about what is happening at these locations. (P. Zacarias)
 - Unfair for people to think GTCD can answer questions about what's happening. This is the Mayor's Office initiative. (R. Fewell)

- Opportunity to educate people on what's happening. Is there a way we can help provide information as we learn it? We can state the positive aspects of these communities. Taking a stance would be difficult. (J. Mosley)
- We provided the Mayor's Office and CM Hinds close to 70 questions following the GTCD September 1 community meeting. We want the questions to be answered and we haven't received that yet. Community members asking GTCD Board to take a stance. We all have different opinions, so it won't work for us to take a stance. Our best approach is to help share information. (L. Beauchamp)
- Political decision. I'm not an expert on taking a political position, and the mayor is my boss. Providing information and sharing positives is a good approach. (J. Mosley)
- Are we still getting emails asking for Board to take a stance? (S. Walsh)
- Some residents still asking for us to take a stance as an RNO. We have some city employees. As an RNO we want to provide a platform for discussion. (L. Beauchamp)
- Our ties to the city are an advantage to the GTCD, they help us stay aware of what's happening. Mayor is concerned with metrics. Sharing concerns and assessing what's happening through this process gives us a platform for later discussions. (A. Iltis)
- People feel differently about this proposal. As an RNO and creative district we can help with access to information and where are meetings happening. Ask community what they need the most, 5 or 6 key points to share with the administration. (K. Bassuener)
- There will be a contract of expectations with community that will be monitored (Neighborhood Agreement). (A. Cooper III)
- CM Hinds forwarded some sample good neighbor agreements from SOS sites. Community meetings will be held to make sure sites are accountable. (L. Beauchamp)
- DAM will be doing a visitor survey soon. We may add a question or two related to perceptions of safety to capture some of those metrics. (K. Bassuener)
- Responsibility to our residents to be honest with them. Make sure they know we aren't taking a stand. We can make a list of requests that will help us advocate for the neighborhood. (S. Walsh)
- A benefit would be to create a statement to share with the full Board that states we aren't for or against it, but we want to provide access to information so that those who have concerns can voice their opinions in an appropriate way. These are the things we are asking for as an RNO to make sure we're taking care of the neighborhood. This will help us know how to respond appropriately to questions regarding the Board's position. (A. Cooper)
- Gather what businesses, residents, and cultural organizations need. (K. Bassuener)
- This can be an incentive to get people more involved in the neighborhood. (P. Zacarias)
- K. Bassuener to prepare a draft statement and direction. Start the conversation about what people in the neighborhood need, initiate community meetings/surveys.
- Public relation statement for committee meetings would be helpful. Explore grant opportunities that relate to the character of the neighborhood. (A. Iltis)
- Questions from the community on email from Urban Villages regarding SOS sites received by J. Mosley and L. Beauchamp. Was this property discussed with the GTCD board as the email states? (L. Beauchamp)
 - No recollection. (K. Bassuener)
 - Ask A. Perkins for reference. (J. Gance)
- Next meeting is a zoning meeting on October 12th

September 7th Board Meeting

- Discussion surrounding the Founding/Sustaining Partnership conversation

- Want to apologize to K. Bassuener, R. Fewell, and S. Leitch for how this came across. Didn't mean to call out specific organizations. We are grateful for the support of DAM, DPL, and Civic Center Conservancy. My passion is for the organization to succeed financially. (L. Bassuener)
- Appreciate you making an apology in this forum. (K. Bassuener)
- Thank you, I agree. I expressed my concern about founding members being mischaracterized in an email to John and Lisa. We bring value to the Golden Triangle, and we need to get value from the GTCD. There's been a lot of time and money dedicated to the organization. Asking DPL for support at the founding member level at this point is a big ask. (R. Fewell)
- I'd like to take responsibility too. In no way should anyone (myself included) decide what others should donate to this organization or any other organization. I don't want this organization to fail. I don't live here, I work here. I'm emotionally connected and responsible to this neighborhood. I wish we could get more Board members to the table to invest in these conversations. There are 500 businesses in the GT. My personal call to action is to show the value of the organization to the community. Kudos to all who have shown up for the organization. (J. Mosley)
- I put together a vision packet to share with everyone to discuss at the next meeting. Review and make notes. (J. Gance)
- Part of this discussion... How do we restart or add to sustaining partners? Who do we approach? (J. Mosley)

Committee Reports

- Executive Committee – J. Mosely/L. Beauchamp
 - No further comments
- Finance Committee – J. Gance/A.Harris
 - No further comments
 - Membership Committee – T. Kontrelos
 - No further comments
 - Grants Committee – B. Zick
 - Not present
 - Some grant opportunities coming up. We need to come up with neighborhood activations. Maybe that's part of a neighborhood survey, what the neighborhood wants to see. (J. Mosley)
 - Can we consider partnerships to help leverage our resources? (K. Bassuener)
 - I will follow up with DEDO regarding why we didn't get Neighborhood Activation grant, to see what we need to do next time around. (J. Mosley)
- Community Engagement Committee
 - Neighborhood Improvements – A. Perkins/P. Dikeou
 - Not present
 - Urban Design – A. Iltis
 - Have a proposal for an adaptive reuse project at 1001 Lincoln we will hear about at the October 12 meeting. Affordable housing project.
 - On December 14 we will hear about the DP District 10 headquarters relocation.
 - Thirsty Thursdays – L. Beauchamp
 - In September we met at Walker Fine Art. 70 registered and 59 attended.
 - Thirsty Thursday on hold until we find a better revenue source. \$500-\$1000 per month. DAM covered costs for The Ponti Thirsty Thursday. No event in October or November. We will have a Holiday Party on December 7, following the Board meeting.

- Moving forward, maybe the host will truly be the host, providing all the food and drinks. Maybe we do an introduction about the GTCD and who is present at the beginning. (J. Mosley)
- Maybe we also have a topic of conversation for each event, or a committee can talk about their work. (K. Bassuener)
- Business Networking – A. Cooper III
 - Met Sept 8, 8 attendees at 11th Avenue Hostel. A lot of good connections continue to be made.
 - Oct 13 meeting will be at Colleen Fanning Art Advisory.
- Events Committee – P. Zacarias
 - GTCD Events Committee
 - Board Meeting and Holiday Party on December 7.
 - External Events Liaison – R. Fewell
 - More Than Pink Walk is at Civic Center Park, walking to Cheesman Park on Sunday, Oct 8.
 - DAM free day on Oct 10. Untitled on Oct 27.
 - Dia De Los Muertos festival on Oct 28 at Civic Center Park
 - Related exhibition at McNichols Building and Sculpture Park
 - Holiday activations in Civic Center Park will be discussed next month

November 2nd Board Meeting – Focus on future vision of GTCD

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

Guest Comments (3-minute comments max.)

Adjourn