

Howard Street Special Service Area #19
Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88205418899>
dial in: +1 312 626 6799 Meeting ID: 88205418899

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 9 am
Meeting Minutes



Members Present: David Skora, Renee Labrana, Jessie Eisner-Kleytle, Tim Amos, Charlotte Walters

Others Present: Cindy Plante & Sandi Price, RPBA;
Juliane Allen, A5 Branding & Digital
Kyle Ryan, 49th Ward office
Phil Claudnic, Factory Theater

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 9:03 am.

2. Public comment

There was no public comment

3. Approval of meeting minutes from January 2023

Charlotte moved approval, Renee seconded.
Approved 5-0

4. Factory Theater Funding Request

Cindy introduced Phil to present the Factory Theater's funding request. Phil shared a slide deck about the organization and the need for emergency funding to repair their space and HVAC system after a fire caused by a faulty furnace, which forced the cancellation of previews for their most recent show. The \$15,000 loss wasn't covered by insurance or the landlord, but they have been able to raise \$12,000 on GoFundMe, and are asking for \$3,000 to close the gap.

Charlotte is in favor of approval.

David asked about upcoming fundraising events and whether an up-to amount would be acceptable.

Sandi asked if they're applying for DCASE grants or other funding - Phil said that they have applied already - the deadline is at the end of this month, and it usually takes another month or two after that before they hear back about a decision.

Sandi has no objection to approving this request but wants to make clear that this is an extraordinary circumstance and we don't want it to set a precedent.

David and Charlotte agreed, Charlotte asked why it wasn't the responsibility of the landlord (Becovic).

Phil replied that the lease specified that it's the tenant's responsibility to have insurance for the damaged to the HVAC system and they thought that their insurance included this only to find out that it didn't, which they're currently working to fix for the future.

Jessie asked who Phil has been in contact with at Becovic on this - she hasn't been involved. Phil will follow up offline.

Charlotte moved approval of \$3,000 due to the extraordinary situation. David 2nded. Approved 4-0-1 with Tim abstaining.

5. Howard Street Makers Studio Funding

Cindy shared updates on the Howard Street Makers Studio, which had been scheduled to wrap up at the end of this month. We've seen consistent attendance at programs and lots of people asking us to keep it going. We do have some grant money remaining because of scheduling issues with one of the artists that was included in the budget, and we're applying for other grants, but in the meantime we're asking the SSA to be a backstop. We expect program expenses for March to be around \$12,000, some of which should be able to be covered by remaining grant funds. We've budgeted \$8,000 in the Economic Development tab for FY23 for site marketing, which is most likely where we'd code any Makers Studio expenses.

David moved approval of \$8,000. Charlotte seconded.

Approved 5-0.

6. Light Pole Banners

Cindy is working with A5 on scheduling a spring photoshoot so we can add some new businesses when we replace light pole banners. We're pushing to use a local photographer this time.

David asked to include photos of the maker studio space.

Jessie asked about including Mars and Matt from Sol Cafe. Cindy said they're at the top of the priority list.

Charlotte asked about getting a more affordable photographer. Cindy and the A5 team have reached out to several - they all charge about the same amount, usually around \$2,000 for a 2-day shoot. We're happy to reach out for additional quotes if there's somebody you recommend. Charlotte will send some names but neither are local to RP.

7. Rise Grant Update

Cindy shared that the project team is still in the process of recruiting folks for the steering committee, which will probably host their first meeting in early March. There will be lots of additional opportunities to get involved in the process, including public meetings, surveys, and probably a series of focus groups or one-on-one interviews with local stakeholders.

8. Social media & website update

Juliane presented slides with updated statistics on website and social media performance. Posts about Howard Makers Studio have done particularly well in this reporting period. Cindy will send around the slides to commissioners later today.

David asked to include more posts about Khmai being named a finalist for a James Beard award.

Charlotte added that Florence Welch from Florence and the Machine visited her store recently and posted a video on instagram about it.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:48

Next Meeting: March 15, 2023, zoom