

Belmont Art Association Meeting: February 13, 2020

Location: Belmont Gallery of Art, Homer Building, Belmont, MA during the BGA's *Elemental* show.

Members Present: Martha Bazakas, Paul Beckingham (Webmaster), Nicole Bernstein, Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas (Co-Chair), Bert Halstead (Treasurer and Membership Coordinator), Kay Hudgins, Dari Paquette (Co-Chair), Jane Wentzell (Recording Secretary).

Business Meeting

1. **2020 Vision Activities:** The meeting was brought to order by Co-Chair Dari Paquette. Dari said, "The point of our members' show has been to illustrate the breadth of our organization," and we have succeeded in that. This show ends on Friday February 28th, with work pickup from 10am -1 pm that day, and a second opportunity the next day, Saturday February 29th from 10:30-11:30 am during drop-off for the BGA's next show.

Dari and Naomi gave us an account of how they publicized our show on February 12th by giving a joint interview with Jay Sugarman for his cable TV show "Museum Open House" on NewTV. NewTV is Newton's public access television channel. They spoke for half an hour with Jay on camera about the Belmont Art Association and the Belmont Gallery of Art, and they shared images of over half of the art in our show and briefly discussed each piece and artist. This show can be accessed online at <https://vimeo.com/391711599>. We thank Jay Sugarman, Dari and Naomi for making this possible.

Thereafter we discussed the three special events the BAA scheduled to accompany our show to help publicize it. The first was the film "Faces Places," shown on February 2nd. The second was Nicole Bernstein's talk, "How We View Art," held on February 9th. Both events were very well attended.

We talked most about the third event scheduled for the following Saturday. This is to be a still life set up by Paul Beckingham, allowing attendees to draw or paint a still life from different vantage points using watercolor, colored pencils, and other "clean" media, so as to keep the carpet clean and avoid hazardous solvent fumes. Kay Hudgins will set up with Paul, and Dari will arrive shortly after the event is underway. Fleur Thesmar is planning to arrive around the midpoint to participate. There will be snacks.

A post-mortem for the show is planned to discuss the show, the process, and how things could be done better for the next show. Dari said that managing the schedule for gallery sitting was a huge part of the job.

2. **Transformer Box Project:** During the previous three meetings we discussed our Belmont Cultural Council \$1000 grant to paint three of Belmont's transformer boxes in a similar fashion as Arlington, Newton, Somerville, and other towns have done. At our show reception, Naomi spoke with Mark DeCrew, a BGA board member who has technology expertise, who recommended we speak with Liz LaManche, a Somerville artist who is known for large scale public installations and street art in the Boston and Washington, DC areas. She also created murals for Burning Man between 2005-2008. She is currently installing a mural at Google's headquarters in Kendall Square. Naomi contacted her, and she will be our guest speaker at the March meeting on March 12th at the BGA.

Martha consulted with BAA member Debbie Page, who has been involved with Arlington's transformer box project. Martha will be drafting the request for design proposals and application for artists to use when applying to paint a transformer box; Dari and Naomi will then help finalize the RFP, and then the three of them will meet with the Town Administrator to get details on specific boxes. They hope to begin publicizing it by mid March.

3. **BAA Website Discussion:** A long discussion ensued concerning the professionalism of our organization and our website, spearheaded by an email written by member Nicole Bernstein. Because our website represents us in the eyes of the world, we talked about timely updates, ease of use, and removal of old material. It was decided that members who wish to post an event or show, calendar listing, meeting or workshop should email their announcement text and possibly images to Dari to forward to Paul for posting. No other forms of information will be accepted. Dari can also post information and photos on the BAA's Facebook page. The Facebook page is not restricted to people who have a Facebook account. Anyone can view it for photos and announcements.

4. **Program Scheduling:** We talked about scheduling a program for every month's meeting in order to give our members another reason to attend meetings, and we also discussed beginning a monthly board meeting for planning purposes. Even without going outside the BAA, we have enough members for each of us to discuss our work once every two years. Outside speakers will also be scheduled, such as Liz LaManche at next month's meeting. Anyone who wishes to do a "show and tell" session should contact Dari or Naomi.

5. **Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will take place on Thursday evening, March 12th at the BGA, from 7-9 pm. We will be able to enjoy the new show up in the gallery, "Artful Nature." Some BAA members have work in this show. As mentioned earlier, Liz LaManche is the planned guest speaker. We look forward to hearing her expertise and hope to see many members there!

Recording Secretary: Jane Wentzell, 617- 489 - 0412

Edited by Dari Paquette