



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Community Planning & Economic Development and the Minneapolis Arts Commission

Date: January 8, 2015

To: Lisa Bender, Chair, Zoning and Planning committee

Subject: Appointments to the *Minneapolis Arts Commission*

Recommendation: Approve the following Mayoral and Council appointments to the Minneapolis Arts Commission for terms starting January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2016.

Department Information

Prepared by: Tina Beech, Office Support Specialist, 612 673-3242
Approved by: Jay Stroebel, City Coordinator, 612 673-3241
Presenters in Committee: Gulgun Kayim, Director, Arts, Culture and Creative Economy, 612 673-2488

| | Appoint ed by Mayor or Council | Ward | New or Reappointment | Number of years of term | Term Beginning/Ending | Replacing or fulfilling the term of another member, Name |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Abdifatah Farah | Mayor | 2 | New | 2 | 1/1/2015 12/31/2016 | Seat 10 Jonna Kosalko |
| Mara Miller | Mayor | 4 | New | 2 | 1/1/2015 12/31/16 | Seat 11 Vacant |
| Tina Burnside | Mayor | 8 | New | 2 | 1/1/2015 12/31/2016 | Seat 15 Noel Raymond |
| Jennifer Arave | Council | 1 | Reappointment | 2 | 1/1/2015 12/31/2016 | Seat 3 Jennifer Arave |
| Calvin Keasling | Council | 11 | Reappointment | 2 | 1/1/2015 12/31/2016 | Seat 5 Calvin Keasling |
| Becky Franklin | Council | 13 | Reappointment | 2 | 1/1/2015 12/31/2016 | Seat 12 Becky Franklin |
| Melinda Ludwiczak | Council | 8 | Reappointment | 2 | 1/1/2015 12/31/2016 | Seat 16 Melinda Ludwiczak |
| Eric Bruce | Council | 12 | Reappointment | 2 | 1/1/2015 12/31/2016 | Seat 17 Eric Bruce |

Background/Supporting Information Attached

Abdifatah Farah [Artist – Mayor]

Abdifatah is currently a student at the University of St. Thomas studying Clinical Psychology. He is a spoken word artist, teacher and a community activist and he has been featured at the Nobel Peace Prize Forum New York Times AL-Jazeera and the Walker Arts Center.

Mara Miller [Artist – Mayor]

Mara is the communications and events coordinator for the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (MRAC). She organizes the arts-management and leadership training for our LOCALS group and she is a recent recipient of a Loft Literary Center Shabo award. Mara also served as a panelist for the PO4ever public art project.

Tina Burnside [Admin – Mayor]

Tina is a writer and publisher and she has written and produced several plays. She is a former newspaper reporter and a board member of the Minnesota Black Women Lawyers Network and she currently writes a book review blog.

Jennifer Arave [Artist - Council]

Jennifer is the Director of ArtShare a Community Arts Group creating shared art experiences for the Northeast community. She is a volunteer at Minneapolis Animal Control as an adoption counselor. Jennifer has served on the Holland Neighborhood Improvement Association Board and she received funding for the legacy for the North East Life Size Book project and Neighborhood Partnership grant from CURA for the Audio-Guided Walking Tour project.

Calvin Keasling [Artist – Council]

Calvin has a BA in Music Education and is an active musician in the Twin Cities and he is on the advisory committee for the Perpich Center for Arts Education. He is an Artist Content Lead for Minneapolis Public Schools, a member of MN Teaching Artist Development Group and a member of the Minneapolis Arts Coordinating Committee.

Becky Franklin [Layperson – Council]

Becky is the vice-chair/chair elect of the Minneapolis Arts Commission and a member of the Arts Commission Public Relations Committee and Executive Committee. She is also serving on the Steering Committee for the Minneapolis Arts, Culture and Creative Economy Plan.

Melinda Ludwiczak [Admin – Council]

Melinda was a community partnership coordinator with the Minneapolis Public Library and was responsible for the exhibitions at the Minneapolis Central Library Cargill Hall gallery. Melinda is responsible for the Legacy-funded programs and projects presented by the public library in the metro area and she is involved in the development and implementation of the Minneapolis Plan

for Arts and Culture. She supports staff at 100 public libraries in planning, implementing and evaluating art programs and she works with over 1,000 local partners including independent artists, educators, neighborhood and nonprofit organizations.

Eric Bruce [Admin - Council]

Eric received his Master's degree in Arts and Cultural Management and is currently employed as the Head of Visitor Experience at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, where he directs the operation of the Visitor and Member Services department. For the past three years he has served as the museum's representative to the Whittier neighborhood, attended community meetings, communicating with the Whittier Alliance and discussing projects with employees and representatives of the Mpls Park and Recreation Board. Eric received a Roberta Mann Innovation Award for his work and represented the MIA nationally as a presenter at the American Alliance of Museums conference.