



**The Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center
Advisory Board Minutes
September 11, 2025**

Board Members Present: Delois 'Dee' Marsh, Arreasha 'Z' Lawrence, Fernando Verdree, Ku'Wonna Ingram, Arsburn 'Oz' Roberts, Evelyn 'Mimi' Woodson, Dr. Shikha Shah

Board Members Absent: Cletus Richardson, Terrance Flowers

Present: Civic Center Staff: Kanise Wiggins, Caryn Hammond, Jennifer Babin, Troy Vanerson, Janine Abano

Mimi Woodson - Called for order at 4:10 pm

Minutes for May 21 & July 10, 2025, approved.

- **Grant Application Updates & Funding Strategy:**

- Request for new support letter omitting Levitt Foundation mention; Parks and Chamber letters submitted.
- Columbus Jazz Society, a 509(a)(2) public charity, is now involved for broader funding access (federal and private)

- **Liberty Theatre Cleanup, Mold Remediation, and Artifact Preservation:**

- Ongoing mold cleaning at Liberty Theatre; significant work remains.
- Status of donated/borrowed items under review; requests to preserve items for museum display.
- Discussion on proper removal and potential refurbishment of theatre seats; aim to retain 6-8 seats as historical pieces.
- Concerns raised about cleaning and preserving photos, portraits, and paintings affected by mold.

- **Community Engagement, Social Media, and Public Library Input:**

- Community Library Visit promoted only on Facebook; low attendance expected and observed.
- Attendees provided valuable input and music experience.
- Recommendation to use larger input sheets with name and contact fields for follow-up.
- Suggestion to use QR codes linking to online questionnaires for broader feedback collection.
- Media coverage obtained through personal outreach; limited budget restricts frequent media engagement. (online survey, social media, website, and press release)

- **Board Membership Changes and City Council Relations:**
 - Sent council-approved letter with full attendance list on September 01, 2025.
 - Two board vacancies exist after removal of Gloria Strode and Carolyn Star-Ross by council as of September 01, 2025.
 - Encouraged board members to recommend active, engaged candidates for vacancies.
 - Suggested interested individuals contact their council member for appointment guidance.
- **New Architect Introduction and Project Planning:**
 - Scott Holmes is the new architect; worked on Rainey McCullens, River Center, Springer.
 - Holmes' company merged, expanding global architectural team.
 - Encouraged attendance and social media sharing input meetings; use sign-in sheets for documentation.
 - Progress photos (before/after) and regular updates on social media build public trust and show ongoing work.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janine Abano

Janine Abano, Board Secretary

Columbus Civic Center
400 4th Street
Columbus, GA 31901