

October 25, 2021 Board Minutes

Cantus Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting held via Zoom

Brian Newhouse called the Board Session to order at 5:31 PM.

In Attendance: Sandra Davis, Alberto de la Paz, Nancy Gaschott, Jonathan Guyton, Laurie Meyers, Brian Newhouse, David Niles, Jeff Reed, Paul Scholtz, Kevin Stocks, Frank Stubbs, Barb Thomas, and Paul Wilson

Staff: Joseph Heitz and Anne Today

Absent: PaviElle French, Elizabeth Hartwell, Paul Johnson, Kim Taylor, Beth Anne Thompson, Theresa Gienapp

Artists: Jake Christopher, Sam Green, Jeremy Wong

Approval of the Minutes

Brian called for a motion to approve the September board meeting minutes; Sandra moved and Nancy seconded. Frank asked for “management” committee to be changed to “governance” committee in the governance report. With that change, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Brian started the meeting with a musical moment: “That which remains” by Andrea Ramsey and followed with introductions, welcome to newest member Paul Wilson.

Audit Review and Discussion

Marc Kotsonas and Kimberly Lee from Mahoney CPA joined the meeting to discuss the audit. The process went smooth and they met with the finance committee to discuss if any changes were needed. No significant adjustments were made to the financials after review. The final audit can be found on the board website.

Brian called for a motion to approve the FY21 audit report; Frank moved, Paul W second, unanimously approved.

Artist’s Report

Alberto: had a conversation with Stephanie at IMG about bookings being slow. Presenters are waiting to see what happens this season before booking for next season, so hopefully more bookings will happen in January. Presenters are also wary of booking “Song of the Universal” because of its topic of spirituality. Educational institutions tend to avoid these topics even though this program is very inclusive. Churches are very interested though. Presenters are interested in

“Alone Together” which could be a second option. Might be bringing back “Brave” for 23/24 touring season but might need a second option for presenters to choose from. Will be discussing further about creative options.

Executive Directors Report

Two updates: uploaded a more current sales report for My Journey Yours- at 133% of sales goal. 33 states and Washington DC as well as Canada and the Netherlands.

McKnight will no longer be funding Cantus because they are shifting their priorities to BIPOC and rural organizations.

Discussion of how foundation support is going- out \$50,000 after losing Target and McKnight but we’ve deepened our relationship with Athwin and have been invited to apply to the Mortenson Family Foundation. We would be well served to lean into individual gifts.

Finance Committee

Nancy- nothing more to report but will deliver a thorough September/October report for November meeting.

Engagement Committee

Reminder to contact Joe about annual pledge before Thanksgiving, even if you aren’t sure what it might be.

Thank-a-thon will be happening again. You will receive a list of patrons to call and thank in the next week or so. Please have done before Thanksgiving.

Governance Committee

Frank - Jeff and Jon will be rotating off the board this next summer and we will need to find successors. If you have recommendations, let the governance committee know.

Strategic Plan Update

Still waiting on proposals/price tags from 3 organizations, mix of local and national. Should be receiving them soon. Will be transparent in each of the board meetings about the process. If you have any interest in joining Brian, Joe, and Sandra to look through proposals and decide which is the best fit, let Brian or Joe know. Hoping to decide on organization by the end of November and then in December, create the job list for the small working group that will drive the strategic planning process. This group is still TBD. Highly encourage anyone to reach out that has an interest in helping with this process.

Last minute business:

Joe- we received another \$144,000 from the Shuttered Venue Grant.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.