



BOND STREET THEATRE

peacebuilding, empowerment & healing through theatre

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 5, 2015

Scheduled time: 6-8 pm

Actual Time: 6:37-8:09 pm

LOCATION – Conference Call

Members on the Conference Call:

Joanna Sherman, Vice President
Mary Dino
Alice Leopold
Scott Kamen
Ruth Juliet Wikler-Luker
Ethel Barber

Staff Present:

Ilanna Saltzman, Program Associate, recording Minutes

Handouts:

- Board Meeting Agenda
- Financials
- Donors 2013 and 2014
- Minutes from October 5, 2014 meeting
- Grants applied for and received 2014 - 2015

CALL TO ORDER.....TIME: 6:37 PM

Slight delay from original time due to technical issues. The original plan to use Skype, due to inclement weather, is changed to Conference Call.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

Review actionable items from last Board meeting:

1. Joanna to send latest PowerPoint of Ramp-Up presentation to Board – Not yet completed.
2. Alice to check possibility of Gallery showing of A Decade in Afghanistan at South Asian Business Association and the Asia Society. – Not yet completed.
3. Michael (staff) to supply Board with database names of individual donors. – Done.
4. Alice to check with her printer in NJ for bulk printing of A Decade in Afghanistan. – Done.
5. Ethel will check with Michael Eisenberg for any Printer connections. – Done.
6. Joanna to send book to Casey Jennings of Girl Rising (suggestion of Alice) – Not completed.
7. Alice volunteers to write cards that might go to donors at end-of-year campaign. – Done.
8. Staff to create a “Trustee Portal” on our website to exchange files with Board. – Done.

Update / Report from Artistic Director, Joanna Sherman

- Suggest switch to short newsletters more frequently rather than long newsletters. Note that the blog is frequently updated. See entries from most recent Afghanistan trip and from interns troubleshooting *Theatre for Social Development* handbook in Kenya and Uganda.
- Provincial Youth Project is going very well with positive responses. The project at \$700,000 budget projected to require \$1,000,000. Asking for further funding from IOM and USIP.
- Company Member Heddy Lahmann-Rosen is heading up the PYP evaluation team for her dissertation through NYU.
- Company Member Anna Zastrow is in Sweden collaborating on a play about refugees with former Afghan staff member Monirah Hashemi (who is now a refugee in Sweden).
- Open Society-funded project in Myanmar successfully completed in December.
- Bond Street Theatre will receive the Otto Award for Political Theatre at May 17th event.
- *The Children of Afghanistan* published by University of Texas Press includes chapter written by Joanna.

1. Discussion Topic: Fundraising

- Donations decreased by \$6-7000 from last year.
- Board members should follow up with people who received donated photo books.
- Ethel thinks the post cards are good idea – easy to hand out and keep around.
- Grant funding has been rising, but still need operating support (in addition to project support).
- Big corporations have international giving programs; how do we locate these?
- We should ask consultant Anne Dunning and Professor Julie Falkoff for their advice.

2. Discussion Topic: Exposure or Getting the Word Out

- Even with book, blog, website, Twitter, and FB our reach is limited. We're reaching friends, but not greatly expanding our sphere, especially to rich donors.
- Alissa Rubin wrote a series of articles for the NYTimes about women in Afghanistan; she should be approached to write about us.
- BST has received requests from students in many countries for information about our work for their theses and dissertations.
- We should continue salons (and thank you events for donors) with new creative ideas. We should ask our bigger donors to host and invite their friends. Venue should have its own crowd or caché, such as Bond 09 or Tory Burch. Greenwich contacts

3. Actionable Items / Follow up for Next Meeting:

- Joanna to share PowerPoint of Ramp Up with board.
- Alice to look into a gallery showing.
- Joanna to send photo book to Casey Jennings of *Girl Rising*, using Linked In.
- Michael (staff) to list names of donors via Network for Good to board via Trustee Portal.
- Joanna to contact Alissa Rubin at New York Times.
- Salon: Joanna to talk to Sandy Tyner Heath about hosting a salon in Greenwich; Alice to host dinner featuring “bring a friend” idea, like “Six in the City”; have a thank you party for donors and they bring a friend; have a joint salon with another organization. Scott to look into hosting in Ossining, perhaps a reunion of former salon; Ethel to assist with all salon ideas.
- Board and staff to research salon venues or environments, such as Bond No. 9 or better.
- Board and staff to compile list of donors to attend a salon or dinner.

ADJOURN.....8:09 pm