



Minutes of the Meeting  
Board of Directors of Poetry Promise, Inc.  
January 20, 2024

Those present included Board Members Chris Giunchigliani, Rosa Mendoza, Rodney Lee, and Bruce Isaacson. Executive Director Isabelle Bellinghausen also was in attendance. The meeting was held via Zoom. The meeting was duly noticed by email and called to order by Bruce Isaacson in his capacity as Board Chair at approximately 12:00 p.m.

The Board reviewed the Minutes of the last meeting, which had been circulated in advance. Chris moved and Rosa seconded to approve the Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Bruce discussed his financial report and the proposed FY '23-'24 Budget. A discussion followed about the necessity for a current budget for upcoming grant submittals. Bruce mentioned the submittal for the ArtsHERE grant turned in on Jan. 19 for a capacity-building project. Isabelle noted these funds would be used to create a robust evaluation system to make Poets in the Schools more competitive for federal and State grants. The 2024 Grant Tracker of all active grants being pursued was discussed including a new partnership with Helping Hands of Vegas Valley. Rosa mentioned her previous connection with the program. Bruce discussed the pre-application for the Clark County Outside Agency Grant (OAG) that was submitted on Thursday, Jan. 18 and approved by Clark County to move forward. Chris said she would message Commissioner Segerblom to follow up on OAG. Bruce stated he would email Commissioner Segerblom with updates on OAG, upcoming events, and the Community Project Funding application through Clark County and the US Senate taking place in February/March. Rodney moved to approve the Budget and accept the financial report. Chris seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Bruce reviewed two upcoming events: the NEA Challenge America Grant event at the West Las Vegas Library on April 12 from 4-10pm, and the reading by US Poet Laureate Ada Limón on June 2. Bruce discussed the community partners for the Ada Limón event, including the Clark County Poet Laureate (co-presenter), the LV-Clark County Library District, and Black Mountain Institute. Bruce stated that the contract would need to be signed with Ada Limón's agent. Rodney moved to allow Bruce to move forward to negotiate and sign the contract. Rosa seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Rodney discussed the possibility of a grant from Ben Vereen. He's been traveling. When he returns, Rodney will let us know to send another copy of the proposal to support Poets in the Schools.

The next meeting was proposed by Bruce for April 20. This would make Board meetings quarterly instead of bi-annually. Chris mentioned that she has a NAACP conference she's attending and would explore getting a table for the organization.

Chris moved and Rodney seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried without objection and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:32PM.

The above minutes are approved and submitted by the Secretary, Board Chair, and Board of Directors.

**Board of Directors of Poetry Promise, Inc.**

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Rosa Mendoza, Board Member & Secretary

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Bruce Isaacson, Chair & Treasurer

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Chris Giunchigliani, Board Member

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Rodney J. Lee, Board Member