



## Emerging Leaders Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 9, 2025 6:00 PM

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Chair

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Date

**Members present:** Nicole Adams, Yu Chen, Lauren Greene, Zoe Hardy-Rappmund, Shanise Harris, Brion Humphrey, Christina Irizarry Santiago, Drew Lusher, Rachel Martin, Serena Murry-Webb, Tameika Serrano, Amanda Shortt, Janae Thompson, John Wiley

**Staff present:** Nicole Cleveland, Katherine Hafner, James Roach,

### Meeting was called to order at 6:05PM

- John opened the meeting with an ice breaker, what are your summer plans?
- Upcoming Events
  - James provided an update on the April Story Exchange event:
    - April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.
    - 10 storytellers will be featured, including Jae Sinnet.
    - Meeting with the storytellers Monday for a run through.
    - No news on ticket sales, but they are available through The American Theater.
    - Support is still needed for the WHRO table – touch base with Blair if interested!
  - James discussed the June Story Exchange event:
    - June 12<sup>th</sup> at Zeiders American Dream Theater in Virginia Beach
    - Information is ready and will be available at the April event to begin promoting.
  - Zoe shared an update on Play Your Heart Out
    - Run through dates have been determined.
    - The committee will be selecting a date to review submissions and will send to the group if interested.
  - Tam reviewed the organizational spreadsheet
    - There was discussion on how we can more effectively reach out to other organizations and what support is needed for the Board to do this individually.
    - Suggested print flyers that could attached along with the script for each email.
    - It was also suggested to send bulk emails and the follow up individually with organizations that Board Members have a personal relationship with.
- Yu shared an update on the Social Committee
  - The committee met and is nailing down the first couple of events to share with the groups.
  - Suggestions include a quarterly dinner, volunteer day, coffee zooms, and meeting every other month in lieu of the Board meeting.
  - Updates will go out through the WhatsApp group message.
- Tam introduced the conversation to change the frequency of Board Meetings
  - Suggestions were made to hold meetings every other month and to have social events on the off months. Committees would still meet regularly to keep momentum on events going.



- Concerns were shared that meeting less regularly might result in fewer events or less productive Board meetings.
- A vote was held and the motion was passed to transition to every other month.
- A transition team was put in place to discuss the most effective way to communicate with the Board, length of meetings, purpose, expectations, etc. including Tam, John, Lauren, Shanise, Brion, and Amanda.
- WHRO Station Updates
  - Nicole voiced her appreciation for members and sustaining members, and shared that 23K supporters give below major giving status annually. She mentioned volunteer opportunities at the station and reminded the Board to please reach out if interested.
  - Katherine shared an update on Climate reporting in our area and encouraged Board Members to send story ideas and pitches her way.
  - The station is currently hiring for a Membership Database Coordinator, a Health Reporter, and a Digital Producer.
- The members shared personal and professional updates for the group.

### **Adjournment 7:24 PM - Next Meeting Wednesday, May 14, 2025**

#### Upcoming meetings

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| ● May 14, 2025       | ● November 12, 2025 |
| ● July 9, 2025       | ● December 10, 2025 |
| ● September 10, 2025 |                     |