

**New Hampshire State Council on the Arts**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – September 16, 2022**  
**Via Zoom**

**Arts Councilors Present**

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Juliana Bergeron, Angela Brown, Mary McLaughlin, Tim Sink, Bill Stelling, Jason Tors, Cecilia Ulibarri, Peter Warburton and Leah Woods

**Arts Councilors Absent**

Vivian Beer, R.P. Hale, José Lezcano, Catherine Sununu and Amanda Whitworth

**Staff Present**

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR): Sarah Stewart, Commissioner; Arts Division: Ginnie Lupi, Director; Cassandra Mason, Chief Grants Officer (CGO); Kayla Schweitzer, Heritage and Traditional Arts Coordinator (HTA); Lisa Burk-McCoy, Creative Communities & Arts in Health Coordinator (CC/AH); Allison Hawkins, Arts Education Coordinator (AE); and Carey Johnson, Curatorial Specialist (CS)

**Staff Absent**

Emily Killinger, Visual Arts Associate (VAA)

**Motions (carried)**

- Accept the minutes of July 15, 2022 Council meeting
- Approve Artist Entrepreneurial Grants (\$7,400)
- Approve Arts for Community Engagement Grants (\$89,705)
- Approve Folklife & Traditional Arts Project Grants (\$28,550)
- Approve Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Grants (\$32,000)
- Approve Poetry Out Loud Partnership Grant (\$20,000)

**I. INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

(HTA) Kayla Schweitzer led the Council in a Land Acknowledgement. All are encouraged to visit <https://native-land.ca/> for an interactive map and to learn more about the indigenous peoples that lived/live in New Hampshire.

**II. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks called the meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts to order at 9:32 AM and encouraged Councilors to attend at least one of the two gubernatorial house parties being hosted by Arts4NH, taking place over the next two weeks (September 28 and October 3).

**III. MINUTES**

Chair Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the July 15, 2022 meeting. Councilor Bill Stelling moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Juliana Bergeron. The minutes from July 15, 2022 were unanimously approved.

**IV. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Stewart noted that DNCR has continued to be the “booking agent” for Executive Council, most recently coordinating an event with the help of Director Lupi at Mt. Washington State Park that featured Debbie Aldrich, a watercolor artist from Sugar Hill.

Work on the department budget continues, with the Arts Council requesting a 100% increase in funding for grants. Commissioner Stewart also reported on a permitted 3% increase across the agency. She plans to

push for three additional positions including an attorney, federal grants administrator and a department-wide curator.

Last week the Governor met with Commissioners from across departments to discuss the difficulty they have faced filling positions and retaining staff. Commissioner Stewart commended DNCR and the Arts Council more specifically, for not letting these challenges affect their work. Finally, Commissioner Stewart plans to present an offer later today to a candidate for the position of Director of the Parks division.

**V. APPROVAL OF ARTIST ENTREPRENEURIAL GRANTS (\$7,400)**

Arts Council staff conducted a review of the eight applications received in this category. The panel evaluated applications on quality of proposed opportunity, eligibility, and potential to impact the artist's career. The panel recommended eight applications for funding.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the Artist Entrepreneurial grant recommendations. Motion made by Councilor Tim Sink and seconded by Councilor Bill Stelling. The Council unanimously approved.

**VI. APPROVAL OF ARTS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GRANTS (\$89,705)**

A five-member panel conducted a review of the 28 applications received in this category. The panel evaluated applications on quality of arts programming (30 pts.); public access, engagement and benefit (30 pts.); administrative capacity (20 pts.); and project measurements/outcomes (20 pts.). The panel recommended 22 applications for funding.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the Arts for Community Engagement grant recommendations. Motion made by Councilor Peter Warburton and seconded by Councilor Juliana Bergeron. The Council unanimously approved, save one abstention (Councilor Jason Tors).

**VII. APPROVAL OF FOLKLIFE & TRADITIONAL ARTS PROJECT GRANTS (\$28,550)**

A two-member panel conducted a review of the six applications received in this category. The panel evaluated applications on quality of arts programming (35 pts.); public access, support, and benefit (25 pts.); administrative capacity (20 pts.), and project measurements/outcomes (20 pts.). The panel recommended five applications for funding.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the Traditional Arts Project grant recommendations. Motion made by Councilor Leah Woods and seconded by Councilor Peter Warburton. The Council unanimously approved.

**VIII. APPROVAL OF TRADITIONAL ARTS APPRENTICESHIP GRANTS (\$32,000)**

A four-member panel conducted a review of the eight applications received in this category. The panel evaluated applications on appropriateness of art form (15 pts.); expertise of master artist (25 pts.); preparedness of apprentice (25 pts.); quality and feasibility of project (20 pts.), and potential impact (15 pts.). The panel recommended all eight applications for funding.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grant recommendations. Motion made by Councilor Tim Sink and seconded by Councilor Leah Woods. The Council unanimously approved.

**IX. APPROVAL OF POETRY OUT LOUD PARTNERSHIP GRANT (\$20,000)**

Funding from the NEA to support Poetry Out Loud (POL), which goes to a fiscal agent to aid in administrative process of supporting POL. The division did targeted outreach in lieu of applications and decided on New Hampshire Council of Teachers of English to act as fiscal agent for FY23.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the Poetry Out Loud Partnership grant assignment. Motion made by Councilor Peter Warburton and seconded by Councilor Juliana Bergeron. The Council unanimously approved.

#### **X. STAFF REPORTS**

Director Lupi gave a summary of staff operations since the last Council meeting, beginning with an update on the Strategic Planning process. Consultants Deirdre Montgomery and Danya Sherman began hosting focus groups on August 15. The Council's virtual group will be held October 3. They also plan on conducting 10-12 interviews beginning next week and distributing online surveys shortly thereafter. The final plan will hopefully be delivered in January or February.

Work continues on the National Endowment for the Arts partnership application, which is due on October 7.

Director Lupi also updated the Council on the state of the division's offices, which flooded in August due to a broken toilet valve. Severely impacted were the Traditional Arts room as well as the Arts Bank room. Lost works have been documented as repairs continue. Additionally, the boiler that heats the building must be replaced, necessitating the renovation of the entire building to bring it up to code (which may take until January 2023).

The proposal for a second round of Save Our Granite Stages (SOGS) is with GOFERR staff. The proposed change in eligibility will not only open the program to larger venues but also allow some venues and production entities that received initial SVOG assistance to apply. If approved by the GOFERR, the proposal will move on to the Joint Fiscal Committee and G+C, with the grant program going live in early January.

Director Lupi noted that performing arts venues responding to the pandemic impact survey were the hardest hit, with museums and galleries following closely behind. This survey will figure into advocacy for the budget – the department's request includes a 100% increase in the Council's state grants line.

The PVP group and the performing arts group, both of which have been meeting bi-weekly since April of 2020, recently met with Estlin Loparto of Travel & Tourism, to discuss more fully integrating the arts into tour itineraries. These meetings came as a result of Estlin meeting with several of our staff earlier in the summer. While the relationship with Tourism continues to be challenging, these meetings are a step in the right direction.

Lastly, Director Lupi has been asked to chair the NASAA Nominating Committee in 2023.

(CGO) Cassandra (Cassie) Mason noted (VAA) Emily Killinger is running Reach the Beach today and tomorrow.

Cassie noted that operations have been affected by the loss of the offices, including incoming mail and grant applications.

(CS) Carey Johnson has been assisting Cassie with Percent for Art, which met recently with the National Guard. There's one installation left at the Merrimack County Superior Court which will hopefully be completed by the end of September.

There's a new project with Department of Environmental Services Dam Bureau, which is at their garage facility, and is a good opportunity for outdoor sculpture. She is currently working on developing an RFP for it, which will be finished once the NEA application has been submitted.

Cassie recently sat in on New England Foundation for the Arts grant panel. NEFA just relaunched their CreativeGround database. She also sat in on the State of Maine fellowship panel for their Media fellowship. Lastly, she went to Lancaster to see the unveiling of the Positive Street Art mural on the Lancaster Motel.

(HTA) Kayla Schweitzer reported assisting with the aftermath of the office flooding, documenting the works and signage lost. She has also been facilitating a grant panel every week for the previous three to four weeks. Kayla and Cassie also made a site visit to see the Maxfield Parrish Stage Set in Plainfield and Opera North in Cornish.

The next NH Commission on Native American Affairs meeting will be sometime in November.

At the end of July, Kayla worked the Lowell Folk Festival as the Folk Arts Coordinator.

Finally, Kayla reminded the Council that the Highland Games and Concord Multicultural Festival take place this coming weekend.

(AE) Allison Hawkins reported on the Poetry Out Loud FY23 season gearing up. Registration for early birds opened recently, with general registration opening today.

Allison has been working on deepening engagement and encouraging artists to apply to the Arts Education Artist Roster. She connected with new artists over the summer, and more recently met with the Community Engagement Lab in Vermont about their Teaching Artists Academy regarding a possible future collaboration.

Allison is also encouraging Roster artists to create profiles on CreativeGround 2.0. This fall she will be focusing on the assessment of the Artist in Residence program with a survey and an advisory group.

Allison posted a spotlight in August for the NH Arts Learning Network website focusing on the impact of arts education on mental health, and she's been sharing it along with community resources.

Lastly, she's excited to attend the NASAA conference in Kansas City next week and she will be joining Marcia McCaffrey (DOE) at the NH Music Educators Association conference in October.

(CC/AH) Lisa Burk-McCoy reported that the New Hampshire Creative Communities Network (NHCCN) will be announcing the third installment of its *Round the Table* series, taking place on October 4, entitled "Cooks in the Kitchen".

In March 2022, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and Arts4NH co-hosted a workshop with the New Hampshire Municipal Association and Americans for the Arts to provide guidance to New Hampshire towns, cities, and organizations interested in designating municipal ARPA funds to support arts and culture projects as part of a comprehensive strategy to further local recovery and revitalization efforts. Lisa noted that a follow-up survey is being conducted to learn how arts and culture projects factored into the strategic allocation of municipal and county ARPA funds in N.H.

NHCCN hosted Dee Schneidman from New England Foundation for the Arts to speak about the launch of the newly updated CreativeGround platform.

Creative Vitality Suites has been tested and in October will be released to the Arts Commissions group to review reports and provide feedback.

NH Makerspace Network continues to discuss fiscal sponsorship to bring the makerspaces together with shared services.

Lisa attended a site visit at Makers Mill in Wolfeboro, which has been renovated in anticipation of their grand opening in October.

Lisa has also been working with Erica Canales of Coos Economic Development Corporation to help her make connections and gather information/resources to inform the launch of a new Cultural District in Gorham. The goal of the Cultural District is to generate a cohesive and arts-forward brand to activate tourism in Gorham.

Finally, Lisa and Allison attended the *Imagine That* exhibit at the Portsmouth Historical Society, and she encouraged Council members to visit as well.

**XI. COUNCILOR ROUND ROBIN**

Chair Brooks asked each Councilor to tell the Council how they've been faring and to provide updates on what they've been doing. Councilors reported on a wide range of in-person and virtual arts activities.

**XII. ADJOURN**

Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:05 AM. Councilor Tim Sink moved to approve and Councilor Leah Woods seconded.