

**New Hampshire State Council on the Arts**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**September 21, 2015, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**2 Pillsbury St, Concord, NH**

**Arts Councilors Present:**

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Vice Chair Jacqueline Kahle (phone call-in), Angela Brown, Mary McLaughlin, Tim Sink, and William Stelling

**Arts Councilors Absent:**

Emile Birch, Susan Duprey, Sara Germain, Amanda Merrill, Elizabeth Morgan, Billie Tooley, Jason Tors, Peter Warburton, and J. Christopher Williams

**Staff Present:**

Department of Cultural Resources Commissioner Van McLeod; Arts Division: Virginia (Ginnie) Lupi, Director; Cassandra Mason, Chief Grants Officer (CGO); Catherine O'Brian, Arts in Education and Arts in Health Coordinator (AIE & AIH); Julianne Morse, Heritage and Traditional Arts Coordinator (H & TA); and Emily Killinger, Visual Arts Associate (VAA)

**I. Open Meeting:**

Chairman Roger Brooks called to order the regular meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts at 9:30 a.m. on September 21, 2015.

Director Ginnie Lupi introduced the newest Arts Council employee, Emily Killinger.

**II. Minutes from Last Meeting:**

**MOTION PASSED**

Chairman Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the July 13, 2015 meeting. Councilor Angela Brown moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Jacqueline Kahle.

Councilor William Stelling noted that he was on the call-in for the July meeting.

The minutes from July 13, 2015 were unanimously approved.

**III. Director's/Staff /Commissioner's Reports:**

H&TA Coordinator Julianne Morse reported that an exhibit focusing on contra dance and its history in New Hampshire will be coming to the State Library, from mid-October till the end of November. The opening reception of this exhibit will be on Wednesday, October 14, 2015 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. The exhibit was originally supported as a General Project grant and is an extension of her work this past year to promote the history and culture of contra dance in the state. Other work in the this area includes a brochure created in partnership with the NH Division of Travel and Tourism, which features eighteen regularly scheduled traditional community dances around the state. Musician Liz Faiella recently completed interviews at all eighteen dances and her write ups and photos will be featured weekly on the NH Folklife website blog. In addition, musician and community scholar Randy Miller will present at the Ralph Page Dance Festival on his research into John Targatt's influence on community social dance music in the Monadnock region.

H & TA Coordinator Morse shared that this year's Concord Multicultural Festival has been postponed. Morse attended the Laconia Multicultural Festival to research planning ideas for next year's festival in Concord, which may possibly be combined with Concord Market Days in the spring of 2016.

Morse also passed around a recently published book by photographer Becky Fields. The book, titled "Different Roots, Common Dream: New Hampshire's Cultural Diversity" focuses on the immigrant communities in New

Hampshire. Morse reported that a reception and exhibit was held at Kimball Jenkins Estate in Concord, which was well attended, including the Governor, Maggie Hassan.

H & TA Coordinator Morse wrote an article on the after school program the Council supported with the New American Africans. This article has been featured in an online journal of folklore and education that was recently released. Morse handed out printed versions of the article but encouraged everyone to read it online in order to view the slideshow created to accompany the article (a link can be found on the Council's Facebook page). Additionally Morse shared a letter of support written by Honore Murenzi, Director of the New American Africans group. His letter eloquently remarked about the health and social benefits of this program.

CGO Cassandra Mason reported that she has been working with our partner the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) with their project to produce 3 minute videos for each state. This project is in celebration of their fifty year anniversary. The film crew will be here in on October 2, to interview Commissioner Van McLeod, AIE & AIH Coordinator Catherine O'Brian, and fiddler Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki, who started in our apprentice program and is now a master artist.

Mason reported that our off-year application for the NEA is due at the end of September and everyone is working hard to complete it. Mason was invited and will be serving on an NEA peer review panel for state arts agencies. Mason will attend the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) conference in October. Mason reported that she been asked to assist the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) with their hands-on CreativeGround workshop about creating a CreativeGround profile, to be held in Nashua, NH. Additionally Mason was invited to participate on the cultural committee for the Endowment for Health, with the first meeting on Sept. 24. Mason is also working with Shelly Angers at Department of Cultural Resources on the national ornament project.

With the final approval of the state budget CGO Mason will be able to start sending out the Public Value Partnership grant award letters by the end of the week, and Director Lupi hopes to re-set the General Project grant deadline, also by the end of the week. Councilor Kahle asked that we notify the Councilors of the new deadline once it is set.

AIE & AIH Coordinator O'Brian reported that the organization New Hampshire Scholars has created an arts and STEM program for students seeking scholarships. The Arts Council recently held two Creative Aging workshops, one in Concord and one in West Lebanon. Approximately fifty people attended the trainings, including artists, librarians, and program directors. Councilor Brown had positive remarks about her experience from attending the first of the two workshop days.

AIE & AIH Coordinator O'Brian reported that NH Poetry Out Loud (POL) is accepting registrations. At this time we have filled 29 of the 40 available spots for this program. O'Brian also gave a brief description of each of the four new juried roster artists (3 AIE, and 1 AIH). AIE & AIH Coordinator O'Brian will step back from the organizational role of the fall Arts Education Partnership Conference, which is being reduced from three days down to one day. Director Lupi will step in to fill the administrative role for this event.

VAA Killinger reported that she has started to participate with various graphics projects for the Council, one of which is the Arts Education Conference postcards. She also invited any and all Councilors to stop in or call her as she gets to know everyone.

Director Lupi reported that marketing for the Arts Education Partnership Conference will begin soon. Frumie Selchen of the Arts Alliance of Northern NH (AANNH) is our partner for this event and is assisting with registration, which can be accessed through the Council website and AANNH's website. The theme is *The Art and Spirit of Leadership*. The keynote speaker is Jerome Meadows, artist designer of the African Burying Ground in Portsmouth, NH. Other planned activities for the conference include: small group sessions with NH Listens, a few advocacy workshops one of which using storytelling for strategic advocacy, and Jeff Poulin of Americans for the Arts will lead an arts education advocacy workshop. Director Lupi is interested to see the

response after the conference to the new one day approach and expressed appreciation for the team working to make this event happen.

It was reported that during that last meeting of the HB-279 Commission Director Lupi made a formal presentation using data sources available to us, opening the discussion on what kind of data we should use, as well as discussion about our infrastructure and how to strengthen our infrastructure.

Commissioner McLeod feels this is an opportunity not only for the Arts Council but all of the Department of Cultural Resources. When the Commission gives their final report to the Governor in November 2016 they will have a wealth of information to act upon. McLeod reports the sponsor of HB-279, Representative Ken Gidge, has a very progressive outlook and is interested in a much deeper look into the value of arts and culture, an interest in creating value in community, interest in finding out what else state government can do to aid in this area. Commissioner McLeod mentioned he ran into the co-chair of the Commission, Representative David Danielson, at the Highland Games, which is reported to be the second largest event attraction to New Hampshire. Not only is it a very large tourist attraction, the Highland Games market themselves as a cultural event and it's 30-million-dollar economic impact for this state. McLeod encouraged the Commission take a look at for profit, not for profit, individual artist, libraries, art centers, and libraries as art centers/hubs as they explore how to support arts and culture in our communities.

McLeod reported on the progress of the Winant Sculpture project. It will be the first sculpture on State grounds in 120 years and has started to gain interest and attention around the state.

## **BUSINESS:**

### **IV. Grant Approvals**

H & TA Morse reported this year there were ten teams of applicants for the **Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Grants**, totaling \$30,340 in requests. The panel recommended nine teams for a total of \$27,180. Three new art forms not previously funded have been recommended for approval this year. Due to not having a quorum of Councilors in attendance it was decided that those in attendance could vote now and we would solicit the remaining Councilor's votes via email.

- **Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Grants:** There was no discussion; the Council unanimously approved.
  - **Moved:** Councilor Stelling
  - **Second:** Councilor McLaughlin
  - **Nays:** None
  - **Recusals:** None

## **INFORMATIONAL:**

### **V. Cultural Conservation License Plate Grants**

H & TA Morse reported this year there were ten applicants in this category. Seven of the applications were recommended for full funding. The additional three applicants will be encouraged to resubmit their requests with revisions in future fiscal years.

### **VI. Governor's Arts Awards**

Director Lupi reported that the press release for the 2015 Governor's Arts Awards went out on Thursday, electronic invitations will go out later this week. The event is scheduled for October 21, 2015 at the New Hampshire Institute of Art (NHIA). Online ticket sales are being handled by The Palace Theatre. Lupi reports there will be six awards in five categories, Governor Maggie Hassan will be in attendance, and Marguerite Mathews and Greg Gathers of Pontine Theatre will perform during the event.

Councilor Kahle reported out as a first-time participant of the panel that decided the award recipients. There were 15-17 applicants in five total categories, with Arts in Education being the most competitive category. In

fact the category had such strong applicants that the panel decided to award two winners. Chairman Brooks mentioned that 13 out of the 15 Councilors have contributed to the donations for these awards.

## VII. Advocacy Round Robin

Councilor Kahle started by sharing her interactions with board members and leadership within arts organizations over the past six months. Kahle says she has been encouraging them to be part of the advocacy conversation, and to not just “leave it for the Council in Concord to do.” She requested that the Council create a flyer of talking points for this subject. Something to be given to and shared with any and all NH arts organizations, that it is always available, and always updated. It was also mentioned that the Councilors have interest in planning a workshop on these “talking points”.

Councilor Sink reported on Creative Concord’s work to bring more public art into downtown.

Councilor Brown shared her connection with WREN’s gallery manager, Catherine Ferrier, at the recent Bethlehem Art Walk, where the two discussed CreativeGround and getting some of WREN’s artist to participate in the upcoming webinar for creating an artist profiles within CreativeGround.

Councilor Brown also noted that when it comes time to order new Councilor name tags consideration be given to colors that are more readable with nice contrast, so they are more accessible when Councilors are representing the Division around the state.

Councilor Stelling shared that he spoke at the League of NH Craftsmen Fair about collecting. He is also working with the Currier Museum of Art on one of their upcoming shows.

Chairman Brooks showed appreciation for AVA Gallery, who hosted a closing reception for their regional juried show, which also honored the Arts Council’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Brooks mentioned that Americans for the Arts has contracted with b-fresh consulting llc to bring a strong arts presence to all the presidential campaigns. One meeting has occurred, and a second is in the planning stage. Until that second meeting is set people can go onto the Americans for the Arts website to view their listings for each candidate and their connections to the arts, their history of working for or against the arts, and a few key questions to ask of the candidate in the event you attend one of their campaign functions. Americans for the Arts is ultimately looking for candidates to come out saying, “I support \$1 per citizen for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).”

CGO Mason pointed out that b-fresh and Americans for the Arts is also looking for people to report back when they do go out and ask arts advocacy questions of the candidates. Be sure to do that follow-up after asking any of these questions to the various candidates throughout this campaign season, so that when the candidate travels to another state the conversation can continue.

## VIII. ADJOURN:

- **Motion to adjourn from the business meeting:** Councilor Sink
- **Second:** Councilor Stelling
- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None

Chairman Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:40 am.