

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – January 9, 2023
Via Zoom

Arts Councilors Present

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Juliana Bergeron, Angela Brown, R.P. Hale, José Lezcano, Mary McLaughlin, Catherine Sununu, Cecilia Ulibarri, and Amanda Whitworth

Arts Councilors Absent

Vivian Beer, Tim Sink, William Stelling, Jason Tors, and Peter Warburton

Staff Present

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) Commissioner Sarah Stewart; 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); Carey Johnson, Curatorial Specialist (CS); and Emily Killinger, Visual Arts Associate (VAA)

Motions (carried)

- Accept the minutes of September 16, 2022 Council meeting
- Accept email-based approval of Artist Entrepreneurial Grants: December 27 & 28, 2022 (\$3,812)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks called the meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts to order at 10:04 AM on January 9, 2023.

II. 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.

III. MINUTES & ARTIST ENTREPRENEURIAL GRANTS

Chair Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the September 16, 2022 meeting. Councilor R.P. Hale moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Mary McLaughlin. The minutes from September 16, 2022 were unanimously approved.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to accept the email-based approval from December 27 and 28, 2022 vote to approve Artist Entrepreneurial Grants (\$3,812). Councilor R.P. Hale moved to approve, seconded by Councilor José Lezcano. The email-based vote to accept these grant recommendations was unanimously approved.

IV. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Stewart reported that the DNCR budget was submitted to the Governor's Budget Director. The Commissioner sat down with the Governor to go over big-picture budget items, and the Governor will be presenting his budget mid-February to be passed to the House and Senate. Commissioner Stewart is working on crafting a DNCR newsletter to convey department information and grant updates to elected officials (among others) prior to the Governor's budget address.

The Commissioner recently visited Bethlehem and other North Country towns with Executive Councilor Cinde Warmington, including a stop at Women's Rural Entrepreneurial Network (WREN) for a discussion with several artists.

Commissioner Stewart also reported that the department will be acquiring a second North Country office in Gorham and is hopeful the ribbon-cutting will take place this summer.

V. STAFF REPORTS and STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Director Lupi gave a summary of staff operations since the last Council meeting, noting that FY24 grant cycle guidelines are in development and will hopefully be up on the website by the end of January.

The deadline for Environmental Services' Percent for Art project is January 13 and given the number of artists that toured in November, a good response is expected.

The NH State Council on the Arts and the NH Folklife websites are in the process of being redesigned by (CS) Carey Johnson and (HTA) Kayla Schweitzer.

Sindy Chown, a Columbian folk dancer, was accepted onto the Folklife and Traditional Arts listing and Kayla is working to create her roster profile for the website. The Arts Education roster also recently added visual artist, Danielle Festa, of Dover.

Poetry Out Loud, led by (AE) Allison Hawkins is in full swing, with 34 registered schools, including 6 new ones. There will be three in-person semi-final events in February, and the state finals are March 17th at the State House. In addition to NEA funding, the program received a \$5,000 grant from The Putnam Foundation.

The Artist-in-Residence grant program has been on hiatus and is being assessed. Allison is surveying Arts Education roster artists and arts teachers to facilitate the assessment, which will be finalized in January in preparation for the FY24 grant cycle.

Allison has also been working with roster artists on their Creative Ground website profiles, sharing resources and discussing possibilities for their creative development. Program staff has been discussing surveying all roster artists this year, regarding their needs and roster experiences.

Director Lupi noted that the use of CV Suite – which has recently been updated to include 2020 data – continues for reporting on creative economy activity. Councilors who wish to request a report for their town or region are encouraged to do so.

On December 8, the National Archive of Data on Arts and Culture and Americans for the Arts hosted a presentation from the Arts Incubation Research Lab at the University of San Antonio, which is partially funded by a research grant from the NEA. Findings were presented from a national survey of Arts Incubator programs, which was used to establish a working definition of the term, "Arts Incubator", based on programs and audiences served. A list of Arts Incubators in NH is now being gathered by (CC/AH) Lisa Burk-McCoy based on this criteria, to which Councilors are encouraged to contribute.

The New Hampshire Bureau of Adult and Elderly Services is seeking input on their state plan on aging. Councilors are encouraged to complete the survey, as it is a good opportunity to highlight the role that the arts play in healthy aging.

Dartmouth Hitchcock is hosting its 4th Annual Health, Arts and Humanities in Medicine symposium on January 27. Lisa will share registration information through the Arts in Health listserv.

Director Lupi shared that round two of the Save Our Granite Stages grant program is currently open, with over \$800,000 left to grant. The application deadline is January 27, with Director Lupi hosting a live application workshop January 11 at noon.

The next iteration of the pandemic impact survey just opened. The survey is open beyond grantees, with all nonprofit and for-profit businesses and creatives invited to participate. It will cover earned and contributed revenue for the full calendar years of 2019-2022, Covid-related aid received, and pandemic necessitated innovations that have been retained. Councilors are encouraged to review and share the survey.

Director Lupi continues her ongoing work with the performing arts group on a letter to the Attorney General regarding the rampant ticket scalping and related credit card fraud that venues are experiencing. Additionally, Public Value Partnership grantees continue to meet biweekly along with Director Lupi and (CGO) Cassie Mason.

January 10, Director Lupi will meet with the strategic plan consultant for Travel and Tourism to discuss their process.

In December the state's loose Arts Advocacy coalition organized a "Send a Holiday Card to the Governor" campaign. Director Lupi, while unsure of the exact number of cards received, relayed that many organizations sent cards, asking for support of the requested budget increase.

Finally, Arts for NH has decided to dissolve its 501 (c) (3) corporation, and members of the loose coalition will take over leadership of the 501 (c) (4) later this month.

Chair Brooks asked Director Lupi and Commissioner Stewart if it would be helpful for Councilors to attend the legislative budget hearings to support the Arts' request. Commissioner Stewart answered in the affirmative and Director Lupi agreed.

VI. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE: STEPWISE CONSULTING

Danya Sherman and Deidra Montgomery from Stepwise Consulting briefly presented and answered questions regarding the development of the agency's strategic plan. The plan will be values-based, in order to be more actionable with regard to how the organization works. Diversity in focus groups was a priority, as is creating a flexible plan which adapts to evolving values.

The process of creating the plan follows several steps, including a staff retreat, focus groups, interviews, surveys and analysis, which will culminate in the delivery of the strategic plan in March or April 2023.

VII. 2023 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS

Chair Brooks led a discussion regarding this year's awards ceremony and encouraged 100 percent participation from Councilors in fundraising efforts. He noted that Councilor Bergeron is the new chair of the Governor's Arts Awards committee. Councilor Bergeron underscored the need for Council support with outreach efforts, and she encouraged each Councilor to contribute five names of contacts that may be willing to sponsor the event.

Director Lupi explained the event will hopefully be under one hour, and while live, will also be live-streamed. The nomination deadline is April 14, 2023.

Chair Brooks asked anyone wishing to be on the fundraising team to be in touch with himself, Director Lupi, or Councilor Bergeron. Additionally, any Councilors who wish to be on the selection committee please contact Director Lupi by the end of January.

VIII. 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.

IX. ADJOURN

Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:27 AM. Councilor Mary McLaughlin moved to approve and Councilor Juliana Bergeron seconded.

Next Council Meetings:

March 13, 2023 – May 8, 2023 – July 10, 2023 – September 11, 2023 – November 13, 2023