

**New Hampshire State Council on the Arts**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – November 17, 2021**  
**Zoom**

**Arts Councilors Present**

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Vivian Beer, Angela Brown, Sara Germain, José Lezcano, Mary McLaughlin, Tim Sink, William Stelling, Catherine Sununu, Jason Tors, Cecilia Ulibarri, and Peter Warburton

**Arts Councilors Absent**

R.P. Hale and Leah Woods

**Staff Present**

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) Arts Division: Ginnie Lupi, Director; Cassandra Mason, Chief Grants Officer (CGO); Kayla Schweitzer, Heritage and Traditional Arts Coordinator (HTA); Allison Hawkins, Arts Education Coordinator (AE); Carey Johnson, Curatorial Specialist (CS); and Emily Killinger, Visual Arts Associate (VAA)

**Staff Absent**

Lisa Burk-McCoy, Creative Communities & Arts in Health Coordinator (CC/AH); and Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) Commissioner Sarah Stewart

**Motions (carried)**

- Accept the minutes of September 15, 2021 Council meeting
- Approve FY22 Artist Entrepreneurial Grants, Round 3 (\$1,000)
- Review FY22 Arts Conservation (Moose Plate) Grants (\$101,750)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks called the meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts to order at 10:02 AM on November 17, 2021.

**II. INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

(HTA) Kayla Schweitzer led the Council in a Land Acknowledgement. All were 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**

Chair Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the September 15, 2021 meeting. Councilor Cathy Sununu moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Bill Stelling. The minutes from September 15, 2021 were unanimously approved.

**IV. APPROVAL OF FY22 ARTIST ENTREPRENEURIAL GRANTS, ROUND 3 RECOMMENDATIONS (\$1,000)**

NHSCA staff served as the review panel and met on Friday, November 12 and Monday, November 15, 2021, to review the three applications received in the third round of this category. Applications were reviewed on their eligibility, quality of proposed opportunity, and potential to impact the artist's career. The panel recommended one application for funding. *(One application submitted did not meet the eligibility criteria.)*

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the Artist Entrepreneurial Grants, Round 3 recommendations. Motion made by Councilor Sara Germain and seconded by Councilor Tim Sink. The Council unanimously approved.

**V. REVIEW OF FY22 ARTS CONSERVATION (MOOSE PLATE) GRANTS (\$ 101,750)**

A three-member panel met on August 18, 2021 to review the six applications received in this category. The panel evaluated applications on artistic and historical significance, public benefit and access, and quality of the conservation project. The panel recommended all six applications for funding. *(One application submitted did not meet the eligibility criteria of the grant program.)*

**VI. STAFF REPORTS**

The staff report began with (HTA) Kayla Schweitzer’s slide presentation of a site visit to Saint-Gaudens to see “Amor Caritas,” which was recently restored with FY20 Moose Plate funds.

(AE) Allison Hawkins presented a slideshow about the 2021 Arts Education Partnership Pop-Up Mini Conferences. The theme for this year’s sessions was *Embodied Healing: An Art-Integrated Approach to Repairing and Restoring Ourselves*. The November 6 mini conference took place at the Colonial Theatre in Laconia, and the November 12 session in Gorham, at the Medallion Opera House. Upcoming sessions will take place December 4 in Jaffrey at the Park Theatre and December 10 in Derry at Tupelo Music Hall.

Percent for Art: (CGO) Cassandra Mason gave an update on the ongoing Percent for Art installation at the Merrimack County Superior Court: “The Mother of All Rivers.” The installation, by Emily Boucher, is the Dover artist’s second public artwork.

Administration: Director Lupi reported the application period for the competitive ARPA grant program goes live tomorrow with a January 14 deadline. \$758,900 in funds were received from NEA, and in this part of the program, applicants can request up to \$6,000 (expected total \$356,000).

Director Lupi spoke with GOFERR staff about the Save Our Granite Stages proposal, which needs to be rewritten to help justify grant funds being allocated to cover operating losses.

NHSCA Staff attended America’s Cultural Summit in early November. The summit is an annual, ongoing initiative of the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies.

Grant coordinators are continuing work with FY20-FY22 grant-funded projects that were postponed or changed due to the pandemic.

Traditional Arts: (HTA) Kayla Schweitzer attended the Folklore Society’s annual meeting. Site visits have restarted.

Poetry Out Loud (28 schools, including three new schools) is moving forward with in-person planning of semi-finals and finals.

(AE) Allison Hawkins attended NASAA Arts Education Professional Development Institute and Creative Youth Development track of the National Guild Groundwork Conference. Arts Education roster artist applications will be reviewed by the end of the year.

Creative Communities: (CC/AH) Lisa Burk-McCoy served on the Leadership committee for Plan NH: Castle in the Clouds, and participated in the Culture Keepers, Culture Makers program at 3S Artspace. She is also part of an advisory team for the Center for Women in Enterprise, and she participated in the Groundwork Conference on Creative Aging.

**VII. GOVERNOR’S ARTS AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The event took place October 26 at Studio Lab with a livestream from 5-6 PM. Councilor Cathy Sununu remarked that the circumstances of 2021 forced the Committee to think outside the box, which ended up giving way to new ideas that will continue to evolve for the next awards (expected in 2023). Councilor McLaughlin thanked Trigger House Productions. (CS) Carey Johnson thanked Trigger House and Studio Lab as well, and she observed that all in attendance seemed pleased with the event. Chair Brooks praised the reports of enthusiastic online engagement, and Director Lupi thanked the Committee for their hard work.

**VIII. NASAA ANTI-BIAS TRAINING DISCUSSION**

Chair Brooks, as well as Councilors Cecilia Ulibarri, Mary McLaughlin, Jason Tors, Vivian Beer, and Bill Stelling, attended the Councilor portion of NASAA’s Anti-Bias Training yesterday and the previous week. Councilor Ulibarri felt this DEI training was special in the way it was conducted, with the focus on anti-bias. She noted that participants were able to dig deeper and reflect on who they are and how that affects our perception of others. Councilor McLaughlin added that we shouldn’t feel bad about biases because they’re part of who we are and how we were raised. She also explained an effective method they learned during the training, for assessing situations more objectively: Describe the Event, Interpret and Evaluate (D.I.E.). Councilor Stelling mentioned how eye-opening his experience was in one of his breakout sessions, regarding race and identity. Chair Brooks summarized this takeaway: biases aren’t necessarily bad, but they need to be recognized and understood for us to go forward in a productive way. Director Lupi and (CGO) Cassandra Mason participated in training for Executive and Deputy Directors, and CGO Mason noted that this type of training seems particularly important, because it provides participants with a shared language to utilize in future discussions, and for the Council, that we can utilize in the development of our strategic plan.

**IX. COUNCILOR ROUND ROBIN**

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

**X. ADJOURN**

Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:32 AM. Councilor José Lezcano moved to approve and Councilor Cathy Sununu seconded.

**Next Council Meeting:** January 21 at 9:30 AM via Zoom.