

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 26, 2015, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
19 Pillsbury Street, Concord, NH

Arts Councilors Present:

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Vice Chair Jacqueline Kahle, Emile Birch, Angela Brown, Sara Germain, Mary McLaughlin, Amanda Merrill, Elizabeth Morgan, Timothy Sink, Billie Tooley

Arts Councilors Absent:

Susan Duprey, William Stelling, Peter Warburton, J. Christopher Williams

Guest: Paul Hodes

Staff Present:

Van McLeod, Commissioner; Arts Division: Virginia 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)

MOTIONS (carried):

- To accept the minutes from the September 22, 2014 meeting
- To approve the expenditure of Percent for Art funds at Lakes Region Community College (\$21,280)

I. Open Meeting:

Chairman Brooks called to order the regular meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, January 26, 2015.

II. Minutes from Last Meeting:

MOTION PASSED

Chairman Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the September 22, 2014 meeting. Councilor Tim Sink moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Mandy Merrill.

The minutes from September 22, 2014 were unanimously approved.

III. Commissioner's Report:

The Commissioner gave an overview of the State budget process. At this time Governor Hassan's budget has not been released; it will be out by February 15th. There was a House Finance Committee hearing and Representative Danielson requested some further information about the impact of Department programs in communities. The State is not currently in a good financial position and projections of revenues for the remainder of the fiscal year are inconsistent. The Commissioner is looking at the important issues of the State such as the outflow of young workers from NH and talking about our impact as part of the solution to those larger issues. He believes we will be able to sustain our funding.

Additionally, Representative Gidge (Nashua) has introduced a bill to convene a study committee on the economic impact of the arts.

In response to a question from Councilor Jackie Kahle regarding the hiring freeze, the Commissioner responded that there is a hiring freeze however we were allowed a waiver to hire for the Program Assistant position. Director Lupi added that applications from candidates that are currently NH State employees have been received and interviews will begin shortly. Commissioner McLeod also stated that 50% of the Department's employees are eligible to retire today and that in the next five years, over 50% of state employees will be retirement eligible.

Councilor Germain stated it would be helpful for Council members to have a copy of the information submitted to Representative Danielson.

IV. Director's Report:

Director Lupi has recently traveled to both the Upper Valley and the North Country. Her largest commitment has been the launch of the online application portal and recording of the instructional videos.

Director Lupi invited staff to report out on their recent activities.

Catherine O'Brian reflected on her experience at the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies in New Orleans including her Arts in Health presentation, being selected as a mentor for a new Arts Education manager from another state and a full-day session on evaluation. Additionally, Catherine spoke about the Arts in Education Conference in partnership with Crotched Mountain and the community mural that was created by all participants which now hangs at the Children's Hospital at the Elliot.

Catherine will also be presenting two grant information workshops for arts learning which are currently at capacity and include almost all new people.

Catherine reminded Council members about the NH Poetry Out Loud competition.

Julianne Morse reflected on her first experience at the NASAA Conference, the importance of meeting her peers from across the country and her presentation as a new Traditional Arts Coordinator at the conference. She also served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts panel for Traditional Arts grants.

Julianne has created an apprenticeship showcase on the NHSCA website so the art forms can be viewed collectively and reflect the investment in New Hampshire's cultural history. Additionally, the field work being completed by Becky Field has resulted in connections with immigrant communities and the opportunity for them to practice their crafts and present at community events. The Arts Council was presented with a Bhutanese muda as a gift from one of the artists. Julianne has also been working with the New American Africans on an after-school traditional dance program for adolescents in the Concord area.

Julianne and Cassie visited the Laconia Library and over twenty volunteers during their restoration of an historic theater curtain that received a Mooseplate grant.

Cassie Mason described to the Councilors the National Ornament program that was shared by the NH Veterans Home and high school students at the Tilton School. She reminded Councilors about the CCX on June 2 and 3rd in Keene that is being presented by the New England Foundation for the Arts who also has a new Executive Director, Cathy Edwards. Cassie asked Councilors to ask for-profit businesses in New Hampshire to create a profile on CreativeGround.

Cassie also reflected on her experience at NASAA and updated the Council on the retirement of Jonathan Katz, NASAA's interim CEO Kelly Barsdate, the new NEA reporting requirements and the presentation by NEA Chairman Jane Chu.

Chairman Brooks also commented on the benefits of the NASAA conference and shared with Councilors that the NHSCA staff are recognized as leaders in the national arts community.

National Council on the Arts Councilor Paul Hodes announced that Chairman Jane Chu will be briefly visiting New Hampshire in early May.

BUSINESS:

V. Grant & Partnership Approvals:

Julianne Morse provided an overview of the renovations at Lakes Region Community College, reviewed the selection process and presented the Council with the committee's choices for commission and existing works. .

- **Motion to approve the Lakes Region Community College Percent for Art Recommendations- (\$21,280):** Councilor Jackie Kahle

- **Second:** Councilor Elizabeth Morgan
- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

2015 Governor's Arts Awards:

Director Lupi updated the Council on the plans for the 50th anniversary celebration. She is trying to locate partners around the state that would be invited to identify projects for the Council's 50th. At this time, a new logo and tag line have been developed and the website is going to be updated to reflect the changes. Additionally, changes will be made to staff business cards and NHSCA letterhead.

As part of the social media push, Cassie is posting every Thursday on Facebook photographs and descriptions for 'Throwback Thursday' with the hashtag TBT.

Director Lupi will issue a formal call to the public requesting self-made video clips addressing the subject: "Why the arts are important to me" so she can put them on the NHSCA Facebook and Twitter accounts and can later compile into reels for YouTube.

At this time, it looks like the date for the awards ceremony will be October 21, 2015. There was brief conversation about fundraising, ticket sales and incorporation of outdoor events earlier in the evening. There was also a suggestion to approach the Palace Theatre as it is their 100th anniversary.

Recruitment:

Chairman Brooks stated that Mary McLaughlin is awaiting her appointment to the Council and the Governor's Office would like another member from northern NH.

Citizens for the Arts:

Chairman Brooks recognized the award from Citizens for the Arts to Councilor Tim Sink as Advocate of the Year. In March, Citizens will be hosting an event with Nina from Americans for the Arts to help folks get ready for the New Hampshire Presidential Primary. Chairman Brooks will be attending Arts Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C.

Prior to adjournment, Councilors shared their recent arts activities. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

ADJOURN:

- **Motion to adjourn from the business meeting:** Councilor Merrill
- **Second:** Councilor Kahle
- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None