

**New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
Council Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2014, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, Concord, N.H.**

Arts Councilors Present:

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Vice Chair Jacqueline Kahle, Dr. Richard Ayers, Emile Birch, Sara Germain, Amanda Merrill, Elizabeth Morgan, Billie Tooley, Tim Sink, J. Christopher Williams

Arts Councilors Absent:

Darryl Furtkamp, Erle Pierce, Peter Warburton, Susan Duprey

Staff Present:

Department of Cultural Resources Commissioner Van McLeod; Arts Division: Lynn Martin Graton, Acting Director; Cassandra Mason, Chief Grants Officer; Catherine O'Brian, Arts in Education & Arts in Health Care Coordinator; Julianne Morse, Heritage Arts Coordinator; and Laura Utley, Arts Program Assistant

MOTIONS (carried):

- To accept the minutes from the September 19, 2013 meeting
- To approve partnership grant with the New Hampshire Humanities Council (\$3,000)
- To approve partnership grant with the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife & Cultural Heritage to provide professional development to NH Heritage-based organizations (\$6,000)

I. Moment of Inspiration:

Prior to the call to order Councilors toured the galleries at the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen headquarters. Executive Director Susie Lowe - Stockwell formally welcomed the Council and gave a brief overview of the League's new headquarters.

II. Call to Order:

Chairman Roger Brooks called to order the regular meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 24, 2014 at the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen conference room in Concord, NH.

III. Minutes from Last Meeting:

MOTION PASSED

Chairman Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the September 19, 2013 meeting. Vice Chair Jacqueline Kahle moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Amanda Merrill. The minutes from September 19, 2013 were approved.

IV. Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner McLeod noted that Councilor Amanda Merrill had been elected as a member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

V. Director's Report:

Acting Director Graton welcomed Laura Utley, the newly hired Arts Program Assistant. After a long vacancy, the state-funded position was able to be filled when the state hiring freeze was lifted.

Graton reported that there had not been any word of restrictions or reduction to the state budget. She also reported that she had word from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies that the Congress House Appropriation bill approved \$1.46 million for the National Endowment for the Arts. This amount was up from \$1.39 million for FY 2013.

The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts on-year state partnership application and new strategic plan was submitted to the National Endowment for the Arts; a review panel recently reviewed the application. Based upon listening to the comments through an open access phone line, comments regarding the application appeared favorable. The three-year grant represents funding in the amount of approximately two million dollars.

Graton also recognized Councilor Amanda Merrill who had become a member of the House and congratulated her. Councilor Elizabeth Morgan was also recognized for joining the Currier Museum of Art's Advisory Council.

Councilors were reminded that their annual Financial Disclosure Form to the Secretary of State is due.

Graton announced that the interim Poet Laureate, Alice Fogel, was confirmed and was expected to be re-nominated in March 2014. Fogel is currently filling out the late Walter Butts' term.

Graton relayed that Katy Solsky has been contracted to map out the 2014 Artist Entrepreneurial Workshop Series through June 2014. The January 2014 workshop focused on how to start an arts business. Future workshops will include topics on pricing artwork and how to secure engagements for performing artists.

Graton mentioned that the FY 2015 Grant Guidelines would be posted online soon, beginning with those focused on arts education. Grant writing workshops were also being offered. Applications for the Artist Rosters are going to be reinstated in FY 2015. Additionally, the New England Foundation for the Arts is launching a new online directory resource called "CreativeGround." Staff from the New England Foundation for the Arts will be presenting more information on CreativeGround at the April Council meeting.

Graton announced that Percent-for-Art projects are for the most part caught up. The next project will be the New Hampshire Women's Prison in Concord, which should generate approximately \$75,000. The Department of Corrections has inquired about

the possibility of including the inmates in an arts engagement project and NHSCA is seeking clarification if funds can be used to engage an artist for a participatory-based commission.

VI. Arts Education Update:

Catherine O'Brian, Arts in Education & Arts in Health Care Coordinator, gave a report on the 2014 Arts Education Conference. O'Brian reported that attendance was about 250; up from the previous year. The conference was held at Camp Cody in Ossipee and focused on bringing teaching artists together with educators and parents. Frumie Selchen, Executive Director of the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire, was recognized for her valuable administrative partnership with the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. Staff members Cassandra Mason and Julianne Morse were also at the Conference and contributed to the effort. The conference keynote speech is available on the New Hampshire State Council of the Arts' newly created YouTube account. The conference had come in under budget and the approximately \$4,000 surplus will be put aside for next year's programming.

Council members who attended were asked to share their experiences.

O'Brian gave an update on Poetry Out Loud. For 2014, 40 high schools are participating; up from 35 last year. Around 10,000 students are expected to participate in 2014. The state finals are scheduled for March 13, 2014 at the New Hampshire State House. Champions and alternates will get a chance to gain skills for the competition and do some networking at a Poetry Clinic at the Holderness Prep School in February 2014. Funding from National Endowment for the Arts for Poetry Out Loud decreased from the initial funding levels but the NHSCA is making up the difference. It was noted that expanding the program to more schools without a growing budget poses future challenges. In 2014, as a pilot, a small group of students were invited to record "call signs" at New Hampshire Public Radio. Councilors were invited to attend the semifinals and state finals, which are open to the public. Council members were also encouraged to consider serving as judges.

BUSINESS:

VII. Partnership Approvals:

FY 2014 Partnership with New Hampshire Humanities Council (\$3,000)

Chief Grants Officer Cassandra Mason provided an overview of a partnership grant with New Hampshire Humanities Council, which will allow for artists that are on both the NHSCA and NHHC lists of juried artists to go out into underserved communities and give presentations. She explained that the New Hampshire Humanities To Go program provides high quality presentations and the Humanities Council has many resources that they will be providing as in-kind match for the partnership.

- **Motion to approve partnership:** Councilor Elizabeth Morgan
- **Second:** Councilor Billie Tooley
- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None

FY 2014 Partnership Grant with the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife & Cultural Heritage to provide professional development to NH Heritage-based organizations (\$6,000)

Heritage & Traditional Arts Coordinator Julianne Morse provided an overview of the partnership grant with the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife & Cultural Heritage. In Part 1 of the project, staff/individuals from heritage-based organizations in New Hampshire will attend a professional development workshop presented by the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife & Cultural Heritage curatorial staff. In Part 2, selected staff of organizations who participated in Part 1 would participate in a more in-depth workshop at the 2014 Smithsonian Folklife Festival for more training opportunities. Funds for this project are from the Traditional Arts Partnership Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and from private funds held at the Park Street Foundation.

- **Motion to approve partnership:** Councilor Dr. Richard Ayers
- **Second:** Councilor Sara Germain
- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None

VIII. Council Committee Reports:

Governor's Arts Awards

Elizabeth Morgan reported that Council members and staff served on a range of committees for fundraising, event production, and selection of awardees.

Fundraising was led by Councilor Erle Pierce. Just over \$15,000 was raised. Expenses were close to \$12,000. \$3,600 remained as seed money for the next event. Committee consensus was that fundraising should start earlier. A committee for 2015 fundraising would likely be set up in the next couple of months to consider different ways to fundraise.

Councilor Ayers who chaired the selection committee of five Councilors and one past GAA Awardee reflected on that aspect of the project. The process was a positive experience and selection was taken seriously.

Commissioner McLeod and Jennifer McLean served as the event producers/managers. The Commissioner commented that attendees felt the event was a success. For the 2015 event, lessons learned with regard to venue, catering, and entertainment would be considered.

Increased visibility for the Governor's Arts Awards was discussed. Nominations and coordination of the three committees were other areas that needed consideration for the future.

Artist Laureate

Jacqueline Kahle explained that the current Artist Laureate David Lamb's second two-year term ends in March 2014. An ad hoc committee composed of Commissioner McLeod, Acting Director Graton, Vice-Chair Kahle, and Chairman Brooks met to discuss

potential candidates for the next NH Artist Laureate. The criteria considered included artistic excellence, notoriety, commitment to art in the form of mentoring others, established, and ability/willingness to serve as a spokesman for the arts. Rodney Miller, an instrument maker and traditional musician (New England fiddle), is being recommended by the committee to serve as the next NH Artist Laureate.

It was explained that the statute that authorizes the position is concise and does not offer insight into criteria or role of the Artist Laureate. Kahle proposed that a committee of the Council be created to discuss written criteria for future selection, the raising of funds to alleviate travel expenses for the Artist Laureate, and the potential role for the NH Artist Laureate in advocating for the arts. Commissioner McLeod noted that the committee would like to see the position turned over each two-year term so that more artists can be honored. He also reminded the Council that officially the Governor makes the selection for the Artist Laureate.

Citizens for the Arts

Councilor Birch reported that Citizens for the Arts had a meeting on January 23, 2014. The topics covered included the House Party fundraiser, membership check-in with Jamie Saucier, board membership update, website update, 501(c)3 status, planning for a Spring Arts Advocacy Day, consulting with *Be Fresh* consultants, legislative issues, the STEM to STEAM program, and gambling legislation.

IX. Non Public Session Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3

A motion to go into non-public session was called by Chairman Brooks pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 to discuss a personnel matter. Staff members were excused.

- **Motion to go into non-public session:** Vice-Chair Kahle
- **Second:** Councilor Merrill
- **Roll Call Vote in the affirmative:** Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Vice Chair Jacqueline Kahle, Dr. Richard Ayers, Emile Birch, Sara Germain, Amanda Merrill, Elizabeth Morgan, Billie Tooley, Tim Sink, J. Christopher Williams
- **Roll Call Vote dissention:** None
- **Recusals:** None

- **Motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session:** Councilor Ayers
- **Second:** Councilor Germain
- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None

- **Motion to exit non-public session:** Councilor Ayers
- **Second:** Councilor Birch
- **Roll Call Vote in the affirmative:** Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Vice Chair Jacqueline Kahle, Dr. Richard Ayers, Emile Birch, Sara Germain, Amanda Merrill, Elizabeth Morgan, Billie Tooley, J. Christopher Williams
- **Roll Call Vote dissention:** None
- **Recusals:** None

X. ADJOURN:

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

Chairman Brooks adjourned the meeting at 12:12pm