

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – March 18, 2022
Kimball Jenkins School of Art, Carriage House

Arts Councilors Present

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Sara Germain, Mary McLaughlin, William Stelling, Cecilia Ulibarri, and Peter Warburton

Arts Councilors via Zoom

Angela Brown, R.P. Hale, Tim Sink, and Jason Tors

Arts Councilors Absent

Vivian Beer, José Lezcano, Catherine Sununu, and Leah Woods

Staff Present

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) Commissioner Sarah Stewart; 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); 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 November 17, 2021 Council meeting
- Approve FY22 Artist Entrepreneurial Grants, Round 4 (\$6,227)
- Approve FY22 American Rescue Plan Competitive Organizational Grants (\$222,000)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks called the meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts to order at 9:44 AM on March 18, 2022.

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

Chair Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the November 17, 2021 meeting. Councilor Bill Stelling moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Sara Germain. The minutes from November 17, 2021 were unanimously approved.

IV. SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

DNCR Commissioner Sarah Stewart praised CGO Cassie Mason for her 20 exceptional years of State service. The Commissioner also reported that the FY24-25 state budget process has started and that she will be seeking funding for positions across the Department, including a Curator, Attorney, and Grants Administrator. Additionally, the State Library will be looking for a consultant to aid in assessing the Library's needs. The Commissioner also has been working with the League of NH Craftsmen to insure they have internet access at this year's Fair. Commissioner Stewart suggested a field trip to the historic Fort Stark, which the Department is investing in, to brainstorm creative potentialities for the site. Lastly, the bi-weekly reports to the Governor's Office from the Department are being consistently lauded, and the Commissioner urged everyone to read the reports to stay abreast of goings-on.

Councilor Sara Germain announced this is her penultimate meeting, as she is resigning from the Council for family reasons. Councilor Germain encouraged a replacement from the Monadnock region, and she was awarded a token of appreciation by the Commissioner and Chair Brooks.

V. APPROVAL OF FY22 ARTIST ENTREPRENEURIAL GRANTS, ROUND 4 RECOMMENDATIONS (\$6,227)

NHSCA staff served as the review panel and met on Monday, March 7, 2022, to review the eleven applications received in the fourth round of this category. Director Lupi noted that the increase in grant applications could be credited to a social media push by the Division. Applications were reviewed on their eligibility, quality of proposed opportunity, and potential to impact the artist's career. The panel recommended seven applications for funding. *(Four applications were not recommended for funding for various reasons.)*

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the Artist Entrepreneurial Grants, Round 4 recommendations. Motion made by Councilor Peter Warburton and seconded by Councilor Mary McLaughlin. The Council unanimously approved.

VI. APPROVAL OF FY22 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN COMPETITIVE ORGANIZATIONAL GRANTS (\$ 222,000)

Two review panels were convened to rate the 41 applications received in this category. The panels evaluated applications on eligibility, quality of arts programming and services, administrative capacity, and impact of request on NH's arts work force and cultural ecosystem. The panels recommended 37 applications for funding. *(One application submitted did not meet the eligibility criteria of the grant program, and three additional applications were not recommended for various reasons.)*

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the American Rescue Plan Competitive Organizational Grants recommendations. Motion made by Councilor Bill Stelling and seconded by Councilor Sara Germain. The Council unanimously approved. Director Lupi noted that another round of this grant program will be held in FY23.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

The staff reports began with (AE) Allison Hawkins updating the Council on the State Finals for Poetry Out Loud (POL) via a video presentation. AE Hawkins noted that the Arts Partnership Conference has two upcoming events, and also updated the Council on two new AIE Roster Artists. Additionally, she highlighted that Youth Arts Project grants are now open and reviewed the recent NH HB 1671 Arts Education legislation. Chair Brooks encouraged all Councilors to volunteer to be a POL judge.

(HTA) Kayla Schweitzer noted that the conservation of the *Amor Caritas* sculpture at Saint-Gaudens is the featured Spotlight on the Council's website. She also noted that the Commission on Native American Affairs has new members and will be meeting soon. Additionally, she brought attention to Becky Fields' "Finding Home" exhibit, installed in the Carriage House, which was supported by a grant from the Traditional Arts program.

(CC/AH) Lisa Burk-McCoy briefed the Council on the Division's investment in Creative Vitality (CV) Suite software. She reminded the Council of two upcoming events: a webinar March 21 on utilizing ARPA funds, with guest speakers Katherine Heck (Government Finance Advisor, NH Municipal Association) and Jay Dick (Senior Director of State and Local Government Affairs, Americans for the Arts), and a Creative Communities Network webinar March 30, "Round the Table," an exploratory conversation about what creative placemaking can look like in rural NH. CC/AH Burk-McCoy noted that the Arts in Health roster guidelines were updated this year, and lastly, that she's been partnering with the "Magnify Voices" initiative, which will culminate in an event on May 4 at Tupelo Music Hall.

(CGO) Cassandra Mason updated the Council on the five ongoing Percent for Art projects, as well as informing everyone that the FY23 grant cycle is now open and ready to receive applications, which will put the Division in four years of open grant cycles. Additionally, she noted that the Division processed the most grants ever last year. Lastly, FY23 panels will be meeting soon.

Director Lupi noted that the NH Cares Artist-Led Project Grants will be reviewed soon (21 applications received, will be presented at May meeting for approval) and that \$1 million in state ARPA funds was approved for the Save Our Granite Stages program. She reported that NH HB-1369 (to allow venues to establish their own communicable disease policies) was tabled by the House on Wednesday. Director Lupi has also been working with the Department of Business and Economic Affairs on CEDR (Collaborative Economic Development Regions) groups. She also reported the Division is moving forward on the Strategic Planning process: consultants have been selected (DM Consulting) who have a strong DEI focus. Finally, Director Lupi reviewed FY24-25 Budget process notes.

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 have been doing. Councilors reported on a wide range of in-person and virtual arts activities.

IX. ADJOURN

Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:23 AM. Councilor Mary McLaughlin moved to approve and Councilor Bill Stelling seconded.

Upcoming Council Meeting Dates:

Friday, May 13, 2022 at 9:30 AM, Bank of New Hampshire Stage, Cantin Room

Friday, July 15, 2022 at 9:30 AM, location TBD

Friday, September 16, 2022 at 9:30 AM, location TBD

Friday, November 18, 2022 at 9:30 AM, location TBD