

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 22, 2017 - Lakes Region Community College, CAT/HS Building

Arts Councilors Present

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Vivian Beer*, Angela Brown, Sara Germain*, R.P. Hale, Elizabeth Morgan, William Stelling*, Sarah Stewart and Billie Tooley*

* - via phone

Arts Councilors Absent

Mary McLaughlin, Tim Sink, Jason Tors, Peter Warburton and J. Christopher Williams

Staff Present

Department of Cultural Resources (DCR) Acting Commissioner Michael York; DCR Arts Division: Ginnie Lupi, Director; Cassandra Mason, Chief Grants Officer (CGO); Julianne Gadoury, Arts Education Coordinator (AE); Kayla Schweitzer, Heritage and Traditional Arts Coordinator (HTA); and Emily Killinger, Visual Arts Associate (VAA)

Motions (carried)

- Accept the minutes of the January 23, 2017 meeting

I. INSPIRATIONAL MOMENT

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts (NHSCA) staff led attendees on a walking tour of the recently-installed Percent for Art installations in the Lakes Region Community College's Center for Arts & Technology / Health & Science (CAT/HAS) building in Laconia.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks called the meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts to order at 9:36 AM. Chair Brooks introduced the newly appointed Council member Sarah Stewart. Introductions followed.

III. MINUTES

Chair Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the January 23, 2017 meeting. Councilor Angela Brown moved to approve, seconded by Councilor R.P. Hale. The minutes from January 23, 2017 were unanimously approved.

IV. BUSINESS

- A. **National Endowment for the Arts / Fiscal Year 2018 Federal Budget Update** – Director Lupi reported receipt of unofficial notification of NHSCA's NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) grant award for Federal Fiscal Year 2017, which will help fund State FY 2018 activities. The total is \$696,900. The determination of amount was delayed due to the Congressional Continuing Budget Resolution. It was reported that the award amount is slightly less than last year, mainly due to a reduction in Traditional Arts funding. NEA staff reported that this reduction is due to a larger than normal applicant pool in this grant category. Lupi continued to report that the NEA approved the Council's waiver request for Federal Fiscal Year 2015. This was the second waiver of this kind.

In terms of the Federal budget Director Lupi indicated everyone should be on alert to advocate for the NEA, as President Trump's proposed budget defunds the NEA and similar agencies (NEH, CPB, IMLS). Chair Brooks urged everyone to phone or email their congressional representatives and remind them the value of the arts to you, and ask them to continue funding the NEA, even if you believe they will vote in that manner.

- B. **Fiscal Year 2018-19 State Budget and Legislation Updates** – Director Lupi briefly explained that the NH State Budget is currently in a holding pattern as the House did not act. The Budget is currently being reviewed by the Senate. Chair Brooks

recapped that the current biennial budget (FY 16-17) defunded a position at the Arts Council, which was vacant and caught in previous Governor Hassan's hiring freeze. Governor Sununu's proposed budget fully funds the position, which when filled will focus on community arts and the creative economy. It was also reported that Governor Sununu's proposed budget breaks up the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED): Tourism and Economic Development will merge and form a new Department of Business and Economic Affairs; and Parks and Recreation and Forests and Lands will merge with the four Divisions of the Department of Cultural Resources to become the **Department of Natural and Cultural Resources**. The current DRED Commissioner, Jeff Rose, will become Commissioner of the new DNCR.

V. STAFF REPORTS

HTA Kayla Schweitzer presented the new edition of the NH Traditional Dance Trail Map brochure produced in partnership with the NH Division of Travel and Tourism. The brochure is available at all state rest areas. Two new dances were added to the listing and the brochure continues to be a great resource for dance organizers to spread the word about their regularly scheduled events. Also presented was the new Heritage & Traditional Arts Program flyer designed by VAA Emily Killinger. HTA Schweitzer reported that the Traditional Arts Lesson Plan project is near completion. The project will consist of twelve lesson plans for grades 4 and 5. A pilot program is being planned to obtain feedback on the lesson plans and AE Julianne Gadoury and HTA Schweitzer have submitted a proposal to speak about the curriculum guide at the National Educators' Association NH Fall Instructional Conference in October. Schweitzer went on to report that the Moose Plate grant program received four completed applications (after extending the original deadline), and she is organizing the review panel. Additionally Schweitzer reported that field work interviews of traditional artists in NH continue with contracted field workers and Schweitzer herself.

Schweitzer continues NHSCA's involvement in the Concord Multicultural Festival by organizing the Artisan Alley activity. This is being done in a professional development capacity as we consider the possibilities of facilitating a NH Folklife Festival in the future. She also attended two meetings of the NH Commission on Native American Affairs, visited a variety of grant recipients in the field, attended a workshop on oral history at the Vermont Folklife Center, attended a basketry panel at the League of NH Craftsmen, and has submitted a proposal to speak at the NH Social Studies Conference regarding a fly tying after school program.

CGO Cassandra Mason reported that registration for regional partner New England Foundation for the Arts' (NEFA) Creative Communities Exchange (CCX) conference in Connecticut is full. The staff will be in attendance Thursday and Friday June 8 and 9. Mason also reported that the transition of NHSCA Artist Roster profiles from our website to NEFA's CreativeGround.org continues. NEFA and our staff continue to be available to assist Roster artists with this transition and will begin in June personally contacting those artists who have not yet transitioned their profiles. CGO Mason hosted a workshop at the Currier Museum on May 18 with [Timeslips](http://Timeslips.org), an organization that utilizes creative storytelling for people with cognitive issues. The workshop was presented as professional development for those in the arts and health care field. This workshop helped us make new connections and allowed us to spread the word about the Arts in Health grant program. CGO Mason will be presenting a grant writing talk on May 23 at the Governor's Conference on Volunteerism. She will also be serving on an operating support grant panel for the Maine Arts Commission.

Mason reported that 38 applications have been received for the Public Value Partnership grant program, which provides operating support to nonprofit arts organizations. There are 3 new applicants, and 6 current grantees did not reapply. The panel will be held July 5 and 6 in Concord. Additionally she reported that the Arts in Health deadline was May 19; 6 full applications were received and she is working to schedule that panel meeting soon. Finally CGO Mason spoke about the Percent for Art Project being planned at the NH Women's Prison being built in Concord. The advisory group has been formed and they are in the beginning of their planning phase. They have expressed interest in incorporating an artist residency as part of the programming, to help transition residents moving from Goffstown to Concord, helping them to feel a bit of ownership for the new building. Additionally there are two other Percent for Art projects in their infancy: one at the automotive building at Lakes Region Community College, and one at Manchester Community College's HVAC program building. CGO Mason reported attending the recent Arts Presenters of Northern New England gathering at the Lebanon Opera House, the NHIA VIP/BFA

graduates' exhibit and NHIA Commencement, where NEA chairwoman Jane Chu was keynote speaker. Also at NHIA Commencement, Gary Samson, our recently appointed NH Artist Laureate, was honored on his retirement from teaching.

AE Julianne Gadoury presented the [YouTube video](#) created for the promotion of the NH [Poetry Out Loud](#) program. She explained that this year's budget allowed the hiring of a videographer to produce a short promotional video as well as a recording of each finalist reciting a poem, which was given to every student participating in the state finals. This year's POL programming was very successful; some of the students have been asked to speak at various engagements, such as the NH Charitable Foundation's annual meeting, and in radio interviews with NHPR's Virginia Prescott. This year's POL program reached approximately 8,000 students with 36 participating schools, involving hundreds of teachers and over 135 people to staff all five state events. POL student finalists and all teachers involved received a leatherette journal featuring colorful graphics designed by VAA Killinger, who also designed this year's programs and a variety of other promotional materials for POL. Administrative work for POL was primarily done in-house and will most likely return to the model of using an outside contractor to handle the majority of the day to day inquiries and overall organization of events and staffing.

AE Gadoury also reported that Arts Education grant deadlines just occurred and panel dates have been set. She reported that the Artist in Residence (AIR) grant received 6 applications, 11 applications were received for Youth Arts Project (YAP) grants and 11 applications for the Teaching Artist Roster. AE Gadoury reported assisting approximately 10 applicants this year, commenting on their narrative drafts. It was also reported that the NH Arts Learning Network (NHALN), which is a collaborative between us, the Department of Education (DOE) and the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire (AANNH) produced a poster featuring the four core arts competencies, and had two copies sent out to every school in NH. NHALN also held an Arts Leadership Connector at NHIA, which convened 30 leaders from a wide variety of arts education groups and included presentations by the six fields present: visual arts, music, theatre, dance, digital media and career and technology. Attendees then broke out into their respective groups for brainstorming and connecting. AE Gadoury reported being invited to attend a Career Day at West High School, meeting with 6 classes performing an "Arts Shark Tank" activity with each. Additionally she has been asked to be the Commencement speaker at Granite State Arts Academy, a magnet school in Salem. AE Gadoury has also created a new Arts Education newsletter called In-Residence, in an effort to get additional feedback from the field and capture an idea of how many residencies are going on without the Council's public funding.

Director Ginnie Lupi reported also attending a Career Day at Kearsarge Regional HS. Lupi also reported she has been devoting a large portion of time to preparations for the next Governor's Arts Awards (GAA), which will occur in late fall.

Acting Commissioner Michael York reported that he presented the Department's budget to both the NH House and the Senate. As Director Lupi reported earlier, the House sent the Governor's budget proposal to the Senate without acting on it. If the two houses and Governor are unable to resolve the budget prior to the end of the Fiscal Year (June 30), the state will operate on a continuing resolution until the budget is approved. York went on to report that the 19 Pillsbury Street building has been approved to be renamed in honor of the late Commissioner Van McLeod.

VAA Emily Killinger handed out copies of the newly printed NHSCA "By the Numbers" card. Killinger designed the bookmark to illustrate the impact of the work done by the State Council on the Arts.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Events and Fundraising

Councilor William Stelling reported regional house parties continue. Those held thus far have been successful and a few more will be occurring in the near future. Work has also begun on the 2017 Governor's Arts Awards.

Artist Laureate

Chair Brooks reported that after deliberating for some time the committee made their recommendation to Governor Sununu. On May 3, 2017 the Executive Council approved photographer Gary Samson as the 7th Artist Laureate. An event to honor Gary is being planned at The Currier Museum and details will be shared when available.

Government Affairs and Advocacy

This committee is currently working with the Events & Fundraising committee on house parties and the Governor's Arts Awards.

Council Development and Recruitment

No report.

Strategic Planning

No report.

VII. COUNCIL ARTS ACTIVITIES ROUND ROBIN – Councilor Brown reported that she is busy with spring concerts. She also reported that the Women's Rural Entrepreneurial Network (WREN) MakerSpace has closed and that some members have started a new space called Assemble. Councilor Hale reported that he's been leading Light, Color and Science workshops at the Planetarium in Concord. Councilor Elizabeth Morgan reported serving as a Poetry Out Loud judge at one of the regional semi-finals, and what a joy it was to be part of the program. She also reported serving on a senior project advisory board at Souhegan High School, attending one of the NHSCA house parties, and coordinating artisans for the July 4 Arts Fair in Amherst. Councilor Stewart reported having lunch with Representative David Danielson, who was a recipient of NH Citizens for the Arts' Advocate of the Year award. She reports that Rep. Danielson is very committed to living up to this title and would like to receive weekly or monthly updates regarding arts events happening across the state. His plan is to be a liaison within the state government to build awareness of the arts. Councilor Sara Germain reported she is now serving on the exhibition committee at New Hampshire Institute of Art (NHIA). Councilor Vivian Beer reported participating in Art-Front which is a Manchester, NH group presenting pop-up art, combining visual arts and dance in a weekend long event. Councilor Stelling also reported his involvement in Art-Front. He also mentioned being a part of the Welcoming Manchester group and the events to involve the immigrant community in the local Manchester community. Chair Brooks reported that NH Citizens for the Arts had a day long facilitated retreat to assess where they are and develop their five and ten year goals. Brooks also said that he serves on the Trust for the Enhancement of Education, which makes grants to Concord area teachers. He reported that several of the grant proposals this year involve STEAM.

VIII. ADJOURN

- Motion to adjourn from the business meeting: Councilor Morgan
- Second: Councilor Brown
- Nays: None
- Recusals: None

Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.