

**New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 13, 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, Angela Brown, Sara Germain, Mary McLaughlin, Amanda Merrill, Elizabeth Morgan, Peter Warburton, Timothy Sink

Arts Councilors Absent:

Emile Birch, Susan Duprey, William Stelling, Billie Tooley, Jason Tors, J. Christopher Williams

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 January 26, 2015 meeting

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, April 13, 2015. The Council's inspiration was a recording by Rwandan and Congolese adolescents participating in a traditional dance program through the New American Africans organization. Students recorded the songs a Capella to play as they practiced the dances.

II. Minutes from Last Meeting:

MOTION PASSED

Chairman Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the January 26, 2015 meeting. Councilor Angela Brown moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Jacqueline Kahle. CGO Mason responded to a question from Councilor Amanda Merrill regarding the National Ornament program.

The minutes from January 26, 2015 were unanimously approved. Councilor Peter Warburton abstaining.

III. Director's Report:

Director Lupi advised the Council of our grant award from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). She reminded Councilors that the requirements for matching the grant have been tightened and it will become more difficult to meet. The Arts Council has also received a non-matching technology grant from the NEA to help implement the new reporting changes.

The vacant position was posted and 12 applications were received. Director Lupi and CGO Mason will be interviewing five applicants.

Director Lupi presented to the Board of the Community Development Finance Authority with Joan Goshgarian from NH Business Committee for the Arts and Jessica Gelter from Arts Alive. She also attended the Meri Goyette Awards in Nashua with Chairman Brooks. The City of Nashua was recently recognized with an award by Americans for the Arts.

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

CGO Mason provided an overview of the upcoming Creative Communities Exchange in Keene presented by the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA). She has recently participated in grant reviews for Bromelkamp Foundation and NEFA New England States Touring grants. She provided the Council with marketing materials from the NEA for their 50th anniversary, AFTA from their presentation and the New Hampshire Writers' Project Literary Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

Heritage and Traditional Arts Coordinator Julianne Morse informed the Council about the community dance engagement strategy partnership with the Department of Travel and Tourism. She provided an overview of the New American Africans dance program and her site visit to Laconia during the restoration and installation of their Grand Drape which was a Mooseplate funded project.

For fiscal year 2016 the Heritage Arts program received an increase in their competitive grant from the NEA and new initiatives include a week long fiber arts tent at the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Fair and development of an educational text with lesson plans on traditional arts for elementary schools. She will also be one of five New Hampshire projects presented at the CCX in Keene. She will be co-presenting with Jessica Livingston on the Concord Multicultural Festival.

Arts in Education and Arts in Health Coordinator Catherine O'Brian presented the Council with the handouts she received during her professional development opportunity at the National Institute on Creative Aging in New York. This opportunity was made possible in part by a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF) and as a result NHSCA will be hosting two workshops in September on Creative Aging.

The NHCF also provided a grant for the New Hampshire Poetry Out Loud 10th anniversary celebration reception at the Concord Community Music School. NHSCA has also had the opportunity to further our relationship with New Hampshire Public Radio through their media sponsorship of Poetry Out Loud and their on-air personalities have hosted NHPOL events. As a special recognition of the NHPOL 10th anniversary R.P. Hale created a print with calligraphy of a poem by NH Poet Laureate Alice Fogel which was displayed for the Councilors. Chairman Brooks encouraged Councilors to participate in NHPOL as a judge.

Catherine also presented Arts in Health and Creative Aging information on a panel for the "Franklin for a Lifetime Rural Design" workshop.

The NHSCA will also be hosting an evaluation workshop for schools and arts organization to develop their evaluation skills and strategies. The workshop is already at capacity.

IV. Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner McLeod informed the Council of the current state of the budget. The Governor's recommended budget for the Arts Council included the elimination of funding for one position. The Commissioner was asked by Representative Danielson to provide a current marketing plan and information on the economic impact of the Department of Cultural Resources. The Department budget was presented to the House Division I Finance Committee and came out of Committee without any changes.

The Commissioner then presented at the Senate Finance Committee hearing and the questions were about the difference between this year's budget and last year's as well as the required match to the NEA. The Commissioner's belief was that maintaining a low profile during these negotiations was the best course of action.

There was a brief discussion on House Bill 279 – the study economic impact of arts and culture in New Hampshire.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

2015 Governor's Arts Awards:

Councilor Peter Warburton will be the Chair of the Selection Committee. He took an opportunity to recognize the work of the staff and commented on how the presentations assist Councilors in their advocacy efforts.

Councilor Morgan recommended recruiting representatives for the committee from around the state which was a benefit during the last event.

Chairman Brooks and Councilor Mary McLaughlin met with the Duprey Companies to secure a major sponsorship for the Governor's Arts Awards. Additionally due to corporate restructuring, Lincoln Financial will not be in a position to commit at this time.

Chairman Brooks distributed list of potential sponsors for Council members to review. He and Director Lupi discussed the role of staff in planning the event and would like Councilor volunteer to assist. Councilor McLaughlin suggested that the NHPOL Champion and contra dancers be invited to present at the ceremony.

Director Lupi distributed a list of scheduled activities for NHSCA's 50th anniversary and invited Councilors to attend.

Prior to adjournment, Councilors shared their recent arts activities. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

ADJOURN:

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