

**New Hampshire State Council on the Arts  
Council Meeting Minutes  
April 14, 2014, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
South Elementary School  
88 South Road, Londonderry, NH 03053**

**Arts Councilors Present:**

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Dr. Richard Ayers, Sara Germain, Elizabeth Morgan, Billie Tooley, Erle Pierce, Tim Sink, Peter Warburton, J. Christopher Williams

**Arts Councilors Absent:**

Vice Chair Jacqueline Kahle, Emile Birch, Amanda Merrill, Darryl Furtkamp, Susan Duprey

**Staff Present:**

Department of Cultural Resources Commissioner Van McLeod; Arts Division: Lynn Martin Graton, Acting Director; Cassandra Mason, Chief Grants Officer; Julianne Morse, Heritage Arts Coordinator; and Laura Utley, Arts Program Assistant

**MOTIONS (carried):**

- To accept the minutes from the January 27, 2014 meeting
- To create a committee for fundraising

**I. Moment of Inspiration:**

Prior to the call to order Councilors were given a presentation by Lynda Boyd, School Principal, about South Elementary School's Artist in Residence Grant projects. She also led the group around the school for a tour of their current student art exhibit and pointed out the school's Artist in Residence Grant projects.

**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, April 14, 2014 at South Elementary School, Londonderry, NH.

**III. Minutes from Last Meeting:**

**MOTION PASSED**

Chairman Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the January 27, 2014 meeting. Councilor Elizabeth Morgan moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Tim Sink. The minutes from January 27, 2014 were approved.

#### **IV. Commissioner's Report:**

Commissioner Van McLeod noted that it was Chairman Roger Brooks' birthday. Commissioner McLeod began a discussion about importance of keeping the arts present during the legislative session, even in quieter times. Councilor Pierce noted that Film and Television Office Director Matthew Newton recently presented at a Rotary Club that included an overview of the Division of Cultural Resources and included mention of the NHSCA.

There was discussion from the group about the Governor appointed STEM committee and how none of the 14 members had an arts background. Some strategies were discussed including having members of the Council meet with the Governor's office to see if someone with an arts background could be added to the committee and/or looking into the 14 members to see if any of them had a secondary arts background and try to capitalize on that.

#### **V. Director's Report:**

Acting Director Graton gave a personnel update that after three months Laura Utley would be returning to her former position with the Department of Health and Human Services.

Graton also explained that having the Council meeting at South Elementary School was Catherine O'Brian's idea as a result of her long standing relationship with South Elementary School.

Graton reported that she had received preliminary, unofficial notification that the NEA Basic State Partnership grant amount for FY 2015 would be \$678,300 which included: Poetry Out Loud \$17,500, Arts in Education \$30,000, Meeting the Needs of the Underserved \$109,100, and competitive funds for Folk and Traditional Arts \$25,000. The total figure was up by \$19,700 from the previous grant.

Graton recognized that while it was good that funds were up, compared to FY 2008 budget of \$814,000 they were still coming in much lower than in the past. She explained that ideally the NEA grant would be fully matched with state funds. In the past few years, the investment in the community had dropped by approximately \$270,000. She encouraged the Council to consider that gap and how it could be closed by getting an increase in the Governor's budget when it gets put together over the summer.

Commissioner McLeod encouraged Councilor Pierce and Acting Director Graton to collaborate with each other to put together a short summary of the funding loss to be used for illustrating the need to increase state funding.

Councilor Sara Germain suggested that Citizens for the Arts take on this issue by specifically setting a monetary goal for increasing state funding for the arts.

Dr. Brooks noted the importance of economic impact studies for making the case for more funding and also explained that they had the capability to figure out for each representative how many arts organizations and artists were in their district.

Graton added that our grantees are delivering services to the community and they are also negatively impacted by the reduction of the Arts Council's funding without relief from the application or reporting requirements.

Graton reported that Rodney Miller was confirmed as the NH Artist Laureate. She explained that he expressed an interest in arts in education and was eager to participate with the Council. The Commissioner noted that Rodney graduated with an engineering degree and it would be an excellent focus for the STEM initiative. Councilor Morgan noted the Council's goal of establishing a committee to find a new nominee every two years and a fund for the Artist Laureate to allow them funds for travel and other expenses.

Graton also noted that Alice Fogel was reconfirmed as the NH Poet Laureate and that the NHSCA will be issuing a Request for Proposals for the Lakes Region Community College Percent for Art project. Additionally, the NHSCA Artist Entrepreneurial Workshop will be planned internally and that the partnership with the Smithsonian would include a workshop on April 24<sup>th</sup> with some attendees going to the Smithsonian Festival in Washington, DC later in the summer.

## **VI. Presentation on Creative Ground**

New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) co-acting director Jane Preston gave the Council an overview of NEFA programs and funding and the relationship between NEFA and the state arts agencies through those programs like New England States Touring and Expeditions grants.

Preston presented NEFA's new initiative: [www.creativeground.org](http://www.creativeground.org), a self-populating directory to connect artists and venues, including for-profits and not-for-profits. She demonstrated the search capabilities and what information profiles contain. She also explained that promoting this site and getting people to list themselves would allow advocacy agencies the ability to see the creativity economy in their geographical area.

## **BUSINESS:**

### **VII. Council Committee Reports:**

#### **Fundraising**

Elizabeth Morgan explained that there was a one-time meeting of a committee to review the fundraising needs of the NHSCA. She described the areas of need and noted that a committee should be established.

- **Motion to create a fundraising committee:** Councilor Elizabeth Morgan
- **Second:** Councilor Sara Germain
- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None

## **Recruitment**

Dr. Brooks began by presenting Dr. Richard Ayers a certificate to acknowledge his many years of services as a Council member and to note the end of his term in April. Looking ahead, Dr. Brooks noted that some Councilor terms would be up for renewal in the fall and that the Council would need to consider what type of recruitment they would like to do.

## **Citizens for the Arts**

Councilor Birch was unable to attend the Council meeting; therefore Chair Dr. Roger Brooks gave the Citizens for the Arts report. He explained that Citizens for the Arts is interested in keeping the arts in the minds of the legislators. For that purpose, they would be having an *Arts Say "Thank You" Day* to celebrate the arts and recognize the representatives for their work on behalf of the Arts Council. The date for this event was to be May 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> when the Executive Council would be in session. They had students make thank you cards to be handed to legislators by Council members and musicians to play in the State House.

It was suggested that in January 2015 a repeat of this type of effort would be helpful when there would be a new set of legislators.

Dr. Brooks also noted that on March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> a group attended Americans for the Arts Arts Advocacy Day in Washington DC and the arts contingent happened to outnumber the congressional delegation. While there, the group visited New Hampshire's Congressional delegation and highlighted some of the innovative programs in the creative economy, veteran's reintegration and healthcare in NH.

Looking ahead Citizens for the Arts was considering a fundraising event later in November for Senators after they are elected. They were working with *Be Fresh* consulting firm on that event which may include an opportunity for attendees to choose which party they want to support.

## **VIII. ADJOURN:**

- **Motion to adjourn from the business meeting:** Dr. Richard Ayers
- **Second:** Erle Pierce
- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None

Chairman Brooks adjourned the meeting at 12:15pm