

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – May 13, 2022
Bank of NH Stage, Cantin Room, Concord

Arts Councilors Present

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Vivian Beer, Sara Germain, Tim Sink, and Cecilia Ulibarri

Arts Councilors via Zoom

Mary McLaughlin, William Stelling, Jason Tors, Peter Warburton, and Leah Woods

Arts Councilors Absent

Angela Brown, R.P. Hale, José Lezcano, and Catherine Sununu

Staff Present

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) Commissioner Sarah Stewart;

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);

Carey Johnson, Curatorial Specialist (CS); and

Emily Killinger, Visual Arts Associate (VAA)

Staff via Zoom

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) Arts Division: Ginnie Lupi, Director

Staff Absent

Allison Hawkins, Arts Education Coordinator (AE)

Guest via Zoom

Tom Dunn

Motions (carried)

- Accept the minutes of March 18, 2022 Council meeting
- Approve NH CARES Artist-Led Project Grants (\$83,423)
- Approve FY23 Artist Entrepreneurial Grants – Round 1 (\$4,000)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks called the meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts to order at 9:31 AM on May 13, 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. STAFF REPORTS

Director Lupi gave a summary of staff operations since the last Council meeting.

Creative Communities:

- NHCCN will be hosting the second Round[the]Table event “Cooks in the Kitchen,” facilitated by Catherine Stewart, in early June. The conversation will explore how effective cross-sector partnerships are developed and sustained, and the particular power of artists working across sectors to lead change.

- CC/AH Lisa Burk-McCoy is in the process of planning a presentation with NEFA to the NH Arts Commission Peer Exchange on the newly updated [Creative Ground](#) platform. Date to be determined, anticipate it will be in June.
- CC/AH Burk-McCoy and Director Lupi have been analyzing available industry and occupation codes available for CV Suites against those used for NEFA's 2017 Jobs Report and NEA-BEA Arts & Culture Production Satellite Account. This will help establish a standard "definition" of the creative economy that can be used to generate economic impact data. NHSCA is currently undertaking a brief testing phase before publicly announcing the launch of this resource.

Arts in Health:

- FY23 Arts in Health Project Grant deadline is today, May 13. As of this morning there are eight submitted applications and 20 drafts still in the system.
- NHSCA partnered with the Children's System of Care to present the Magnify Voices Expressive Arts event on May 4. A total of 47 arts submissions from middle and high school students across the state were received. The program's objective is to build awareness around youth mental health and the need for increased services and supports to help youth navigate mental health crises. The event at Tupelo Music Hall welcomed 150 guests and journalists from the Union Leader, NHPR, and N.H. Chronicle.

Arts Education:

- The Youth Arts Project Grant program received 10 applications for FY23. These will be reviewed virtually, along with one Arts Education Roster Artist application, on June 22.
- Poetry Out Loud 2022 State Champion, Emily Matos, competed in the virtual National Semifinals on May 1. She gave a superb performance but will not be one of the nine students moving on to the virtual National Finals on June 5. Emily also had the opportunity to recite at the Governor and Council Meeting at the State House on May 4.
- The last two sessions of the Arts Partnership Conference were convened in March and April. Catherine Stewart and Emily Daniels facilitated, joined by participating artists Theo Martey (at the Stockbridge Theatre at Pinkerton Academy) and Sarah Duclos (at the Park Theatre in Jaffrey) for music and movement experiences. Positive feedback received, both in person and via follow-up surveys. A total of 48 attendees for the 2021-2022 Arts Partnership Conference.

Traditional Arts:

- NHSCA received eight Letters of Intent for the Arts Conservation License Plate ("Moose Plate") Grant program. Seven projects were eligible and approved to move forward with submitting a full grant application, due June 24.
- NH Commission on Native American Affairs will be meeting on Thursday, May 19 from 1-3pm in the DNCR Main Conference Room at 172 Pembroke Road.

Save Our Granite Stages:

- In addition to our regular grant categories, the Save Our Granite Stages program is open. Director Lupi has held three online workshops and is fielding calls. Right now there are ten draft applications active in the system. Deadline May 27.

Website Redesign:

- Carey and Kayla are leading the agency's process of re-designing and updating the NHSCA and NH Folklife websites.

Meetings:

- Director Lupi is continuing to attend meetings of the four Collaborative Economic Development Region groups, aka CEDRs.
- Biweekly meetings with Public Value Partner grantees and performing arts group continue.
- Director Lupi has been attending meetings of the national Creative States Coalition, a group that split off of AFTA's advocacy group last year.
- Yesterday NEFA convened a meeting of SAA EDs and state advocacy group leaders. The group will meet quarterly to start.

IV. MINUTES

Chair Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the March 18, 2022 meeting. Councilor Tim Sink moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Cecilia Ulibarri. The minutes from March 18, 2022 were unanimously approved.

V. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

[Theo Martey](#) has been approved as the new Artist Laureate.

The agency has been sourcing performers for biweekly G&C meetings, the next of which will feature a student from the Concord Community Music School. Director Lupi noted that the lack of available funds to pay professionals is limiting.

New Hampshire is in the midst of wildfire season, which Forest Protection Bureau has been preparing for by training on the West coast.

The Division of Historical Resources created a Historic Highway Marker Quest game, which can be accessed through the DNCR website.

State Parks Director, Phillip Bryce, announced his retirement, as the Parks Department gears up for a busy season. In addition to this job opening, Parks is also looking to fill a Public Information & Marketing Officer position. Councilors are encouraged to spread the word.

The State Library has been given green light to find an RFP consultant to catalog and put majority of papers and books in climate-controlled storage.

VI. APPROVAL OF NH CARES ARTIST-LED PROJECT GRANTS (\$83,423)

A four-member panel conducted an online review of the 21 applications received in this category. The panel evaluated applications on quality of arts programming, ability of artist to successfully implement the project, community partnerships, and clarity of plan to provide program access to underserved populations. The panel recommended 15 applications for funding.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the NH CARES Artist-Led Project grant recommendations. Motion made by Councilor Sara Germain and seconded by Councilor Vivian Beer. The Council unanimously approved, less one abstention/recusal (Councilor Cecilia Ulibarri).

VII. APPROVAL OF FY23 ARTIST ENTREPRENEURIAL GRANTS, ROUND 1 RECOMMENDATIONS (\$4,000)

NHSCA staff served as the review panel and met on Wednesday, May 11, to review the four applications received in the first round of this category. Applications were reviewed on their eligibility, quality of proposed opportunity, and potential to impact the artist's career. The panel recommended all four applications for funding.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the Artist Entrepreneurial Grants, Round 1 recommendations. Motion made by Councilor Tim Sink and seconded by Councilor Peter Warburton. The Council unanimously approved.

VIII. STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

CGO Cassandra Mason gave an introduction to work that has begun with the Strategic Planning consultants, Deidra Montgomery and Danya Sherman of Stepwise Consulting. Councilors received a memo prior to the meeting regarding the method and goals of the process. July Council meeting will be a retreat with the consultants. Councilor Mary McLaughlin asked how the Council feels the last plan was executed. CGO Mason answered that it was derailed by the pandemic. The way NHSCA adapted to the ongoing changes of the pandemic is also informing the current planning process, which will hopefully be completed by January.

IX. 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.

X. ADJOURN

Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 10:48 AM. Councilor Sara Germain moved to approve and Councilor Tim Sink seconded.

Next Council Meetings:

Friday, July 15, 2022 at 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM, Canterbury Shaker Village

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

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