

**New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
Council Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
(at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, NH)**

Arts Councilors Present:

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Jacqueline Kahle (Vice Chair), Emile Birch, Angela Brown, Sara Germain, Mary McLaughlin, Amanda Merrill, Elizabeth Morgan, William Stelling, Billie Tooley, Jason Tors, and Peter Warburton

Arts Councilors Absent:

Susan Duprey, Tim Sink, and J. Christopher Williams

Staff Present:

Department of Cultural Resources Commissioner Van McLeod; Arts Division: Virginia (Ginnie) Lupi, Director; Cassandra Mason, Chief Grants Officer (CGO); Julianne Gadoury, Heritage and Traditional Arts Coordinator (H & TA)

Staff Absent:

Catherine O'Brian, Arts in Education and Arts in Health Coordinator (AIE/AIH); and Emily Killinger, Visual Arts Associate

I. Open Meeting:

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks called to order the meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts at 9:00 a.m. on April 25, 2016.

II. Minutes from Last Meeting:

MOTION PASSED

Chair Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the February 10, 2016 meeting. Councilor Angela Brown moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Sara Germain.

The minutes from February 10, 2016 were unanimously approved.

III. Legislative Update:

Councilor Peter Warburton handed out a summary of and spoke about the newest education legislation, ESSA ([click here to download](#)). He gave a brief history of some of the past education legislation since 1965 that have driven education testing and accountabilities, including: ESEA, IDEA, NCLB, and the newest ESSA.

Warburton focused in on ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) and its impact on New Hampshire. The importance of testing is the major piece of ESSA. This newest federal legislation focuses on performance competency / evaluation. Warburton also briefly explained some of the changes going on in examining the rubrics they use to assess student's competencies which they are participating in at Souhegan High School. H & TA Gadoury remarked that some of the "buzz" of excitement regarding these policy changes is that the arts are now included as a part of a well-rounded education.

IV. The Roll of Councilors - Focus Discussion:

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks opened the discussion for Councilors to explore what their goals are as members of the Council; what they see as their role; what they feel is expected of them, and what they feel they can 'bring to the table'. Discussion included:

- Going to arts events, be present at arts events in their area, wearing name badges, helping draw a broader awareness of the NH State Arts Council and programs, along with building a stronger sense of community.
- Advocate for the arts amongst the elected officials.
 - o Advocacy is the most important role: Be active in Citizens for the Arts, and know who your state senator is, and who your state representatives are.
- How do we work together as a group more effectively?
- How do we become better ambassadors?
- Take an active role in understanding and learning about NHSCA grant recipients in your area, using the staff as a starting point to finding out what the grant recipient is planning to do with the award money and when you could attend activities planned for the said grant project(s).

V. Staff Reports:

Commissioner McLeod reported on the budget process changes made by the legislature. He explains that all the directors should have greater control over each budget line, and are working to align the budget with goals of their divisions. The Commissioner also reports that he will be attending the Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism in New Hampshire as well as another tourism conference in New York.

Director Lupi reports that Catherine O'Brian, our Arts in Education and Arts in Health grants coordinator, will be retiring as of June 1, 2016. Lupi went on to announce that while completing the final financial reporting for Fiscal Year 2015 it was discovered that the NHSCA was short \$ 95,000 from its matching the NEA grant. The NEA has since granted us a waiver for this shortfall. It is important to note that the NEA is unlikely to grant a waiver two years in a row, so it is extremely important for us to find state funding in order to match our upcoming FY17 award. CGO Mason reported that the shortfall came from a change in what the NEA allows for match funding, such as outside grants or in-kind donations. Chairman Brooks interjected that Citizens for the Arts is looking for a treasurer. If any Councilor knows of someone excellent in accounting/banking that would be interested in serving on the board position please work to connect them with Citizens.

CGO Mason reports that she and O'Brian have been working closely together in preparation for O'Brian's retirement. Which means Mason attended several site visits for Poetry Out Loud. Mason continued to report for O'Brian that the NHSCA assisted with hosting the National student Poet, for the NE region, Eileen Huang. She toured around to several area schools/libraries and even interviewed with Virginia Prescott of NHPR. CGO Mason also reported that there were over 60 attendees at two grant writing workshops we present for Arts in Education grants. Mason and O'Brian have also been working to target NH Veterans groups, Veteran's homes and hospital staffs to participate in a program called "Timeslips", which is a story telling project for people with memory loss. Mason also reports that deadlines for Artist in Residency grants, Youth Arts Project grants, and the application deadline for the Arts in Education Roster is coming up very soon, and the grant panel review (May 13, 2016) is being scheduled at this time. She then invited any Councilor interested in attending this panel review as a facilitator/observer to contact AIE/AIH O'Brian.

H & TA Gadoury reminded the Councilors that the NH State Council on the Arts not only gives out grant monies but also provides many services to artists and the community on a daily basis, and that we work to make art equitable for all of NH. The Moose Plate Conservation grant deadline is today, and the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grant deadline is in July. The Traditional Arts & Folklife Listing deadline has changed to a rolling deadline to encourage more individual artists to apply as we make contact with them throughout the year. Work continues on the Traditional/Folk art curriculum guide development (aimed toward 4-5th grades but made adaptable to other grade

levels as well). Kay Morgan and Greg O'Brian have been contracted to assist with the writing of this project, and should hopefully be ready to roll-out in the fall. H & TA Gadoury reports that she and AIE/AIH O'Brian are part of the NH Principals Association's STEM committee, who are very receptive to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) and adding the arts into their meetings and plans. Gadoury also is serving on the NH Commission on Native American Affairs. Traditional artists' interviews are still going on when possible, with the last one being with Mr. Ellis Hatch (in his late 80s and a fly tier). The 2016 version of the New Hampshire Traditional Dance Trail brochure, produced in partnership with Travel and Tourism, and will be distributed in all of the NH rest areas. An offer was made to all the young professional groups of NH that the NHSCA would sponsor a contra dance as one of their meet-ups. Gorham is the only group that has yet to take advantage of this offer. H & TA Gadoury is also assisting the NH Woodworkers Guild in preparing an artist in residence program between them and local schools that still have a "woodshop" area. Gadoury also reports that NHSCA will be sponsoring a fiber arts weaving tent at the League Fair.

Director Lupi went on to report that out of the HB-279 Commission studying the impact of arts and culture on NH is coming an Arts/Cultural Caucus. It will be organized by Representative Rice who has taken this on and is distributing a survey to find out who is connected to the arts and how. This should be very exciting to see how this goes and where it goes.

VI. Other Business:

Director Lupi requested that the council approve the NHSCA annual partnership to NEFA (New England Foundation for the Arts), which is set for \$3,642 this year. Lupi also mentioned that NEFA is getting ready to embark on an Arts Employment study – which should provide very valuable data. It was so moved by Councilor Elizabeth Morgan and seconded by Councilor Amanda Merrill. Discussion occurred and it was unanimously passed.

VII. ADJOURN:

- **Motion to adjourn from the business meeting:** Councilor Mary McLaughlin
- **Second:** Councilor Warburton
- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None

Vice-Chairwoman Kahle adjourned the meeting at 12:40p.m.