

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – July 10, 2023
Via Zoom

Arts Councilors Present

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Juliana Bergeron, William Stelling, Jason Tors, Vivian Beer, Angela Brown, R.P. Hale, José Lezcano, Mary McLaughlin, Catherine Sununu, Cecilia Ulibarri, and Amanda Whitworth

Arts Councilors Absent

Tim Sink

Staff Present

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) Arts Division: Ginnie Lupi, Director; 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); Allison Hawkins, Arts Education Coordinator (AE); Carey Johnson, Curatorial Specialist (CS); and Emily Killinger, Visual Arts Associate (VAA)

Staff Absent

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

Guest

Tom Dunn

Motions (carried)

- Accept the minutes of May 8, 2023 Council meeting
- Approve Artist Entrepreneurial Grants (\$5,195)
- Approve Artist in Residence Project Grants (\$50,010)
- Approve Arts in Health Project Grants (\$105,505)
- Approve Arts Partnership Conference Grant (\$29,000)
- Approve Public Value Partnership Grants (\$643,120)
- Approve Youth Arts Project Grants (\$77,700)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks called the meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts to order at 10:05AM.

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. MINUTES

Chair Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the May 8, 2023 meeting. Councilor Bill Stelling noted his name was missing from Arts Councilors Present. Councilor José Lezcano moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Bill Stelling. The amended minutes from May 8, 2023 were unanimously approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF ARTIST ENTREPRENEURIAL GRANTS (\$5,195)

Six applications were recommended for funding of 11 received. There were brief discussions around the amount of funds available, the number of applicants not recommended for funding, and the lack of applicants from Coos County. Recommendations included the availability of oral applications and a partnership with White Mountain Community College.

Councilor Bill Stelling moved to approve the grants, while Councilor Juliana Bergeron seconded. Councilor Cecilia Ulibarri recused herself. Councilor José Lezcano abstained. The grants were unanimously approved (less one abstention, one recusal).

Councilor Vivian Beer suggested the “no match” requirement be retained, as it may be helping to increase the number of applications. Director Ginnie Lupi noted that it will continue throughout this fiscal year. Chair Brooks noted his support of the suggestions made, as this is an important grant category for the Council.

V. APPROVAL OF ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROJECT GRANTS (\$50,010)

There were 12 applications received, requesting a total amount of \$52,722. All applications were recommended funding in the amount of \$50,010.

There was conversation around the use of out-of-state panelists and the qualifications of panelists. It was suggested that sending Councilors a list of panelist needs and having them help with outreach to build a bank of willing participants to draw from would be helpful.

Councilor Catherine Sununu moved to approve the grants, while Councilor R.P. Hale seconded. The grants were unanimously approved.

VI. APPROVAL OF ARTS IN HEALTH PROJECT GRANTS (\$105,505)

There were 22 applications received, an increase over last year. Five applications for the Public Health track and 17 for the Health and Healing track. Panelists recommended 20 applications for a total of \$105,505.

Councilor Bill Stelling recused himself. Councilor R.P. Hale moved to approve the grants, while Councilor Mary McLaughlin seconded. The grants were unanimously approved (less one recusal).

VII. APPROVAL OF ARTS PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE GRANT (\$29,000)

The Arts Partnership conference is planned for October 27 & 28, 2023 at Sanborn Mills in Loudon. (AE) Allison Hawkins noted that the agency is working with roster artist Terry Farish to develop thematic content. Arts Alive! will be fiscal agent to administer the grant.

Councilor Juliana Bergeron moved to approve the grant, while Councilor Angela Brown seconded. Councilor Bill Stelling recused himself. The grant was unanimously approved (less one recusal).

VIII. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC VALUE PARTNERSHIPS GRANTS (\$643,120)

There were 54 applications received, with 52 recommended for funding. These applications are for two-year operating grants. Previously, the agency had extended the grants for two years for the public value partners in pool, due to the Covid-19 emergency. This year the option was given to complete a full application or to submit documentation to extend the grant at the applicant’s

current funding level. Most applicants opted to continue at their current level, but two opted to complete the full application to increase their requested amount.

Councilor Mary McLaughlin moved to approve, while Councilor Juliana Bergeron seconded. Councilor Bill Stelling recused himself. The grants were unanimously approved (less one recusal).

IX. APPROVAL OF YOUTH ARTS PROJECT GRANTS (\$77,700)

There were 16 applications received, with one ineligible application. There were several first-time applicants, with an overall increase in applications. The request total was \$81,715. Panelists recommended funding all 15 for \$77,700.

There was a question about the difference between the Youth Arts Project (YAP) and Artist In Residence (AIR) grants.

Councilor Amanda Whitworth moved to approve, while Councilor Bill Stelling seconded. The grants were unanimously approved.

X. STAFF REPORT and STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Director Lupi noted that the agency offices were moved to 172 Pembroke Rd. Staff is still working on finalizing the move and unpacking. Thanks to (CS) Carey Johnson and (HTA) Kayla Schweitzer for taking the lead on the move.

The September Council meeting will include approval of a variety of grants whose deadlines are in June, July and August.

The team is actively planning the Arts Partnership conference, which will be 10/27-10/28 at Sanborn Mills Farm.

(AE) Allison Hawkins joined the first gathering of the New England Teaching Artist Collaborative-Vermont Gathering: Imagining What's Possible (7/7-7/8).

(CC/AH) Lisa Burk-McCoy attended several conferences and meetings: Plan NH Community Design Charrette in Brentwood; Makerspace Network Meeting with the SBDC; NH Center for Nonprofits; NAMI NH; New England/Mid-Atlantic Regional Creative Placemaking Summit; Travel & Tourism Industry Leadership quarterly meeting; International Creative Aging Summit; and NH Alliance for Healthy Aging quarterly meeting. Lisa will also be representing NHSCA on the four BEA CEDR groups after Director Lupi leaves.

Lisa also participated in planning (and attended) the Magnify Voices Expressive Arts Contest event. Out of 55 entries, ten young people were honored for their artistic interpretations in a variety of mediums expressing their experiences with mental health.

(CGO) Cassie Mason facilitated the Percent for Art install at the NH National Guard Readiness Center. The piece, titled *Three-Legged Stool*, by RI artist Deborah Baronas is an oil painting with digital print on a tempered glass overlay. The images are based on the National Guard credo: Success in serving with the Guard is like a three-legged stool made up of the service member, the family and the civilian employer. If one of the legs can't support the stool, the entire structure could collapse.

Two pending projects are the Dept. of Transportation Toll Administration building in Hooksett and the Dept. of Environmental Services Dam Bureau building just off I-89 South at Exit 2. Cassie has been in contact with Administrative Services in anticipation of projects that may come with the new budget.

Lastly, Strategic Planning is progressing well. The move and grant season delayed some of the work, but the Council will have something to review before the September meeting.

XI. 2023 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS UPDATE

Councilor Juliana Bergeron reported that requests for sponsorships need to go out earlier next time, so people can include requests in their budgets. She suggested that for the next (2025) Governor's Arts Awards, requests be submitted in 2024. She's been speaking with Alec Doyle at the Colonial and is waiting on his response regarding hosting a Watch Party there. She will check in with Councilors at the next meeting regarding Watch Parties in their districts. Director Lupi noted that the press release announcing awardees is going through an approval process and should go out last week of July. Chair Brooks urged Councilors to contribute for the goal of 100% participation.

XII. COUNCILOR ROUND ROBIN

Chair Brooks asked each Councilor to tell the Council how they've been faring and to provide updates on what they've been doing. Councilors reported on a wide range of in-person and virtual arts activities.

XIII. ADJOURN

Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:24 AM. Councilor Angela Brown moved to approve, while Councilor Mary McLaughlin seconded.

Next Council Meeting: September 11, 2023