

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – July 15, 2022
Via Zoom

Arts Councilors Present

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Vivian Beer, Juliana Bergeron, Angela Brown, José Lezcano, Mary McLaughlin, Tim Sink, William Stelling, Jason Tors, and Leah Woods

Arts Councilors via Phone

Catherine Sununu and Cecilia Ulibarri

Arts Councilors Absent

R.P. Hale and Peter Warburton

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)

Motions (carried)

- Accept the minutes of May 13, 2022 Council meeting
- Approve Youth Arts Project (YAP) Grants (\$43,305)
- Approve Arts in Health (AIH) Project Grants (\$70,600)
- Approve Save Our Granite Stages (SOGS) Grants (\$119,080)
- Informational review of Public Value Partnership (PVP) Year 2 Grants (\$515,800)

I. 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.

II. 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 July 15, 2022. New Councilor Juliana Bergeron was introduced and a brief introduction of Councilors followed.

III. MINUTES

Chair Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the May 13, 2022 meeting. Councilor Tim Sink moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Bill Stelling. The minutes from May 13, 2022 were unanimously approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF YOUTH ARTS PROJECT (YAP) GRANTS (\$43,305)

A four-member panel conducted an online review of the 10 applications received in this category. The panel evaluated applications on quality of arts programming, access/community support and benefit, administrative capacity, and project management and documentation. The panel recommended eight applications for funding.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the YAP grant recommendations. Motion made by Councilor Mary McLaughlin and seconded by Councilor Jason Tors. The Council unanimously approved, less one recusal (Councilor Cecilia Ulibarri).

V. APPROVAL OF ARTS IN HEALTH (AIH) PROJECT GRANTS (\$70,600)

A six-member panel conducted an online review of the 18 applications received in this category. The panel evaluated applications on quality of arts programming; access, engagement and benefit; administrative capacity; and project measurements/outcomes. The panel recommended 14 applications for funding.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the AIH grant recommendations. Motion made by Councilor José Lezcano and seconded by Councilor Tim Sink. The Council unanimously approved, save one recusal (Councilor Bill Stelling) and one vote against (Councilor Catherine Sununu).

VI. APPROVAL OF SAVE OUR GRANITE STAGES (SOGS) GRANTS (\$119,080)

A four-member panel conducted an online review of the 10 applications received in this category. The panel evaluated applications on quality of arts programming, administrative capacity, impact of the grant request on NH arts work force/cultural ecosystem, and the completeness/accuracy of documentation. The panel recommended nine applications for funding.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the SOGS grant recommendations. The Council unanimously approved, save two recusals (Councilors Bill Stelling and Jason Tors).

VII. INFORMATIVE REVIEW OF PUBLIC VALUE PARTNERSHIPS (PVP) Year 2 GRANTS (\$515,800)

This is the second year of two-year grants for these organizations so no formal vote necessary.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

Director Lupi gave a summary of staff operations since the last Council meeting, beginning with an update on the Strategic Planning process. Although the Strategic Planning retreat was planned for this meeting, Director Lupi and CGO Cassandra Mason are hopeful the Council will be able to meet with the consultants in the near future in a focus group format limited to ninety minutes. A poll regarding available dates is forthcoming. An extensive list of contacts has been created for the focus groups, and Councilors are encouraged to add to the list. There will be seven remote focus groups total, which will be geographically oriented. Each session will be approximately 80 minutes long, and sessions will be beginning in the middle of August. Once the results of the focus groups and surveys are returned, the planning process will be able to become more easily value-based. The process is a requirement to receive federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (approximately \$800,000) and CGO Cassandra Mason reminded the Council that it is a good opportunity to provide valuable feedback regarding the direction of the organization and how things could be improved.

Director Lupi has been working with Senator David Watters and the Recovery Monument Commission on an RFP for artists for the creation of a state monument to honor those in recovery from substance use disorders, as well as those who have lost their lives.

Chair Brooks asked whether the remote nature of the grant panels has caused Council members to be excluded from attending panel discussions. Director Lupi and CGO Cassandra Mason clarified that many panels meet in person, and Councilors have standing invitations to attend all panel meetings.

(HTA) Kayla Schweitzer reported that the Folklife & Traditional Arts Project grant deadline is today. If anyone is interested in sitting in on any of the following grant panels, please contact Kayla: Arts Conservation/Moose Plate, Traditional Arts Apprenticeship and Traditional Arts Projects.

Additionally, the Commission on Native American Affairs continues to meet with new members, and the next scheduled meeting is July 28.

Kayla has been meeting with her New England colleagues from other state agencies to exchange ideas and learn from her peers. Her work with CS Carey Johnson on the website redesign continues as well.

Upcoming Traditional Arts events: American Independence Festival tomorrow from 10 – 6 PM. July 24 Friends of Hampton Falls Bandstand’s Americana Roots festival. Lowell Folk Festival July 29– 31.

(AE) Allison Hawkins reported on the acceptance of a new roster artist from Henniker, Carol Ellis, who is a long-time educator at Kearsarge Regional High School.

Additionally, Allison updated the Council on the Poetry Out Loud cycle, which is wrapping up with reporting and virtual events. Program work will continue with Bright Spot Consultants, which has a new main contact, Kelly Delekta. State Champion Emily Matos had an opportunity to recite at a Governor and Council meeting at the State House in May.

There were two successful spring sessions of the Arts Partnership conference in March and April, after which Allison met with Embodied Healing to go over feedback and brainstorm for future events. She is also working on a spotlight for the NH Arts Learning Network website focusing on the impact of arts education on mental health.

Allison has also been scheduling meetings with colleagues, working on lists for focus groups for the strategic plan and working on geographic diversity for Youth Arts Project grant outreach with Christina. She also attended an event at Avenue A, a past grant recipient, for their Write Out! program for teens in the Monadnock region.

(CC/AH) Lisa Burk-McCoy reported that today is the deadline for applications to the Arts for Community Engagement grant program. Councilors are welcome to join the panel to observe.

On June 28, NH Creative Communities Network (NHCCN) held the second installment of “Round the Table” to discuss and build community around creative placemaking in New Hampshire. The third installment will be sometime this September.

Lisa noted that the meeting of the Arts Commission Peer Exchange will be sometime in late August, featuring staff from the New England Foundation for the Arts discussing the updated CreativeGround platform.

Additionally, she updated the Council on a new task force organized by the New Hampshire Makerspace Network to explore a fiscal sponsor model to aggregate back-office services for Makerspace businesses.

Lastly, Lisa explained that the Creative Vitality Suite software has been in a testing phase, with reports being sent to individuals and groups across the state for feedback (sample included in Council meeting packet).

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’ve been doing. Councilors reported on a wide range of in-person and virtual arts activities.

X. ADJOURN

Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:06 AM. Councilor José Lezcano moved to approve and Councilor Juliana Bergeron seconded.

Next Council Meetings:

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

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