

**New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
Council Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2015, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
19 Pillsbury St, Concord, NH**

Arts Councilors Present:

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Vice Chair Jacqueline Kahle (phone call-in), Emile Birch, Angela Brown, Sara Germain (phone call in), Amanda Merrill, Elizabeth Morgan, Tim Sink (phone call-in), Billie Tooley, and Jason Tors (phone call-in).

Arts Councilors Absent:

Susan Duprey, Mary McLaughlin, William Stelling, Peter Warburton, and J. Christopher Williams

Staff Present:

Department of Cultural Resources Commissioner Van McLeod; Arts Division: Ginnie Lupi, Director; Cassandra Mason, Chief Grants Officer (CGO); Catherine O'Brian, Arts in Education and Arts in Health Coordinator (AIE & AIH); Julianne Morse, Heritage and Traditional Arts Coordinator (H & TA)

MOTIONS (carried):

- To accept the minutes from the April 13 meeting
- To approve the Arts in Education Conference Partnership \$10,000
- To approve the Poetry Out Loud Partnership \$20,000
- To approve the Artist Residency in School Grants \$ 20,427
- To approve the Youth Arts Project Grants \$12,060
- To approve the Arts in Health Care Project Grants \$13,136
- To approve the Public Value Partnership Grants \$317,500

I. Open Meeting:

Chairman Brooks called to order the regular meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts at 9:30 a.m. on July 13, 2015.

II. Minutes from Last Meeting:

MOTION PASSED

Chairman Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the April 13, 2015 meeting. Councilor Amanda Merrill moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Angela Brown.

There was no discussion regarding the minutes.

The minutes from April 13, 2015 were unanimously approved.

BUSINESS:

III. Grant & Partnership Approvals

CGO Mason reminded everyone that the meeting was in public session and asked that all grant applicants be referred to by their application number.

Director Lupi provided a brief overview of the grant categories on the agenda. She explained that this year's budget was adjusted due to the cuts in funding from the legislature and an increase in expenditures from the federal funds for salary and benefits. She explained that once they examined the budget keeping in mind all federal compliance requirements it was concluded that the deadline for the General Project Grants for Community Engagement would be postponed, pending the passing of the State's budget.

CGO Mason reminded the Council that this budget reduction has been anticipated over the last several years since initial cuts in 2009. Additionally, the General Project Grants are typically for projects with start and end date of November 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 and thus there was time to wait for the final state budget to pass.

Councilor Morgan asked what our usual expenditure is for project grants. CGO Mason responded that since the Council started awarding the General Project Grants in 2011 the average aggregate amount is between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

Councilor Kahle reminds Councilors of the previous recipients of General Project Grants. She recommends delaying the vote on the Public Value Partnership (PVP) applications and reopen the General Project Grant category for applications.

Commissioner McLeod supports the decision to delay the application deadline for the General Project Grants category deadline. Councilor Morgan suggests the Council meet more regularly and have planning sessions to understand and develop priorities.

Chairman Brooks suggests that the Council listen to each grant category one by one, then make a decision at the end after hearing the entire presentation. He reminds the Councilors that the Legislature will be back in session on September 16, 2015 so the budget will probably not be resolved before our next meeting.

Arts in Education Partnership Conference: CGO Mason provided an overview of the Arts in Education Conference Partnership request. This year the conference is being planned for November 6th in Portsmouth, NH. Chairman Brooks comments that due to the date of this event it would not be recommended to delay the vote.

Poetry Out Loud: CGO Mason provided an overview of the history of the Council's participation in the Poetry Out Loud Program. The Council receives an amount of \$17,500 from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for Poetry Out Loud and that \$5,500 from the underserved category of the budget is added to program. Registrations will begin in September so it would not be recommended to delay the vote.

Artist Residencies in Schools and Youth Arts Project Grants: CGO Mason reports that the Council is required by the NEA to match \$30,000 in federal funds for this program which sends

roster artists into NH schools. These projects are planned for the school year beginning in September so it would not be recommended to delay the vote.

Arts in Health Care: CGO Mason provides an overview of the Arts in Health Care program. The project dates are July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Public Value Partnership Grants: CGO Mason stated this is the highest subscription received in this category and that the grant funds are used for general operating expenses. The panel recommended that four applicants (designated by the panel) should be encouraged to apply to the General Project Grant category if funds are not available in this category.

Chairman Brooks asks for discussion about the possibility of delaying this vote until the State budget is passed. Councilor Kahle stated that she no longer feels the Council should delay the vote for this category.

Chairman Brooks asks that the Council vote on each category individually.

- **Arts in Education Partnership Conference:** There was no discussion; the Council unanimously approved.
 - o **Moved:** Councilor Merrill
 - o **Second:** Councilor Morgan
 - o **Nays:** None
 - o **Recusals:** None
- **Poetry Out Loud Partnership:** There was no discussion; the Council unanimously approved.
 - o **Moved:** Councilor Brown
 - o **Second:** Councilor Birch
 - o **Nays:** None
 - o **Recusals:** None
- **Artist Residence in Schools:** There was discussion regarding two similar applications that did not receive consistent recommendations. AIE Coordinator O'Brian stated that the panel felt one application was very strong and the other needed improvement. The Council unanimously approved.
 - o **Moved:** Councilor Sink
 - o **Second:** Councilor Tors
 - o **Nays:** None
 - o **Recusals:** None
- **Youth Arts Project Grant:** There was no discussion; the Council unanimously approved.
 - o **Moved:** Councilor Kahle
 - o **Second:** Councilor Brown
 - o **Nays:** None
 - o **Recusals:** None
- **Arts in Health Care Grants:** There was no discussion; the Council unanimously approved.
 - o **Moved:** Councilor Morgan
 - o **Second:** Councilor Tooley
 - o **Nays:** None
 - o **Recusals:** None

- **Public Value Partnership Grant:** There was no discussion; the Council unanimously approved.
 - o **Moved:** Councilor Brown
 - o **Second:** Councilor Morgan
 - o **Nays:** None
 - o **Recusals:** Councilor Kahle and Councilor Tooley

IV. Director's/Staff Reports:

Director Lupi reports that the Council staff selected their new program assistant, Emily Killinger, who will start on Friday July 24th. Emily currently works at NHDOT, and has a lot of state government experience; she is a graphic designer and photographer, with a wonderful demeanor, and will be a fantastic addition to the team.

H & TA Coordinator Morse reports that the deadline for Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Grants has passed however, the total number of applicants is not yet known as some continue to mail in their applications rather than utilizing the new online submission process.

H & TA Morse also reports that the panel for Cultural Conservation met to review nine applications. Morse reminds the Council that this funding comes from the sale of Moose Plates so the budget remains unknown. This year there were five applications for theater curtain conservation, one accessibility application, and two stained glass conservation applications.

H & TA Morse shared the brochure created to support the community social dances (including contra dance, English Country dancing, and square dancing) throughout the state. Eighteen communities are featured in the brochure, and they are being distributed through the dance organizers within their respective areas, as well as through the NH Travel and Tourism Office at the 13 state welcome centers.

Last year the Monadnock Folklore Society and the Monadnock Center for History & Culture received a General Project Grant which helped to create a large exhibit about the history of contra dance in the region. This exhibit will be shared again through the State Library in the fall of 2015. In addition we have a field researcher meeting with each of the dance organizers to conduct audio interviews, taking photographs and getting a sense of the history of each dance, as well as its current place in the community culture.

H & TA Morse reports that we continue to build relationships with the new Americans organizations that provide services to immigrant and refugee populations, including support of community organizations that have multi-cultural festivals for these populations. Recent work with the New American Africans concluded; traditional Rwandan dance was taught to youth over a fifteen week period. This project will be featured nationally in the Folklore and Education Journal due out in September. Julianne has also met with two (Nashua and Concord) of the four refugee communities in conjunction with the Endowment for Health. The other communities are Manchester and Laconia.

H & TA Morse reports she is submitting a nomination for artist Fred Dolan for the National Heritage Fellowship award. The Traditional Arts program is sponsoring a week long fiber

demonstration tent at the League of NH Craftsmen Fair. She also plans to create curriculum for elementary school teachers on traditional arts.

Currently the only active Percent for Art project is at Lakes Region Community College. Three of the four artists have installed their work. The final artist is planning her installation.

In response to Chairman Brooks' question of the Council's Percent for Art involvement with the NH Women's Prison, Morse reports that both parties are in communication but the project will not be gearing up until 2017. AIE & AIH Coordinator O'Brian reports that the Council will again be working with the Men & Women's Prison on the Children of Incarcerated Parents Project. Children attend camp for 2-3 weeks, leaving the camp for two days to go to the prison and be with their parents (who have completed a large matrix of parenting classes) for the entire day including participating in theatre and mural activities.

AIE & AIH Coordinator O'Brian reports that a total of six artists have applied to be added to the Rosters for AIE (4 in this category) and AIH (2 in this category). Due to one of the artists being away on an expedition in the Arctic, O'Brian will bring those recommendations to the Council at the next meeting in September.

AIE & AIH Coordinator O'Brian reports that Americans for the Arts has asked her and Marcia McCaffrey from the Department of Education to provide information regarding the status of Arts Education in NH. Additionally, Eric Giles, Communication Manager for NASAA, contacted her inquiring about STEAM in NH, about the STEM commission report, and who is following up on any STEAM recommendations. Also she will be meeting with someone who is working on an HIV/AIDS outreach project and is interested in finding out how the arts could be incorporated.

AIE & AIH Coordinator O'Brian reports two Creative Aging Workshops will be held in September for teaching artists in NH interested in developing program for the independent active seniors. The workshops will be presented by Lifetime Arts.

V. Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner McLeod has been having conversations with various members of the House and Senate regarding the state arts council budget in regards to the matches required by the NEA. McLeod states that the Department submitted their budget to the Governor and was asked to reduce it. The majority of the reductions fell on this Division of the Arts. The Commissioner stated his current objective is to help the Department as a whole to begin restoring their funds. He feels the pieces are in place as discussion has already begun as to the importance/value the arts has on NH communities.

In regards to House Bill (HB) 279 – Commissioner McLeod reports this bill sets forth a committee to look at the economic impact the arts has on communities of NH. He states that Director Lupi is working on preparing a presentation of talking points for the Committee. There was discussion about who is on the committee.

VI. Committee Reports:

Governor's Arts Awards

Chairman Brooks states that the 50th Anniversary of the Council and the 2015 Governor's Arts Awards selection panel will consist of Councilor Peter Warburton (Chairman), Councilor Tors, Councilor Germain, and Councilor Kahle. Councilor Elizabeth Morgan recapped her experience from being on the selection panel last year as a positive/rewarding experience representing the State in this capacity. Director Lupi states that this year there are 17 nominations in 5 categories. Chairman Brooks states that Oct 21st will be the date for this year's Governor's Arts Awards ceremony and that fundraising is going along slowly, and all Councilors are being encouraged to participate.

Citizens for the Arts

Americans for the Arts (AFTA) is interested in making the arts a subject of the upcoming presidential campaign, and will be holding Advocacy Training on July 31st at the Currier Museum, conducted by Nina Ozlu Tunceli, Chief Counsel of Government and Public Affairs & Executive Director, Americans for the Arts Action Fund. Those interested are encouraged to register for this worthwhile cause. Commissioner McLeod mentioned we also need to think and encourage our NH advocates to go beyond the presidential campaign into local and State politics as well. We should not be reactive but instead be proactive, as Councilor Tooley mentions. Director Lupi mentions that it is on her radar to utilize the Council's monthly E-Opps and Art Starts emails and updating them into more of a monthly newsletter that would keep more people informed as to what is going on with the arts in NH, and for it to be in a form which would easily be shared through social media to broaden the Council's voice. Lupi is hoping to work this into the upcoming budget as it would require a subscription to Constant Contact or another email marketing service.

VII. ADJOURN:

- **Motion to adjourn from the business meeting:** Councilor Emile Birch
- **Second:** Councilor Angela Brown
- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None

Chairman Brooks adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm