

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 14, 2014, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Plymouth State University College of Graduate Studies
2 Pillsbury St, 5th floor, Concord, NH

Arts Councilors Present:

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Vice Chair Jacqueline Kahle, Emile Birch, Susan Duprey, Sara Germain, Amanda Merrill, Elizabeth Morgan, Billie Tooley, Tim Sink, Peter Warburton, J. Christopher Williams

Arts Councilors Absent:

Erle Pierce, Darryl Furtkamp

Guests:

Angela Brown, William Stelling

Staff Present:

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

MOTIONS (carried):

- To accept the minutes from the April 14, 2014 meeting
- To approve the Artist Residency in School Grants (\$36,670)
- To approve the Youth Arts Project Grants (\$29,465)
- To approve the Arts in Health Care Project Grants (\$21,035)
- To approve the Arts in Education Conference Partnership (\$10,000)
- To approve the Poetry Out Loud Partnership (\$23,000)

I. Moment of Inspiration:

Prior to the call to order Chairman Roger Brooks introduced Hannah Burke, 2014 NH Poetry Out Loud Champion. Hannah shared her experiences representing NH and competing at POL nationals in Washington DC, and then recited for the Council *Sanctuary*, by Jean Valentine. Chairman Brooks gave a recap of the Poetry Out Loud competition and process in NH.

Chairman Brooks then introduced Angela Brown and Bill Stelling who had been nominated by Governor Hassan to serve on the Council, but were awaiting confirmation by the Executive Council. Chairman Brooks asked each person in attendance to introduce themselves and share their connections with the arts.

II. Open Meeting:

Chairman Brooks called to order the regular meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, July 14, 2014 at Plymouth State University College of Graduate Studies in Concord, NH

III. Minutes from Last Meeting:

MOTION PASSED

Chairman Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the April 14, 2014 meeting. Councilor Tim Sink moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Peter Warburton.

Councilor Elizabeth Morgan opened discussion on the April 14, 2014 minutes by calling to attention that in Commissioner's report there was a suggestion to see if someone with an arts background could be added to the Governor's STEM commission. Chairman Brooks indicated that at recent events with Governor Hassan she had stated that she recognized the importance of the arts in education, but Chairman Brooks did not feel that a representative on the STEM commission was needed at this time. CGO Mason added that STEM commission meetings were public and that they do discuss creativity and importance of afterschool learning opportunities. She invited Councilors to attend the meeting as a member of the public. AIE & AIH Coordinator Catherine O'Brian suggested sharing the PowerPoint presentation she created for the NH School Board with the STEM Commission. Commissioner McLeod thought many of the members of the STEM commission were already arts supporters.

Councilor Morgan noted that at the April 14, 2014 meeting Commissioner McLeod had encouraged Acting Director Lynn Graton and Councilor Erle Pierce to identify key points for funding challenges, and that this could be a job the incoming Director could work on.

The minutes from April 14, 2014 were unanimously approved.

IV. Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner McLeod welcomed the Council and invited everyone to attend the swearing in of the Director of the NH State Council on the Arts, Virginia Lupi on Thursday, July 17 at 1:00pm in the Executive Council Chambers of the State House.

V. Director's Report:

CGO Mason reported on the beginning of the FY2015 state fiscal year appropriation and NEA grant. She also provided Councilors with an overview of the staff's activities during the previous three months.

In response to a question from Councilor Jacqueline Kahle, CGO Mason provided an update on future personnel requests and clarification on the two positions that the Arts Council is hoping to fill: Grants Coordinator and Program Assistant.

CGO Mason also confirmed that the private funds for Acting Director Graton's retirement party were sufficient to cover the cost of the celebration.

Commissioner McLeod shared that the Percent for Art contract for the commissioned artwork at the Anna Philbrook Building was unanimously approved by the Governor and Executive Council.

Additionally, Commissioner McLeod, CGO Mason, and Curatorial Specialist Carey Johnson met with Department of Employment Security to share information about the Arts Bank and Percent for Art Program. Commissioner McLeod reported that the Percent for Art program has seen quality growth over the past five years by entering into discussions with partner sites earlier in the building or renovation process.

In response to a question from Commissioner McLeod, Coordinator O'Brian confirmed that the Children of Incarcerated Parents program would take place even with the closure of summer programming at Camp Spaulding.

CGO Mason shared a handout provided by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) that ranks state appropriation per capita.

BUSINESS:

VI. 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.

Arts in Education Conference Partnership

Grants Coordinator O'Brian provided an overview of the Arts in Education Conference Partnership request.

- **Motion to approve the Arts in Education Conference Partnership:** Councilor Susan Duprey
- **Second:** Councilor Amanda Merrill
- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None

Councilor Sara Germain asked if Councilors were able to attend conference at special rate.

CGO Mason indicated that the registration fee would be waived but Council members would be responsible for their lodging and meals. She added that there were additional arts events happening in the area of the conference that same weekend such as at the Red Fern Arts Center.

Poetry Out Loud Partnership

Coordinator O'Brian provided an overview of the history of the Council's participation in the Poetry Out Loud Program and asked for ideas about ways to celebrate the 10th anniversary. Councilor Morgan shared that Councilors have served as judges for the competitions. Councilor Merrill asked for clarification on NHSCA's policy to cap NHPOL participation at 40 schools, and whether we could accept more for the 10th Anniversary. Coordinator O'Brian responded that capacity has been linked to the size of the venues for the regional competitions, and the length of the program at the regional competitions which in some events lasted beyond 4 hours. Councilor Sink provided background information on the Granite State Ambassadors who help at the State Final POL event.

- **Motion to approve the Poetry Out Loud Partnership:** Councilor Morgan
- **Second:** Councilor Billie Tooley
- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None

Artist in Residence Grants

Grants Coordinator O'Brian provided a summary of the Artist in Residency grant applications and panel process. Matching grants to bring professional artists into schools for in-depth residencies for the benefit of students, teachers and the community.

- **Motion to approve the Artist in Residence Grants:** Councilor Kahle
- **Second:** Councilor Germain
- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None

Youth Arts Project Grants

Grants Coordinator O'Brian provided a summary of the Youth Arts Project grant applications and panel process. Youth Arts Projects support creative development and opportunities for youth K-12 outside the regular school day.

- **Motion to approve the Youth Arts Project Grants:** Councilor Chris Williams
- **Second:** Councilor Kahle
- **Discussion:** Councilor Kahle asked for clarification on applicants that were not recommended for funding. O'Brian stated that the applicants did not meet the standards or criteria for the grant. Councilor Sink asked for clarification on the grant review process. CGO Mason presented an overview of the peer-panel review process.
- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None

Arts in Healthcare Grants

Grants Coordinator O'Brian provided a summary of the Arts in Health Care Projects grant applications and panel process. Arts in Health Care Projects bring trained artists into health care settings and nursing homes to improve health and quality of life for residents and patients. Councilor Morgan facilitated the panel and shared her experience serving, and view that there is a high importance for this program and that the demand and awareness of this program has increased due to the efforts of Coordinator O'Brian.

- **Motion to approve the Arts in Healthcare Grants:** Councilor Susan Duprey
- **Second:** Councilor Williams
- **Discussion:** Councilor Duprey asked for clarification on the funding criteria. CGO Mason responded that financial need is not a criteria for any of the NHSCA grant programs. Councilor Kahle asked if applicants can be for-profit institutions, and CGO Mason clarified that all applicants are required to be non-profit.
- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None

Public Value Partnerships Grants:

CGO Mason shared a reminder on which grantees would be receiving their second year of support through the Public Value Partnership program.

Arts in Education Roster: Memo

Coordinator O'Brian shared the process and recommendations of the Arts in Education Roster review panel. There were six artists recommended by the peer panel for the Arts in Education Roster.

Arts in Healthcare Directory: Memo

Coordinator O'Brian shared the recommendations of the Arts in Healthcare Roster review panel. Councilor Merrill asked if the Arts Council was surprised to only receive one application, and O'Brian stated that she would be working to increase the number of applicants, but also that there is a really specific skill set required to be juried on the roster. Ms. Brown shared her experiences as a Certified Music Practitioner and stated that it is still a relatively little-known field but that support from organizations has been strong.

VII. Committee Reports

Fundraising

Council Morgan shared that the Fundraising Committee needs to soon develop a plan for fundraising for the 2015 Governors Arts Awards, but that the committee wanted to wait until the new NHSCA director was in place, and after the November 2014 Gubernatorial election.

Recruitment Committee

Chairman Brooks stated that Angela Brown and William Stelling were nominated to the Council and that they were awaiting their confirmation. Councilor Darryl Furtkamp had submitted his resignation, and his position would need to be filled after the resignation was accepted by the Governor's office. Councilors Germain and Morgan's terms were ending, but both had agreed to commit to another term. Councilor Pierce would also be stepping down from his position and there was recognition for his important contributions to arts advocacy.

Citizens for the Arts

Chairman Brooks reported on the activities of Citizens for the Arts, a private advocacy group for the arts which has one Arts Councilor serve as a representative. The group spearheaded an Arts say Thank you Day at the State House. A cellist and flautist played for the legislature, a vocalist sang the national anthem, and thank you cards decorated by Middle School students were distributed to legislators. Council Merrill stated that the event was well received from the point of view of the legislators. Citizens also held a day-long retreat where all Department of Cultural Resources advocacy groups were invited attend a meeting to discuss collective impact. Each group will set up legislative advocacy priorities.

Citizens for the Arts will also be hosting house parties for both Republican and Democratic gubernatorial candidates. The first will be held at on September 3rd, and the second will be held once the Republican party has nominated a candidate. The goal was to show each candidate the large statewide support for the Arts.

Chairman Brooks recapped 50th anniversary goals of advocating for a state appropriation of 50 cents per capita.

Commissioner McLeod also thanked Councilor Williams for his efforts in bringing the Nashua based performance group, Positive Street Arts to perform for the Governor and Executive Council.

VIII. ADJOURN:

- **Motion to adjourn from the business meeting:** Councilor Sink
- **Second:** Councilor Duprey
- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None

Chairman Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:45am