

**New Hampshire State Council on the Arts**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – July 17, 2019**  
**Van McLeod Building Conference Room, 19 Pillsbury St. Concord, NH**

**Arts Councilors Present** - Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Vivian Beer, Angela Brown, Sara Germain, R.P. Hale, Mary McLaughlin, Elizabeth Morgan, Tim Sink, William Stelling, Catherine Sununu, Jason Tors\*, Peter Warburton, and Leah Woods (\* = via phone)

**Arts Councilors Absent** - José Lezcano and Sandhya Sridhar

**Staff Present** - Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) Commissioner Sarah Stewart; DNCR Arts Division: Ginnie Lupi, Director; Cassandra Mason, Chief Grants Officer (CGO); Julianne Gadoury, Arts Education Coordinator (AE); Kayla Schweitzer, Heritage and Traditional Arts Coordinator (HTA); and Lisa Burk-McCoy, Creative Communities & Arts in Health Coordinator (CC/AH)

**Staff Absent** - Emily Killinger, Visual Arts Associate (VAA)

**Motions (carried)**

- Accept minutes of May 6, 2019 Council meeting
- Approve Artist in Residence grant recommendations (\$17,800)
- Approve Youth Arts Project grant recommendations (\$48,094)
- Approve Arts in Health Project grant recommendations (\$49,066)
- Approve Artist Entrepreneurial grant recommendations (\$5,065)
- Approve Public Value Partnership grant recommendations (\$360,800)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks called the meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts to order at 9:30 a.m. on July 17, 2019.

**II. MINUTES**

Chair Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the May 6, 2019, meeting. Councilor R.P. Hale moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Bill Stelling. The minutes from May 6, 2019, were unanimously approved.

**III. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT & STATE BUDGET REPORT**

Commissioner Sarah Stewart explained that due to the Governor's veto of the legislatively-approved state budget, the state will be operating under a continuing resolution until at least September 30. She continues to be optimistic that increased funding for the Arts Division, which was approved by both houses, will be included in the final budget. Commissioner Stewart reported meeting with Trisha Soule, the new Executive Director of the NH Business Committee for the Arts, who pledged to urge her membership to write letters and/or op-eds about the importance of supporting the arts and how the arts impact the economy. Highlights of the Commissioner's other meetings include: visiting League of NH Craftsmen Executive Director, Miriam Carter; a team building fieldtrip with the Division of Historical Resources and their newly appointed director, Ben Wilson; and attending an archaeology dig at Enfield Shaker Village. She reminded the group about Smokey the Bear's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration on August 15 at Franconia Notch State Park.

**IV. GRANT APPROVALS** – CGO Mason reminded the Council to refer to all applications via their numbers, so as to not require going into nonpublic session.

**Artist in Residence (AIR) (\$17,800)**: The 5-member panel review took place July 8, 2019. Five applications were received, the panel ranked them and recommended approval of all applications for a total of \$17,800 in funding. Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the **Artist in Residence** recommendations. There was no discussion and the Council unanimously approved.

- **Moved:** Councilor Elizabeth Morgan
- **Second:** Councilor Peter Warburton
- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None

**Youth Arts Project (YAP) (\$48,094)**: The 5-member panel review took place July 8, 2019. Twelve applications were received, the panel ranked them and recommended approval all applications for a total of \$48,094 in funding. Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the **Youth Arts Project** recommendations. There was no discussion and the Council unanimously approved.

- **Moved:** Councilor Mary McLaughlin
- **Second:** Councilor Sara Germain
- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None

**Arts in Health (AIH) (\$49,066)**: The 3-member panel review took place July 2, 2019. Fourteen applications were received, the panel ranked them and recommended approval of thirteen applications for a total of \$49,066 in funding. It was noted that this year, this grant program was expanded to accommodate projects within correctional facilities. Angela Brown was the Councilor facilitator for this grant panel review. Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the **Arts in Health** recommendations. There was no discussion and the Council unanimously approved.

- **Moved:** Councilor R.P. Hale
- **Second:** Councilor Tim Sink
- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None
- **Abstentions:** Bill Stelling, Mary McLaughlin, and Elizabeth Morgan

**Artist Entrepreneurial (\$5,065)**: NHSCA staff served as panel review for this grant category. Eight applications were received, the panel ranked them and recommended approval of six applications for a total of \$5,065 in funding. It was noted that the guidelines will be adjusted for clarity. Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the **Artist Entrepreneurial** recommendations. There was no discussion and the Council unanimously approved.

- **Moved:** Councilor McLaughlin
- **Second:** Councilor Bill Stelling
- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None

**Public Value Partnerships (PVP) (\$360,800)**: The 7-member panel review took place July 17 and 18, 2019. Thirty applications were received, the panel ranked them and recommended approval of 28 applications for a total of \$360,800 in funding. Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the **Public Value Partnership** recommendations. There was no discussion and the Council unanimously approved.

- **Moved:** Councilor Tim Sink
- **Second:** Councilor Angela Brown

- **Nays:** None
- **Recusals:** None
- **Abstentions:** Bill Stelling and Elizabeth Morgan

**V. STAFF REPORTS** - *Reports from the four program coordinators were distributed to all present at the meeting.*

AE Julianne Gadoury began her report by handing out copies of the agency's newly created statement on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access (DEIA), which aligns the agency's strategic goals and work plan and meets the Governor's request for agencies to give this matter attention. As far as the staff knows NHSCA is the first state agency to release a statement on this subject. Julianne congratulated the two 2019/2020 NH Youth Poets Laureate: Rachel Sturges from ConVal High School in Peterborough, and Falon Smith from Littleton High School in Littleton. She noted that this year's selection committee also named Saranya Kolli of Exeter High School, and Jessica Bell as regional Youth Poet Ambassadors for Seacoast and Central regions, respectively. Julianne said that the K-12 Arts Education Standards are being re-written and that on August 20 the writing groups will present their proposed plan to the Commissioner of Education, which will kick off the public feedback phase of the process. Julianne has been planning and coordinating the Arts Leadership Connector (scheduled for August 8), and the Arts Education Partnership Conference (scheduled for November 14 - 15). These events will share the theme of Culturally Responsive Leadership, Equity, and Race. Julianne will lead an Arts Education Roster interview panel on August 22 (for 5 applicants), and Poetry Out Loud 2019/2020 season is ramping up.

HTA Kayla Schweitzer began her report by passing out copies of the 2019 Traditional Dance Brochure and encouraged Councilors to attend a dance near them. She continues her work to archive and create a database for NHSCA's large library of Traditional Arts interviews. Kayla recently met with and interviewed two master/apprenticeship teams: R.P. Hale and Sarah May Schultz, working with letterpress printing; and Marina Forbes and Fran DeMers, working on Russian Icon painting. Soon she will interview the blacksmithing team of Kevin Moreau and Thomas Boucher. Last Friday was the deadline for the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grant program which received seven applications, and the Arts Conservation (Mooseplate) grants received a record eleven applications this year. Kayla noted that with it being fair and festival season she will be out and about attending as many as she can in order to identify cultural groups for future outreach.

CC/AH Lisa Burk-McCoy mentioned the extension of the General Project grants for Community Engagement deadline to July 26. She then offered to send emails to Councilors who have not yet signed up for the NH Creative Communities Network, via their listserv and Facebook page. She is currently working on the NH Makerspace Network's participation in the upcoming Radically Rural conference, which will take place in September. The NH Creative Communities Network received 44 responses to its survey, which will be utilized in its revitalization/visioning process. Lisa reports being in the beginning stages of a cultural plan repository and should be releasing an RFP shortly for this "lightly curated" collection of cultural plans. Lisa was invited to join the Data Subcommittee of the Lebanon Arts & Culture Commission. Finally, she reported her acceptance into the New England Region of the National Arts Strategies' Creative Communities Fellows program. Her project will focus on Creative Corridors, identifying and developing 3 - 4 regional arts corridors corresponding to NH's transportation network for regional cooperation, economic/community development and tourism marketing.

CGO Cassandra Mason began her report by thanking Councilors and staff for their hard work throughout the year, noting that this time of year is very busy, with the state budget, grant application reviews, assembling and conducting grant panels, final reporting of FY19 projects and much more. She encouraged Councilors to get out and meet grantees in their home regions and to utilize the lists provided to them today from those awarded grant

categories. Cassie is involved in a large number of Percent for Art projects. She passed around an image of artist Theresa Taylor installing her mural at the NH Women’s Correctional Facility, which marks the final install at this facility. They will now move on to an artist in residence project. Cassie noted that she was able to attend New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA)’s Creative Communities Exchange alongside colleagues, Julianne, Kayla and Lisa. This was an extremely valuable experience for all of them primarily for the ability to have unstructured time with NH and regional colleagues. Cassie made note of NH Charitable Foundation’s inclusion in their annual report of NH Theatre Project’s *Elephant-In-The-Room* series which NHSCA supported with a special grant.

Director Ginnie Lupi reported that she has been diligently working on the upcoming Governor’s Arts Awards. Beyond that, she was honored to visit with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA’s) Chairwoman, Mary Anne Carter, in Portsmouth during her recent trip to the New England area. Their visit included stops at Pontine Theatre and Seacoast Rep, both of which received direct NEA funding. Commissioner Sarah Stewart and Chairman Dr. Roger Brooks joined the visit to Pontine Theatre.

#### **VI. GOVERNOR’S ARTS AWARDS (GAA) COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Councilor Bill Stelling reported the event will be held Monday, October 21, at the Bank of NH Stage in Concord. The arts education category has received the largest number of nominations, and the deadline for nominations is at the end of the month. Tickets for the event are on sale through the Capitol Center for the Arts and all Councilors are encouraged to share this ticketing information with their contacts. A list of GAA volunteer needs will be generated and soon circulated by Director Lupi. The committee has so far raised \$15,000 of their \$19,000 fundraising goal. Chair Brooks was proud to note that they have received 100% Councilor participation in the fundraising efforts this year.

#### **VII. COUNCILOR ROUND ROBIN**

Councilors reported on a wide variety of recent and upcoming arts activities. Recognition and an honorary certificate were awarded to Elizabeth Morgan for her fifteen years of service to the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts.

#### **VIII. ADJOURN**

- Motion to adjourn from the business meeting: Councilor Liz Morgan
- Second: Councilor R.P. Hale
- Nays: None
- Recusals: None

Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.