

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – September 11, 2023
DNCR HQ, Concord and via Zoom

Arts Councilors Present

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, William Stelling, Jason Tors, Angela Brown (*zoom*), Juliana Bergeron (*zoom*), Catherine Sununu (*zoom*), and Tim Sink (*zoom*)

Arts Councilors Absent

Vivian Beer, R.P. Hale, José Lezcano, Cecilia Ulibarri, Mary McLaughlin, and Amanda Whitworth

Staff Present

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR): Sarah Stewart, Commissioner; Arts Division: Adele Bauman, 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)

Guest

Theo Martey, NH Artist Laureate

Motions (carried)

- Accept the minutes of July 10, 2023 Council meeting
- Approve Artist Entrepreneurial Grants (\$1,798)
- Approve Arts for Community Engagement Project Grants (\$109,000)
- Approve Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Grants (\$35,521)
- Approve Traditional Arts Project Grants (\$21,755)
- Approve Poetry Out Loud Partnership Grant, FY24 (\$20,000)
- Approve Strategic Plan

I. PRESENTATION & PERFORMANCE BY NH ARTIST LAUREATE, THEO MARTEY

II. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks called the meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts to order at 10:24AM.

III. 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.

IV. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Stewart updated the Council regarding the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' recent events and happenings, including the success of a staff BBQ on September 8th.

The Commissioner noted that this past summer has seen record-breaking weekends for the NH State Parks division, with 81 lifeguards performing approximately 500 rescues at state beaches—warranting a proclamation from the Governor at Hampton Beach last week.

Commissioner Stewart also gave the following updates:

JD moved to Wyoming, so the position of Cannon Mountain manager is open, with thirteen applications received. Interviews are expected to begin soon.

The Division of Historical Resources is working on their online accessibility and resources.

The State Library has received bipartisan support for an LSR (service request) to allocate state funds to continue public-facing projects. This includes an effort to move valuable items from the State Library into a climate-controlled space. The budget for a curator position has also been approved.

V. MINUTES

Chair Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the July 10, 2023 meeting. Councilor Bill Stelling moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Jason Tors. The minutes from July 10, 2023 were unanimously approved.

VI. GRANT APPROVALS

- Artist Entrepreneurial Grants- Round Two (\$1,798): (CGO) Cassie Mason reported that two applications were received, and both were recommended for funding. Councilor Angela Brown moved to approve the grants, while Councilor Tim Sink seconded. Chair Brooks asked if the grant dollar amount would be increased in the future. Cassie said hopefully in FY25, since there is money available in the budget.
- Arts for Community Engagement Project Grants (\$109,000): (CC/AH) Lisa Burk-McCoy first presented Councilors with a handout from the New Hampshire Creative Communities Network titled, “Round the Table” (accessible online at nhcreativecommunities.com). Including artwork by Marek Bennett, the booklet is intended to serve as a creative placemaking companion and all were encouraged to color the pages themselves. Lisa then discussed the ACE grant applications, reporting that a five-member panel met on August 30th and recommended 21 applications for funding of 23 received. Two applications were not recommended for funding due to being incomplete. Councilor Angela Brown observed that there were no applications from Coos County. Councilor Juliana Bergeron moved to approve the grants, while Councilor Bill Stelling seconded. The grants were unanimously approved.
- Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Grants (\$35,521): (HTA) Kayla Schweitzer reported that ten applications were received for 20 artists, as each application includes two applicants: a master and an apprentice. Nine of these were recommended for funding by a four-member panel, with one application being incomplete. The incomplete applicants were encouraged to revise their application and reapply for a future grant cycle. Chair Brooks asked how people apply and how the grant is broken down. Kayla answered that the pair apply together on one application, which includes a project plan and budget. The master artist can request up to \$3,000 (including payment for their time), while the apprentice can only request up to \$1,000 (payment for their time does not apply). Councilor Jason Tors moved to approve the grants, while Councilor Bill Stelling seconded. The grants were unanimously approved.
- Traditional Arts Project Grants: (HTA) Kayla Schweitzer reported that five applications were received, with a request total of \$29,825. A three-member panel recommended four applications for funding, for a total of \$21,755. The application that was not recommended was determined by the panel to be internal-facing and not obviously open to the public. The applicant was encouraged to clarify, revise and reapply. Councilor Bill Stelling moved to approve the grant, while Councilor Jason Tors seconded. The grant was unanimously approved.

- Poetry Out Loud Partnership Grant, FY24 (\$20,000): (AE) Allison Hawkins noted that North Country Educational Services (NCES) will serve as fiscal agent this year. There are already over 20 registrants, with in-person semi-finals in early 2024 and the final in March 2024. Last year was the first year working with NCES, and this is a proposal to renew for this year. Chair Brooks asked if New Hampshire offers coaching after the state final, before the national competition. Allison answered that yes, we did last year for Ella Weinmann. Councilor Bill Stelling moved to approve, while Councilor Angela Brown seconded. The grant was unanimously approved.

VII. STAFF REPORT and STRATEGIC PLAN APPROVAL

Director Bauman reported that she and (CGO) Cassie Mason recently attended a Big Read event for the book, *The Bear*, in Manchester. She also toured the Andres Institute of Art the previous week, and reminded the Council that Saturday (9/16) is the beginning of the Sculpture Symposium. Director Bauman also reminded the Council that this year's Arts Partnership Conference will be taking place at Sanborn Mills Farm on 10/27-10/28. NHSCA staff hopes there will be approximately 60 attendees each day.

Lastly, the Arts in Health position has recently been posted externally.

(CGO) Cassie Mason gave an update on the Strategic Plan process, which has mostly concluded.

Currently, the core plan is posted on the website for public comment, which closes on Friday September 15th. Thus far one public comment has been received. The next step is for Councilors to vote on the core pieces of the Strategic Plan, which Cassie noted is a values-based plan.

Councilor Angela Brown moved to approve the Strategic Plan, while Councilor Bill Stelling seconded. The Strategic Plan was unanimously approved.

VIII. 2023 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS UPDATE

Councilor Catherine Sununu reported that sponsorships are being finalized, videos have been completed and work on the social media campaign is underway. She also informed the Council that a handful of watch parties have been planned. Chair Brooks added that Councilor Juliana Bergeron has been leading bi-weekly meetings, joined by himself and Councilors Cathy Sununu and Mary McLaughlin, with plans that this year's Governor's Arts Awards will be very similar to the last. He also reminded the Council that the awards are scheduled to take place the evening of October 23rd, 2023.

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 arts activities.

X. ADJOURN

Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:23 AM. Councilor Bill Stelling moved to approve, while Councilor Jason Tors seconded.

Next Council Meeting:

November 13, 2023