

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – September 15, 2021
Zoom

Arts Councilors Present

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Vivian Beer, Angela Brown, Sara Germain, R.P. Hale, José Lezcano, Mary McLaughlin, Tim Sink, William Stelling, Catherine Sununu, Jason Tors, Cecilia Ulibarri, and Peter Warburton

Arts Councilors Absent

Leah Woods

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)

Staff Absent

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) Commissioner Sarah Stewart

Motions (carried)

- Accept the minutes of July 21, 2021 Council meeting
- Approve FY22 Arts for Community Engagement (ACE) grant recommendations (\$98,125)
- Approve FY22 Folklife and Traditional Arts Project grant recommendations (\$37,218)
- Approve FY22 Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grant recommendations (\$30,960)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks called the meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts to order at 9:34 AM on September 15, 2021.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Newest staff member, Allison Hawkins, Arts Education Grant Coordinator, was introduced to the group. She relayed information about her background, gave updates on POL and the Arts Education Conference and thanked staff for their support. Councilors each gave a brief introduction.

III. MINUTES

Chair Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the July 21, 2021 meeting. Councilor Tim Sink moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Mary McLaughlin. The minutes from July 21, 2021 were unanimously approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF FY22 ARTS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (ACE) GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS (\$98,125)

A five-member panel met on September 9, 2021 to review the 23 applications received in this category, one of which was withdrawn due to the applicant being awarded a PVP grant. The panel evaluated applications on the quality of arts programming, public benefit and community engagement, administrative capacity, and project measurements/outcomes. The panel recommended 21 applications for funding.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the ACE Grant recommendations. Motion made by Councilor Sara Germain and seconded by Councilor Mary McLaughlin. The Council unanimously approved. (2 Recusals: Councilors Jason Tors & Cecilia Ulibarri)

V. APPROVAL OF FY22 FOLKLIFE AND TRADITIONAL ARTS PROJECT GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS (\$37,218)

A three-member panel met on September 1, 2021 to review the seven applications received in this category. The panel evaluated applications on the quality of arts programming, community support and benefit, administrative capacity, and project measurements/outcomes. The panel recommended all seven applications for funding.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the Folklife and Traditional Arts Project Grant recommendations. Motion made by Councilor Tim Sink and seconded by Councilor José Lezcano. The Council unanimously approved.

VI. APPROVAL OF FY22 TRADITIONAL ARTS APPRENTICESHIP GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS (\$30,960)

A three-member panel met on August 26, 2021 to review the eight applications received in this category. The panel, comprised of members of the public, evaluated applications on how well they met the published criteria and the level of commitment from both the master and apprentice toward the perpetuation of the traditional art form. The panel recommended all eight applications for funding.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Grant recommendations. Motion made by Councilor Mary McLaughlin and seconded by Councilor José Lezcano. The Council unanimously approved.

VII. INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

(HTA) Kayla Schweitzer led the Council in a Land Acknowledgement. All were 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.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

The staff report began with a video presentation on the Arts in Health NH Veterans Home project. The Fraglet artworks created by the residents at the NH Veterans Home, with the help of artist Kathy Parsonnet, were intended to help their collective healing process. Everything created was dedicated in memory of the residents lost during the pandemic, while celebrating the enduring community of the Veterans Home. The video highlighted the creations of each ward.

Director Lupi also reported the following:

Traditional Arts:

- Partnered with the League of NH Craftsmen to support Garry Kalajian’s blacksmithing demonstration at the League Fair (August 7-15)
- Multicultural Festival Pilot – We provided partnership support for the Nashua Welcoming Week Celebrations (September 12) and the Concord Multicultural Festival (September 19)

Creative Communities:

- The NH Arts Commission Peer Exchange met September 14 to learn about AFTA’s Arts & Economic Prosperity survey. Councilor Tim Sink (Concord), Robin Albert (Portsmouth) and Eric Weisenberger (Monadnock Region) attended as guest speakers to share their experience managing past surveys and discuss various ways they’ve leveraged the data over time. The event was intended to inform and encourage Arts Commissions to consider participating – either in the upcoming survey in 2022, or to begin building support to undertake the next survey.
- The NH Makerspace Network was on hiatus this summer and will reconvene September 21.

Percent for Art:

- National Guard Readiness Center, Pembroke – Proposal deadline was August 20. We received 17 proposals from 11 artists, four are from NH. Proposals are being reviewed by the Selection Committee and there will be a meeting in October to discuss.
- Merrimack County Superior Court, Concord – scheduling two installations in October.
- State Archives, Concord – Committee has selected artworks and we are in conversations with the artist.
- Hampton Courthouse – work is underway on the large installation.
- Turnpike Building, Hooksett – the contract is going to G+C after being put on hold during the last fiscal year. This is not an official Percent for Art project, Turnpikes opted to use their own building funds for artwork.

New England Foundation for the Arts is hosting its first virtual IDEA Swap in November and they are limiting registration to 150. The Idea Swap convenes New England-based presenters, artists, and performing arts practitioners around the shared goal of programming live performances within our region.

Administration:

- We are continuing to work to support grantees who still have projects in progress funded by FY20 and FY21 grants and are seeing an increase in FY21 projects requesting pandemic-related accommodations for this fall. All projects are on track to submit final reports by November 30, 2021 (FY20) and January 31, 2022 (FY21).
- Our NEA third-year application is due September 30.
- Our ARPA funding from the NEA – \$758,900 – is on the September 15 G+C agenda and September 17 Joint Fiscal Committee agenda. As previously discussed, we decided to make flat \$8,000 grants to our 44 operating support grantees (\$352,000); we will start the payment process immediately after approval of the funds. We are working on a competitive grant program with most of the rest of the funds and will also hire a temporary part time grants clerk to assist with administration of the grant.
- We will be submitting a request to the GOFERR for \$1 million in ARPA funds to support the Save Our Granite Stages Fund, which was created in our budget as part of the FY22-23 state budget. We are also working on language for a bill which would extend the Fund’s sunset to the end of FY23 (it’s currently the end of FY22) and broaden grant eligibility in that FY.
- An RPF has been issued for proposals for our next strategic planning process. A new five-year plan will be required with our next on-year NEA application in 2023.
- The Philip Guston and Musa McKim WPA murals have been installed at the Currier Museum. A special opening event with Senator Hassan will be held on October 8.

IX. GOVERNOR’S ARTS AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilors Mary McLaughlin and Cathy Sununu are committee members, in addition to Chair Brooks. Councilor Mary McLaughlin reported that the committee has been working with Trigger(House for content support, and Director Ginnie Lupi shared the first promotional video, referred to as a “sizzle”. The sizzles will be used on social media to promote the event, along with WMUR, which will be promoting the event and featuring the Silver Lining Resilience Awards in a NH Chronicle story. It was noted that fundraising still needs more of a push. The committee will have a walk-through of the venue, Studio Lab, in the coming weeks. Most of the event will be remote with a very small in-person invite list, on Tuesday, October 26, with a livestream from 5-6 PM.

X. COUNCILOR ROUND ROBIN

Chair Brooks asked each Councilor to tell the Council how they’ve been faring and to provide updates on what they have been doing. Councilors reported on a wide range of in-person and virtual arts activities.

XI. ADJOURN

Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11 AM. Councilor Tim Sink moved to approve and Councilor Mary McLaughlin seconded.

Remaining 2021 Council Meeting Date (start time will be 9:30 AM, unless otherwise indicated): Wednesday, November 17.