

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF THE ARTS**

**Connecticut Arts Council Meeting**

**July 20, 2021**

**1:00 pm**

**Via Team Video Conference Call**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Min Jung Kim, Chair; Jack Rosenberg, Adriane Jefferson, Ted Yudain,  
Fritz Jellinghaus (chair emeritus)

**Absent:** Jan Dilenschneider, Mary Ellen Eckels

**Staff:** Elizabeth Shapiro, Tamara Dimitri, Kolton Harris, Jane Schneider, Bonnie Koba, Rhonda  
Olisky

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm.

Ms. Min Jung Kim, presented the letter of resignation of arts council member, Pedro Bermudez,

**II. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes of special meeting of April 26, 2021.

Motion: Ted Yudain

Second: Jack Rosenberg

(Y-4; N-0)

**III. Chairman's Report**

Ms. Kim welcomed Fritz Jellinghaus to the arts council, as chairman emeritus. Mr. Jellinghaus expressed his gratitude to Ms. Kim and the council to continue to be part of the council in this capacity.

Ms. Kim announced that she has accepted the position as the Barbara B. Taylor Director at the Saint

Louis Museum in Missouri. She shared her deep honor in having been appointed as Chair of the Connecticut Arts Council and thanked the arts council members and staff. Ms. Kim will submit her letter of resignation to the Governor effective for the end of the month. Ms. Kim accepted the many well wishes shared by her colleagues.

#### **IV. Director's Report**

On behalf of the Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA), Ms. Elizabeth Shapiro wished Ms. Kim all the best on her new role. Ms. Shapiro encouraged Ms. Kim to tell her new colleagues how innovative we are in Connecticut in how we approach the arts; and we will tell Missouri that Ms. Kim is a force to be reckon with.

Ms. Shapiro reported that the Legislative Session began on January 6<sup>th</sup> and ended on June 9<sup>th</sup> 2021. The session was completely virtual via Zoom. This gave the public an opportunity to participate. Legislators completed their work, and the budget was set before June 9, 2021. The Legislature went into special session to complete the budget implementer bill and the legalization of cannabis. The responsibility of the new cannabis laws rests at the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). The agency is very busy with its usual business, ARPA projects and the new use of adult cannabis legislation. DECD has had several senior staff and others retire during COVID; the agency is at its lowest contingency it's had in a number of years; therefore, the workload is quite challenging.

Ms. Shapiro announced that bill SB 936 passed, was acted upon and voted into statute. SB936 is defined as *an act concerning revisions to certain Economic and Community Development statutes*, within that is Section 18 which pertains to the Connecticut Arts Council Foundation. It reconstitutes the foundation's Board of Directors by 1) eliminating the requirement that the council's board of directors serve as the foundation's board of directors and 2) establishing a 16-member board of directors of the foundation.

Ms. Shapiro stated that as first steps what has been requested through COA, is a preliminary list of suggestions for the 16 positions on the board. Ms. Shapiro requested that arts council members send names of potential board members and be prepared to discuss at the September Arts Council Foundation meeting. These potential candidates should be people who have knowledge of the arts; representatives of creative industries, large nonprofit organizations, municipalities, funders, or people who work with funders.

Ms. Shapiro reported on the FY22 State Budget as how it pertains to COA. The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has awarded COA \$846,000. The state's responsibility is to match NEA's allocation, and for FY22 the state has allocated \$1,497,298 to COA, which is the same amount as last year.

In addition, through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA); the NEA has designated to COA \$792,900. These funds must be kept separately from COA's other spending, and it can only be spent on specific

expenditures ie, salaries, overhead, COVID related needs, and marketing. All funding coming from NEA is targeted for nonprofit organizations or for artists as long as it's for arts projects.

In addition to the regular arts line items that pass through our office, approximately \$5.3m, in this year's state budget there's an additional \$7.65m of designated funds mostly for theaters, bringing our line item totals to almost \$13m for FY22.

The Office of the Arts did not get any additional funding through the state's ARPA funds allocation in this year's biennium budget.

The Connecticut Humanities Council was allocated \$20m for FY22; and \$10.7m for FY23. These funds are designed to be used for both arts and humanities and will be used for operating support grants.

Currently, \$15m in state funds is being administered through DECD/COA for museums. The program is going well; museums are overwhelmed with visitors.

Ms. Shapiro informed that all state contracts are currently under review by the Attorney General's office; and until contracts are approved, we are unable to move funding.

Ms. Shapiro also informed that COA is delving into the AEP6 Study - *Arts & Economic Prosperity* is AFTA's sixth study of the nonprofit arts and culture industry's impact on the economy. COA has hired an intern from UCONN's Master of Public Policy program, and that person will be starting in August through May. COA will pay each of our Designated Regional Service Organization (DRSOs) to participate in the study and they have all confirmed participation.

Ms. Shapiro reported that COA continues to work with Fox 61 on the Creatives Futures Campaign. Fox 61 will promote our Art Heroes Awards and will work with COA for next school year on the Poetry Out Loud Program.

Ms. Shapiro also reported that COA's partnership with the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (VLA) is moving forward. Phase 1 is expected to be completed in the next few months. Phase 2 will start a series of webinar on legal issues in CT for artists; and one on one with CT artists and CT arts organizations that need free or reduce cost legal counsel.

Ms. Shapiro informed that COA is partnering with the AIR Institute to become an affiliate organization. This opportunity was brought to us by the Tremaine Foundation. We will be training 12 facilitators in the state of CT and at least six of them will be artists. They will be trained on facilitation methods that are basically designed to go into municipalities to build and grow an entrepreneurial ecosystem in CT that is going to support CT artists and creative businesses.

Ms. Shapiro also informed that COA is working on a Creative Aging Project in cooperation with the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) and funding of \$23,000. **V. Action Items**

No action items submitted for approval.

## **VII. Other Business**

### **Connecticut Arts Council – Elizabeth Shapiro**

There are currently two vacancies to be appointed by Speaker of the House of Representatives Matt Ritter and President Pro Tempore of the Senate Martin Looney. We also need to refill three gubernatorial appointments: Chris Bruhl, Min Jung Kim and Helen During. In addition, the vacancy of Pedro Bermudez needs to be filled, which is appointed by House Majority Leader, Jason Rojas. Currently, there are a total of six vacancies to be filled. Ms. Shapiro asked that arts council members submit suggestions of candidates that can fill these vacancies.

### **Artist Respond Grants – Tamara Dimitri**

This year COA will not offer the Artist Fellowship Program to put more focus on project-based grants for artists – Artists Respond Program. The idea is to alternate programs year to year unless additional staff and resources become available to run both programs. Artists Respond Grants will be reviewed in August.

COA will use NEA ARPA funds to fund this program and therefore artistic excellence needs to be included in the review criteria although focus will be put in the artistic merit of the project.

The artist can select to apply for a \$1,000, \$2,000 or \$5,000 grant. The grant is truly for artistic compensation for their work and carrying out the project.

COA will run two rounds of funding. The first deadline is July 28<sup>th</sup>, and the second deadline is December 1<sup>st</sup>. Each round has six months of funding period duration.

All the information is provided in our website and applicants will have an opportunity to give feedback of the application process.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Ted Yudain, second by Jack Rosenberg, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lu Rivera  
Administrative Assistant