

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

Connecticut Arts Council Meeting

January 10, 2022

1:00 pm

Via Team Video Conference Call

MINUTES

Present: Jack Rosenberg, Mary Ellen Eckels, Adriane Jefferson, Ted Yudain, Sofia Lewitt, Judith McElhone, Calida Jones, Fritz Jellinghaus, *emeritus*

Absent: None

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

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes of December 10, 2021.

Motion: Calida Jones

Second: Adriane Jefferson

(Y-7; N-0)

III. Chairman's Report

Mr. Jack Rosenberg reported on the Governor's Arts Awards and Patron of the Arts as one of Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) tasks that is ongoing. This program was scheduled to be presented in 2020 and at that time we had a few people who were approved and accepted the award.

Mr. Rosenberg recommended that we pick up from where we left off and make the presentation of these awards.

Mr. Rosenberg shared that Ms. Judith McElhone has graciously offered the auditorium at the Five Points Center for Visual Arts to hold the event there. The target date to hold this event is June 2022. Arts Council members: Sophia Lewitt, Fritz Jellighaus and Calida Jones have volunteered to be part of a task committee to move forward this event.

The committee will also discuss commissioning an artist to design an award for future recipients. Planning materials and a budget from 2020 plans, will be sent to the task committee to use as a reference for the June 2022 event.

The recipients of the Governor's Arts Awards are: Titus Kaphar and Tarell McCraney; for the Patrons of the Arts: Carol Lewitt; The Bank of America Charitable Foundation; and The Brant Foundation.

Ms. Elizabeth Shapiro recommends that a written policy/procedure be developed and followed to decide on future recipients of the Governor's Arts Awards and Patron of the Arts Award.

A motion was made to *adopt Mission & Functions of the Arts Council (Appendix A)*

Appendix A.

Mission & Functions of the CT Arts Council:

Statutory Language of the CT Arts Council:

Sec. 244. (a) There is established a Connecticut Arts Council within the Department of Economic and Community Development to foster and support the arts.

To advise or supervise the Office of the Arts (NEA).

Purposes of the CT Arts Council:

Increase visibility of the Arts & Arts Organizations

Review Policy, operational and program guidelines for Council

Interpret Statutes applicable to Council

Financial Oversight (NEA)

Approve Council program structures & delegate authority

Advocacy & Education about the Council and Office of the Arts

To Create the Governor's Arts & Arts Patrons Awards annual events

To be flexible and nimble as to the needs and requirements of the Council and participating organizations.

Advocacy:

- To Advocate on behalf of Arts in CT.
- To Advocate on behalf of the Office of the Arts
- To Advocate alongside CAA in alignment with State-wide goals.
- To Advocate for Increased funding and visibility for Office of the Arts

Support and Adjunctive Activities:

- To ensure all elements of the CT Arts ecosystem are in alignment and pro-actively integrating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in all structures & activities.
- To Support and interact with the Office of the Arts and participate in Strategic Planning
- To Support and interact with the Designated Regional Service Organizations (DRSOs)
- To Support and interact with local, regional, and statewide Arts Organizations
- To Support, Advocate for, and interact with Artists state-wide
- To Support, Advocate for and participate in Arts Education

Motion: Ted Yudain
Second: Adriane Jefferson
(Y-7; N-0)

A motion was made to *adopt Roles & Responsibilities of Arts Council Members* (Appendix B)

Appendix B

Roles & Responsibilities of Arts Council Members

Thirteen (13) Members with the shared purpose to foster and support the arts, and to serve as an advisory or policy-making council to the Office of the Arts

Council Members are selected based on the following criteria: their leadership abilities; experience in management, the arts, business, government, non-profit organizations; and/or civic involvement in the community.

Creating a balanced Council with regard to gender identity, race, sexual orientation, geographic residence and profession is also taken into consideration when nominating Members.

[Appendix C]

Pro-actively integrate Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in all structures & activities

Members are expected to become well versed in the Councils' mission, goals, policies, programs and history. Members are expected to attend all Council meetings, including regularly scheduled quarterly meetings and any additional meetings the Council deems necessary. Members are expected to attend these meetings well prepared and informed about the issues on the agenda. Members are also expected to serve on at least one Council Committee and attend meetings of that Committee(s) as well. Additionally, Members are expected to bring new opportunities and insights for Council consideration. Service on the Council is without remuneration to Members.

Advocacy:

Interacting with the Office of the Arts in support of its mission and purpose.

Participation/Observation of Review Panels

Partner with each of the staff of the Office of the Arts, in rotation.

Networking and establishing a relationship with the Designated Regional Service Organization of the Members' region.

Acting as Ambassador of Artists and Arts Organizations throughout the State.

Meeting regularly with the Members' State & Federal Legislators, as well as relevant Committee Chairs & Caucuses, for the purpose of education, advocacy, and funding in alignment with the goals of the Office of the Arts

Coordinating Lobbying Activities with the Connecticut Arts Alliance as informed by the Office of the Arts

Advocating for increased funding & visibility for the Office of the Arts

Reviewing arts and demographic data provided by the NEFA, NASAA, the NEA and others to inform advocacy strategy and to support the arts ecosystem in the state.

Visibility:

Marketing and publicity of the Arts Council and its activities. Attendance at Events and Meetings.

Coordination & Cooperation with other State Agencies, Boards & Councils in further support of the arts.

Motion: Mary Ellen Eckels

Second: Ted Yudain

(Y-7; N-0)

A motion to *adopt new entity: Friends of the Arts Council (Appendix C)* was tabled for the next Arts Council meeting.

Appendix C

Friends of the Arts Council

(A New Advisory Group)

Purpose:

To provide an official relationship between the Council and individuals who are supportive of the Council and its activities. Primarily for adjunctive support and connections to the community of Arts and Arts organizations.

Requirements of Membership

Support of the Arts in CT, Support of the Council Activities and Priorities

Participation in a local or state-wide Arts Organization, or

Artistic participation in one of the supported Arts

Attend at least 2 Council Meetings, plus attend required number of Friends of the Arts Council Independent meetings.

Nomination to Friends Council

Nominations by Council Members, Governor, Legislators or COA Staff

Election to Friends Council

Majority of quorum at Council Meeting

Length of Term: 4 years, with one renewal.

Removal from Council

Majority of quorum at Council Meeting.

IV. Director's Report

Ms. Elizabeth Shapiro that despite the high volume of grants awarded this fiscal year, the Connecticut Office of the Arts' (COA) is in really good shape in regard to processing grant payments.

Ms. Shapiro also reported that she along with staff member Rhonda Olisky, have been working with the state auditor's office to review the COVID RELIEF arts grants, which were awarded in November 2020, a pool of \$9m.

Ms. Shapiro informed that the small theaters grant awardees have been reviewed and the spreadsheet of awardees will be sent to DECD colleagues for their help in allocated the \$3 M

pool. This year the allocation will be based on revenue and expenses pre-COVID and during COVID. That announcement will be made by Friday of this week.

Ms. Shapiro also informed that COA be reviewing DRSO applications tomorrow, January 11th.

Ms. Shapiro reported that grant reviewers are currently reviewing Round 2 of the Artists respond grants.

Ms. Shapiro also reported that DECD/COA continue to receive ARPA applications, although we've passed the 50% awarded mark. We hope that next year's application round will run more efficiently since we have the procedures in place.

Ms. Shapiro informed that the panel review for the Connecticut State Troubadour has been completed and a candidate has been chosen; the announcement has not yet been made but the position will start on July 1, 2022; the program will now be back in alignment with the Poet Laureate.

The call for the new Connecticut State Poet Laureate will be coming out in February, with a review expected in May. The announcement will be made in June and the position will also begin on July 1, 2022.

Ms. Shapiro shared that the CT State Employee's union contract has approved up to five days/week of full telework for employees in all the bargaining units that COA staff fall into. Telework requests have been approved now through June 30. All COA staff will remain on full telework, but we will be going into the building as needed. We hope that by March we'll be able to be in the office once/week for staff meetings in person.

Ms. Shapiro informed that staff has begun meeting for strategic planning to review and access our READI framework. In February, COA will work with our DRSOs to schedule virtual feedback sessions that will be opened to constituents who want to give input into the plan. COA will meet with DRSO heads, virtual meetings with constituents from the DRSO regions, Arts Council, Tourism division, DECD colleagues and educators. COA is considering including a short survey to collect feedback as well.

V. Action Items

No action items for approval.

VI. Other Business

No other business.

VII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ted Yudain, seconded by Mary Ellen Eckels, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lu Rivera
Grants Administrator