



CT Arts Council

Connecticut Arts Council Meeting

Monday, April 3, 2023

1:00 pm

Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Jacqui Hubbard, Calida Jones, Judy McElhone, and Jack Rosenberg,

Absent: Floyd Green, Adriane Jefferson, Mary Ellen Kingsland-Eckels, Sofia Lewitt and, Fritz Jellinghaus, emeritus

Staff: Mel Díaz, Tamara Dimitri, Kolton Harris, Rhonda Olisky, Tekowa Omara-Otunnu, and Elizabeth Shapiro

Staff Absent: Alexandra Daum

Guest: Ted Yudain

Call to Order

Chairman Jack Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm. Since there was no quorum, Chairman Rosenberg delayed approving the previous meeting minutes. He invited Brett Thompson, Director of Connecticut Arts Alliance, to provide the Council with an update on the Arts, Culture, and Tourism (ACT) Funding Roadmap.

ACT Funding Roadmap Update

Director Thompson presented *Advocating for the Arts*, explaining how funding for the arts works in CT, pre-pandemic funding levels, and what the Funding Roadmap proposed. Thompson gave an overview of the legislative session process and timeline during the PowerPoint presentation, with examples of how people can get. He urged the Council to sign up for email updates and connect with legislatures. He was asked to provide a template for Council members to contact their legislators.

Governor's Arts Awards

Chairman Rosenberg thanked this year's committee for their work in selecting awardees for missed years and acknowledging all awardees that could not be recognized because of the pandemic. Rosenberg asked the Council to discuss the future Governor's Arts Awards.

Council members provided their options. Several questioned the purpose behind the awards and requested that the Governor's Office be involved in them if they would continue being the "Governor's Arts Awards." Combining the Governor's Arts Awards with the Art Hero Awards was suggested to reduce redundancy and additional work. Most Council members agreed there is more value in supporting the

day-to-day workers in the local arts. Staff also stated that getting the Governor's Office to help or attend the Governor's Arts Awards has been challenging.

Chairman Rosenberg stated he would contact the Governor's office for their feedback on the awards.

Office of the Arts Action Item

There were no action items to discuss.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Rosenberg stated he had no report.

Director's Report

Program Specialist Tamara Dimitri gave updates on a couple of programs on behalf of Director Elizabeth Shapiro.

ARTS & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY 6 (AEP6)

AEP6 Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 is the sixth economic impact study of the US nonprofit arts and culture industry. COA has been coordinating with local partners to get as many art and cultural organizations to complete the surveys, including tapping into 700+ that received grants from the Cultural Fund. Two hundred fifty-one surveys have been completed; others have started but still need to be finished. Once the surveys are collected, Americans for the Arts will analyze the numbers and create a report later in the year or early next year.

AIR PROGRAM

In collaboration with Air Collaborative, an Engage workshop took place in Bridgeport. They engage in community conversations where an outside facilitator facilitates the discussion with arts and non-arts people. Engage is step one of a two-step process; the second step is the Shift process. The Shift workshop is a three-day workshop where participants develop project concepts together. In the end, the group will implement the group-developed project. It is a community-building process to discuss needs and then implement them. In CT, West Haven has participated, Bridgeport is currently in the process, and others are interested in the program.

Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

Adjournment

Chairman Rosenberg adjourned the meeting at 2:14 pm.