



**Connecticut Arts Council Meeting**

**Monday, January 8, 2024**

**1:00 pm**

**Via Zoom**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87220675925>**

**Meeting ID: 872 2067 5925, Passcode: EGV4du**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes from the September 11<sup>th</sup> and November 6<sup>th</sup> meetings
3. Director's Report – Liz Shapiro
4. Chairman's Report – Jack Rosenberg
5. Committee for the Governor's Arts Awards
6. Other Business
7. Adjournment



**Connecticut Arts Council Meeting**

**Monday, September 11, 2023**

**1:00 pm**

**Zoom**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Present: Floyd Green, Jacqui Hubbard, Mary Ellen Kingsland-Eckels, Andrew Linde, Judy McElhone, and Jack Rosenberg

Absent: Alexandra Daum and Elizabeth Shapiro

Staff: Mel Díaz, Tamara Dimitri, Tekowa Omara-Otunnu

Guest: Denise Massingale-Lamb and Ted Yudain

**Call to Order**

Chairman Jack Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Rosenberg asked if there were any comments, questions, or edits to the minutes. Hearing none, he requested a motion to approve the July meeting minutes.

*Motion to approve the minutes of the July 10<sup>th</sup> meetings.*

Motion: A. Linde | Second: M. Kingsland-Eckels | Discussion: No additional discussion.

In favor: 6, Opposed: 0, Abstentions: 0

June meeting minutes approved.

**Office of the Arts Action Item**

There was no Arts Action Item to discuss.

**Director's Report**

Program Specialist Tamara Dimitri gave a brief report in Director Elizabeth Shapiro's absence. She reported there were several upcoming deadlines for COA, including the Arts Hero Award (9/11), the Emerging Creative Award (10/15), and the Artists Respond grant (10/25). She also reported that COA has partnered with libraries in a creative aging program that provides professional development for teaching artists.

When asked, Dimitri provided an overview of the selection process and timeline for the Arts Hero Award.

### **Arts Education Update**

Arts Education Manager Tekowa Omara-Otunnu reported on the new Art Education grant *Every Child Art Experience* – a \$2500 grant to support schools taking students to arts experiences in theaters, museums, or the community. The program aims to help provide all students access to art and art education. Understanding that not all students have equal access to the arts, this program seeks to close the gap in access. It prioritizes schools in Alliance and Opportunity Districts. Teachers applying would choose the art experience of their choice and lead the experience since they know their students and schools the best. The deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup>, with selections in December and notification in January to allow for field trip planning, as the funds must be spent before the school year ends.

### **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Rosenberg asked Committee members to consider what the Governor's Arts Awards and Patrons Awards should look like and what selection process should be used. A brief history of the Governor's Arts and Patrons Awards was given, explaining how they differ from the Art Hero Awards. Committee members contemplated leveraging COA awards or grant recipients. They also discussed keeping the awards separate to spread recognition throughout the year.

Rosenberg also stated that the Council should restart a statewide award design and fabrication selection process. Committee members agreed that reaching out to different people than those involved in the past would be beneficial. Committee member Mary Ellen Kingsland-Eckels suggested contacting art schools and having it be a student competition.

Chairman Rosenberg asked for the Committee to prepare ideas for the following meeting.

### **Other Business**

There was no "other business" to discuss. Committee members asked for everyone to be mindful of the date and that 9/11 was a traumatic time for the country.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Rosenberg asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

*Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:12 pm.*

Motion: M. Kingsland-Eckels | Second: J. Hubbard | Discussion: No additional discussion.

In favor: 6, Opposed: 0, Abstentions: 0

The meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm.



**Connecticut Arts Council Meeting**

**Monday, November 6, 2023**

**1:00 pm**

**Zoom &**

**450 Columbus Boulevard**

**Plaza South Room B**

**Hartford, CT 06103**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Present: Alexandra Daum, Floyd Green, Jacqui Hubbard, Andrew Linde, Judy McElhone, and Jack Rosenberg

Absent: Mary Ellen Kingsland-Eckels

Staff: Mel Díaz, Tamara Dimitri, Rhonda Olisky, and Elizabeth Shapiro

Guest: Denise Massingale-Lamb

**Call to Order**

Chairman Jack Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm. Since there was no quorum, Chairman Rosenberg delayed approving the previous meeting minutes.

**Introduction and Discussion with Alexandra Daum, Commissioner of DECD**

Commissioner Daum gave an overview of DECD's work and how the Office of the Arts intersects. She explained that DECD takes a holistic view of the people and businesses in CT.

**Artwork Archives**

Program Specialist Tamara Dimitri walked the Council through Artwork Archives, the COA's inventory software for the public art program. One percent of the construction cost of public state buildings budget goes to public art for those buildings, and ten percent of the one percent goes to CT artists. COA manages the collection, and staff is working on having as much information provided on the website.

**Office of the Arts Action Item: Supporting Arts Grant Program**

Program Associate Rhonda Olisky presented the Supporting Arts (SAP) grantees. She explained that SAP provides funding to help support Connecticut's arts organizations and municipal arts

departments as they pursue their missions. This type of grant is flexible and allows the grantee to use the funds where they are most needed. This year, COA recommended funding 231 grants totaling \$1,050,000.

### **Director's Report**

Executive Director Elizabeth Shapiro reported on work with COA's national partners. She recently finished traveling the state, introducing the new director of NEFA to local organizations, and will meet with other state leaders at the NASAA leadership week in December. Shapiro announced that Lu Rivera received an upgrade from Administrative Assistant to Grants and Contract Specialist, which better aligned with the work Lu has been doing. She reported that staff were almost done with the first phase of data planning and would be participating in the second phase.

### **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Rosenberg apologizes for the Council's recent difficulty attaining quorum in meetings. He stated that seven members are required for the quorum, and the Council currently has seven members seated. The Council is waiting for several recommendations to be approved to grow the number of seated members.

### **Committee for the Governor's Arts Awards**

Committee members Andrew Linde and Denise Massingale-Lamb reported that they are working on the structure of the awards to make them repeatable year after year. They are not defining "art," and they want the awards to be inclusive with no categories and no more than six awards. The Committee wanted to ensure it is not just an event but includes important items in the art community. The plan is to celebrate in the Fall.

### **Other Business**

Council members had no issues with the proposed 2024 meeting dates.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting concluded at 2:35 pm.