



CT Arts Council

Connecticut Arts Council Meeting

Monday, February 6, 2023

1:00 pm

Via Zoom Video Conference Call

MINUTES

Present: Floyd Green, Fritz Jellinghaus, emeritus, Calida Jones, Sofia Lewitt, and Jack Rosenberg

Absent: Adriane Jefferson, Mary Ellen Kingsland-Eckels, and Judy McElhone

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

Absent: Rhonda Olisky and Lu Rivera

Guest: Noah DiFelice, Brett Thompson, Ted Yudain

Call to Order

Chairman Jack Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm after confirming a quorum with the present council members. He introduced Brett Thompson, Executive Director of the Connecticut Arts Alliance, who would be presenting the Arts, Culture, and Tourism (ACT) Roadmap.

ACT Funding Roadmap Overview

Brett Thompson presented the ACT Roadmap explaining how State funds are currently used, the proposal to be submitted, and what the Council can do to help. After the PowerPoint presentation, Thompson urged the Council to sign up for email updates and connect with legislatures advocating for the proposal to show the community supports it. He explained that this proposal would provide significant grant programs through a highly collaborative approach. Thompson stated that the community is very supportive when asked if he anticipated any opposition to the proposal. Still, there are concerns about where the funds would come from. While it is understood that the proposal could be partially funded this year, it provides a plan that can be used each year.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Rosenburg asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 9th.

Motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting.

Motion: S. Lewitt | Second: C. Jones | Discussion: No additional discussion.

In favor: 4, Opposed: 0, Abstentions: 0

January meeting minutes approved.

Office of the Arts Action Item

There were no Arts action items to discuss.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Rosenberg thanked council member Mary Ellen for chairing the meeting last month. He congratulated and thanked the committee for their work on completing the Governor's Arts Awards that were missed because of the pandemic. When asked about continuing the awards for 2023, the committee stated that they were pausing their work to consider the purpose behind the awards, make it more inclusive, and involve the Governor's office in the process. Committee members that could attend congratulated the staff for a fantastic event. Rosenberg suggested adding time to the April meeting for the committee to share additional thoughts on a framework.

Rosenberg reminded the Council that the next meeting would occur in person for a facilitated session with Kelly Barsdate, Chief Program & Planning Officer of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. Director Liz Shapiro stated the session would include trends, best practices, and how the Office of the Arts and the Council fit within the national context. The meeting will be from 1-3:30 pm, with the first 30 minutes for Council business.

Director's Report

Director Shapiro reminded the Council that their Statement of Financial Interests is due May 1st. Council members should have gotten a reminder email. She asked any member that had not received anything to please let her know.

Shapiro announced that the Poetry Out Loud state finals were starting. Staff is also becoming involved with the national program for Youth Poet Laureate. Staff is also starting to plan *Make Music Day* with a webinar on February 7th.

The new COA website is expected to be ready around May, including connecting to CreativeGround, a directory for creatives in New England provided by NEFA. Staff member Tamara Dimitri will give an update at the April or May meeting.

Other Business

No other business to discuss.

Adjournment

Chairman Rosenberg motioned to adjourn the meeting and thanked the Office of the Arts for all they do to support the arts in the state and the Council Members for volunteering their time.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:52 pm.

Motion: J. Rosenberg | Second: C. Jones | Discussion: No additional discussion.

In favor: 5, Opposed: 0, Abstentions: 0

Meeting adjourned at 1:36 pm.