



CT Arts Council

**Connecticut Arts Council Meeting
Monday, July 11, 2022
1:00 pm
Via Zoom Video Conference Call**

MINUTES

Present: Fritz Jellinghaus, *emeritus*, Judy McElhone, Jack Rosenberg, and Ted Yudain
Nominees Present: Floyd Green and Jacob Padron
Absent: Mary Ellen Kingsland-Eckels, Adriane Jefferson, Calida Jones, and Sofia Lewitt
Staff: Mel Díaz, Tamara Dimitri, Rhonda Olisky, Kolton Harris, Lu Rivera, and Elizabeth Shapiro

Call to Order

Chairman Jack Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm. The Council did not have a quorum.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the May and June meeting were deferred to the next meeting.

Introduction of Floyd Green III as a nominee to the Council and to the Foundation

Chairman Rosenberg introduced Mr. Floyd Green III as a nominee for the Arts Council and Arts Council Foundation. He reminded the Council that Mr. Green's brief biography was sent with the meeting agenda. Mr. Green hopes to continue to advance art across the country and is a former winner of the *Governor's Patron of the Arts* award. Those present introduced themselves to Mr. Green.

Office of the Arts Action Items

There were no CT Office of the Arts (COA) action items to discuss.

Discussion and Feedback on COA Draft Strategic Plan

Director Liz Shapiro reminded the Council that the COA must draft a five-year strategic plan and align it with the National Endowment of the Arts strategy. Although COA was supposed to have submitted a strategic plan last year, an extension was granted because of COVID. The provided draft strategic plan is grounded in the previous strategic plan and is a value-based plan. Feedback has been received by the CT Arts Alliance, over 100 constituents through four open sessions held by the designated regional service organizations (DRSO), and over 300 constituents from an online survey. The plan should be complete by September and includes new strategies and strategies from the previous plan. COA desires to ensure all constituents and partners are served in a values-based and effective way.

Director Shapiro opened the discussion for Council feedback by asking if the plan was missing anything, if the plan had a good flow from the previous plan, and if there was anything that should be addressed to make it a strong plan. She also promised to send the questions via email for anyone who rather respond via email.

Chairman Emeritus Fritz Jellinghaus asked for “creative businesses” to be defined better within the plan and wished for the Council to start their work with the Governor’s Awards. Nominee Jacob Padron affirmed the values-based strategic plan – especially around antiracism and equity, as those are relationship-based and not transactional. When asked how those could be evaluated for success, he suggested conversations with foundations already doing that work. Nominee Floyd Green suggested ensuring the infrastructure was present at organizations wanting to invite members of the BIPOC communities into the process.

Because of electrical issues, the meeting ended at 1:46 pm. When it was restarted at 1:53 pm, Floyd Green, Judy McElhone, Jack Rosenberg, Ted Yudain, Mel Díaz, Tamara Dimitri, Rhonda Olisky, Liz Shapiro, and Lu Rivera rejoined.

Chairman’s Report – Jack Rosenberg

Chairman Rosenberg gave updates on the demographics poll and the Doodle Poll for the September Retreat. He reminded the Council that they needed to submit their collective demographics to the Secretary of State and asked all Council members to complete the Google Survey. He also reminded them to fill out the Doodle Poll for the daylong retreat that should occur at the beginning of September.

He advised the Council to restart work on the Governor’s Awards, the Youth Council, and the statewide arts exhibition. He suggested committees could be formed to help the Council determine how the Youth Council and statewide arts exhibition could be done and have Council members serve as committee liaisons. Committee members could research items like the acceptable age range for the Youth Council and use *Make Music Day* as a model for the statewide arts exhibition.

Director’s Report – Liz Shapiro

Director Shapiro reported that the posting for the Program Associate went live today. She will forward the posting to all Council members, and Program Associate Rhonda Olisky has already forwarded the posting to all DRSOs. Director Shapiro stated that the CT Office of the Arts would again grant most of the state-designated ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. However, this year would require more work because of more significant reporting requirements.

Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

Adjournment

Chairman Rosenberg apologized for the technical difficulties and adjourned the meeting at 2:20 pm. He asked the Council to hold September 2nd for the daylong retreat and asked for the next meeting to be moved to Tuesday, September 13th at 1 pm from Monday the 12th.