



Connecticut Arts Council Meeting
Monday, February 5, 2024
1:00 pm

Zoom

Record of the Meeting

Present: Floyd Green, Jacqui Hubbard, Mary Ellen Kingsland-Eckels, Andrew Linde, Judy McElhone, Daniel O’Keefe, Jack Rosenberg, and Elizabeth Shapiro
Staff: Mel Díaz, Tamara Dimitri, Tekowa Omara-Otunnu
Guest: Fritz Jellinghaus

Call to Order

Chairman Jack Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm. Since there was no quorum, Chairman Rosenberg delayed approving the previous meeting minutes. Rosenberg thanked the staff for all of their work at the Art Awards.

Creative Ground Presentation

Program Specialist Tamara Dimitri provided an overview of the [CreativeGround](#) website – the dynamic regional directory for artists, creatives, and organizations.

Every Child Art Experience Grant Update

Arts Education Manager Tekowa Omara-Otunnu reported on the *Every Child Art Experience* grant, providing examples of some funded programs. Understanding that not all students have equal access to the arts, this program seeks to close the gap in access and prioritized schools in Alliance and Opportunity Districts.

Director’s Report

Director Elizabeth Shapiro reported on the success of the latest Arts Awards program, which had the largest preregistration and attendance numbers. It was also the first time the Governor was able to attend. Staff is already discussing possible improvements and have decided to shift the awards night to late March or early April.

Shapiro stated she was on the road much of January and met with several institutions throughout the state, such as the Garde Arts Center, Goodspeed Opera House, Florence Griswold Museum, and the Mark Twain House and Museum.

She shared links ([press release](#), [video of conference](#), [AP article](#)) about a first-of-its-kind public convening she attended called “Healing, Bridging, Thriving: A Summit on Arts and Culture in our Communities.” The meeting provided insights and explored opportunities for health and wellbeing and their connection to arts and culture.

Shapiro closed her report by announcing the Stonington Cultural District visit on March 19th. She also said a Cultural District in Manchester had been approved but not announced yet.

Committee for the Governor’s Arts Awards

Council member Andrew Linde stated that after touring Five Points and attending the Arts Awards, he wanted the Governor’s Arts Awards to celebrate art. Instead of an awards format, the “ceremony” could be an art installation one walks through and learns about the nominees and the winners with a reception at the end.

Chairman’s Report

Chairman Rosenberg stated he had nothing to report.

Other Business

There was no “other business” to discuss.

Adjournment

Chairman Rosenberg adjourned the meeting at 1:50 pm.