

Connecticut Arts Council Meeting
Monday, May 4, 2026 | 1:00 pm
Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Jacqui Hubbard, Cinzi Lavin, Andrew Linde, Denise Massingale-Lamb, Sarah McKay, Jack Rosenberg, Elizabeth Shapiro, and Brian Walters

Absent: Dwayne Harris, Judy McElhone, and Dan O'Keefe

Staff: Mel Díaz

Guests: Frances Pollock and Sean Park

Call to Order

Chairman Jack Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm and asked for the Collective CT presentation to be moved to the top of the meeting.

Collective CT Presentation

Frances Pollock and Sean Park gave a PowerPoint presentation that provided a program overview and key objectives of Collective CT, a five-year pilot program powered by Yale Ventures and DECD. It functions as a "micro-MBA" for artists, aiming to activate Connecticut's cultural ecosystem by applying the "innovation hub" model used in STEM to the Arts.

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 March minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2026 meeting.

Motion: C. Lavin | Second: J. Hubbard | Discussion: No additional discussion.

In favor: 6, Opposed: 0, Abstentions: 1 (S. McKay)

March meeting minutes approved.

Updates from Council Members

The Council expressed gratitude for Council Member Sarah McKay's service and "intellectual firepower" as this would be her last meeting before relocating to Charleston, SC.

Director's Report

Director Elizabeth Shapiro shared that a budget for the next fiscal year has been presented to the Governor and is waiting for his approval. COA's budget remains the same, but CT Humanities will receive an additional \$1M.

She noted that the 16 existing districts are showing "outstanding" data; a new tour is scheduled for

Newtown in June. Shapiro announced that Kim Parsons-Whitaker will retire on June 30th and Tekowa Omara-Ottunu is leaving May 31st. The Council will be updated as positions are posted.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Rosenberg shared that the Arts Foundation's inaugural grant for artist closed early due to high volume (over 100 applications). The Foundation's board is currently whittling the pool down to three finalists for studio visits.

Other Business

Council members were invited to attend the Yale Innovation Summit in June.

Council Member Jacqueline Hubbard highlighted the casting of Yale graduate Christina Acosta Robinson on *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*. She also shared a "cease and desist" warning regarding the federal copyright on the term "America 250."

Adjournment

Rosenberg asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: J. Hubbard | Second: J. Rosenberg | Discussion: No additional discussion.

In favor: 7, Opposed: 0, Abstentions: 0

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 pm.