



CT Arts Council

Connecticut Arts Council Meeting

Monday, October 3, 2022

1:00 pm

Via Zoom Video Conference Call

MINUTES

Present: Floyd Green, Calida Jones, Mary Ellen Kingsland-Eckels, Sofia Lewitt, Judy McElhone, and Jack Rosenberg

Absent: Adriane Jefferson, Fritz Jellinghaus, *emeritus*, Ted Yudain

Nominee Absent: Jacob Padron

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

Absent: Rhonda Olisky and Lu Rivera

Call to Order

Chairman Jack Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 1:13 pm. He apologized for being ill during the last Council Meeting and stated that any discussion items could be revisited if needed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman Rosenberg asked for the minutes to show that Council Member Adriane Jefferson was present during the meeting and for the last name of Nominee Jacob Padron to be corrected on page two of the minutes. With no other corrections or comments, Rosenberg asked for a motion to approve the minutes amended minutes of the September 13th meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting as amended.

Motion: M. Kingsland-Eckels | Second: F. Green | Discussion: No additional discussion.

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

September meeting minutes approved as amended.

Office of the Arts Action Item

Director Elizabeth Shapiro reported that the approval of the Support Arts grants would have to wait as the office had not received the needed information to make final recommendations. Shapiro requested that the action item be removed from this meeting.

Motion to remove the Office of the Arts Action Item for the agenda.

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

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

September meeting minutes approved as amended.

Committee Report: Governor's Arts and Arts Patrons Awards 2023

Council member Judy McElhone announced that the ceremony would take place on June 15, 2023. The Committee believes the best way to make the process more inclusive is to have art councils from across the state nominate artists. Council member Sofia Lewitt reported that the ceremony would occur at Five Points Center for the Visual Arts. The Committee is open to suggestions for who will be judges of the nominations. While no budget is currently developed, the Committee will create one along with more details on how others can become involved. A tentative deadline of February 1st was stated for nominations. Director Shapiro requested a timeline and requirements for the Designated Regional Service Organizations' involvement.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Rosenberg shared an idea for the Council to achieve more outreach. He proposed the Council endorse or support events throughout the state with a "stamp of approval." Each Council member could suggest a project for the Council to endorse. Council members responded positively as it would provide greater visibility and credibility to the Council and the organization receiving the endorsement. The discussion expanded to include the idea that all organizations receiving grants from the Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) receive a designation from the Council. Additional ideas, such as a quarterly newsletter or appearances on local TV channels, were presented. Director Shapiro agreed that this could be an interesting program for the Council and reminded members that COA has a partnership with Fox 61 to showcase artists, and all grants awarded through COA were listed on its website.

Director's Report

Director Shapiro introduced Tekowa Omara-Otunnu as the newest member of COA and the person that would be leading the art education programs. She noted that Omara-Otunnu is taking a deep dive into the art strategies. Shapiro then reported that the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies conference was terrific. She announced that the 2023 conference would be for directors and their council members and promised to share the information once it was available for anyone interested in attending.

Shapiro reported that in the last fiscal year, COA stewarded \$66,380,000, of which approximately \$40 MM went to art organizations. She praised the staff for taking on the additional responsibilities. Shapiro also stated that the office's strategic plan would be placed on the website before being formally designed as it was required for the National Endowment of the Arts application.

Shapiro closed her report by announcing that the Empower program had its first cohort retreat, which was hybrid and bilingual. The four organizations chosen for the program are BIPOC-led and serving. The program allows the organizations to self-determine capacity building within a framework. She thanked Program Associate Kolton Harris for his work on the program.

Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

Adjournment

Chairman Rosenberg reminded Council members that the next meeting would be on the first Monday of November and would be in person at the COA office in Hartford.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2 pm.

Motion: M. Kingsland-Eckels | Second: F. Green | Discussion: No additional discussion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 2 pm.