



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 9<sup>th</sup>.

*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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 7<sup>th</sup>.

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.