



CT Arts Council

**Connecticut Arts Council Meeting**  
**Monday, March 6, 2023**  
**1:00 pm**  
**450 Columbus Plaza South Conference Room B**

**MINUTES**

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

Present via Zoom: Adriane Jefferson and Judy McElhone

Absent: Fritz Jellinghaus, emeritus

Staff: Mel Díaz, Tamara Dimitri, Kolton Harris, Rhonda Olisky, Tekowa Omara-Otunnu, Lu Rivera, and Elizabeth

Guest: Kelly Barsdate and Ted Yudain (via Zoom)

**Call to Order**

Chairman Jack Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm. He welcomed everyone and introduced new Council member Jacqui Hubbard.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Rosenburg asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting.*

Motion: F. Green | Second: C. Jones | Discussion: No additional discussion.

In favor: 8, Opposed: 0, Abstentions: 0

February meeting minutes approved.

**Director's Report**

Director Elizabeth Shapiro stated that the state is in the legislative session. The funding roadmap presentation Brett Thompson, Executive Director of Connecticut Arts Alliance, gave the previous month asks for \$58.5M to be split between tourism, arts, and culture organizations. Using that bill, Shapiro demonstrated the path a bill could take through the legislative process describing the testimony process, the working groups different agencies create to provide information to the legislative committees, and the possibility of a bill going through multiple committees and open hearings. At the end of March, legislators will present their budget. They will negotiate with the

Governor, and then a budget is passed. However, there is no sure outcome. It is always helpful to know the legislators and the process. She reminded Council members that it is a great time to connect with legislators and ask them to support the arts.

### **Office of the Arts Action Item**

Program Manager Rhonda Olisky explained that the Arts Endowment is a statutory program providing unrestricted operating support. Grantees can even use the funds to invest in their endowments or savings. To be eligible, organizations need to raise \$15,000 in private contributions. This year, there are 165 eligible art organizations. Amounts granted are done by calculation specified in the legislation. Last year's round funded 171 organizations, of which 59% used funds to support programmatic and artistic staff. This program supports jobs in the arts. Olisky requested approval of the Connecticut Arts Endowment grants for 165 organizations totaling \$864,233.

*Motion to approve the Connecticut Arts Endowment grants.*

Motion: J. Rosenberg | Second: J. Hubbard | Discussion: Council member Judy McElhone abstained from Five Points Center for the Visual Arts, Council member Jacqui Hubbard abstained from Ivoryton Playhouse, and Chairman Jack Rosenberg abstained from After School Arts Program, Inc. (ASAP!) and Washington Art Association.

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

Connecticut Arts Endowment grants approved.

### **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Rosenberg stated he did not have a report and reminded members of the next meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. He asked to discuss the Governor's Arts Awards.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Rosenberg motioned to close the business part of the meeting and move into the workshop with Kelly Barsdate.

*Motion to close the business portion of the meeting at 1:46 pm.*

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

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

Business portion of the Art Council meeting closed at 1:46 pm.

Kelly Barsdate, Chief Program and Planning Officer of NASAA, led a workshop for Arts Council members.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 pm.