

WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION
AUGUST 4-5, 2009 / ARTS COMMISSION MEETING - YAKIMA

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Leann Johnson, Chair
Cindy Hill Finnie, First Vice Chair
Steve Sneed, Second Vice Chair
Monte Bridges
David Brown
Kent Carlson
Elizabeth Conner
John Fraire
Robert Glatzer
Representative Larry Haler
Senator Jim Honeyford
Kate Jones
Representative Lynn Kessler
Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles
Jean Mandeberg
Bill McKay
Lanie McMullin
Noël Moxley
Rosita Romero
Brom Wikstrom

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Maureen Greeley
Shauna Woods

STAFF PRESENT

Kris Tucker, Executive Director
Bitsy Bidwell
Lisa Jaret (also by phone)
Leslie Pope
Mike Sweney
Mayumi Tsutakawa

STAFF BY PHONE

Lou MacMillan

GUESTS

John Baule, Executive Director, Yakima Valley Museum
Manuel Cawaling, Youth Theatre Northwest, WSAA/F
Board
Kathy Coffey, Councilwoman, Yakima City Council,
District 4
Andrew Fife, Shunpike
Kelly Hart, Allied Arts of Whatcom County, WSAA
Board
Laura Hopkins, Seattle Art Museum, WSAA/F Board
Kathleen Langenheim, Spokane Public Radio, WSAA/F
Mary Langholz, Executive Director, WSAA/F
Una McAlinden, ArtsEd Washington, WSAA Board
Fidelma McGinn, Artist Trust, WSAA Board
Jessica Moskwa, Allied Arts of Yakima, WSAA member
Kim Thomas, staff, WSAA/F
TVW (Washington State Public Affairs TV Network)

**WSAA= Washington State Arts Alliance/Alliance Foundation*

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm on August 4, 2009.

Chair Johnson welcomed Commissioners to Yakima and led introductions around the room. Kathy Coffey, Councilwoman, Yakima City Council, welcomed Commissioners. As Councilwoman, she is developing an arts commission in Yakima, and said the city is committed to installing more public art. Jessica Moskwa, Executive Director, Allied Arts of Yakima Valley, said Allied Arts was established in 1962, and operates a variety of arts programs including Arts Van, a mobile arts education program that brings arts activities directly to children in a variety of settings. John Baule, Executive Director, Yakima Valley Museum, described the museum as an institution highlighting the richness of art and culture in the community since 1951.

APPROVE AGENDA

Chair Johnson requested two changes to the agenda due to logistical considerations:

1. Tuesday, August 4 - Move the Chair's and Director's reports to 1 pm, and proceed with research findings at 1:30 pm, beginning with Arts Education Research.
2. Wednesday, August 5 – Move the appeals hearing to after the business meeting adjourns.

Johnson explained that the Assistant Attorney General for WSAC clarified Commissioners are serving in an adjudicative capacity during an appeals hearing, which should take place after adjournment of the business meeting. The appeals hearing will include a staff report followed by discussion among Commissioners. After the hearing, Chair Johnson will email to Commissioners a proposed written decision, and request review and comment.

A MOTION to approve the agenda with changes proposed by the Chair was made by Commissioner Monte Bridges. It was seconded by Commissioner Robert Glatzer. It passed unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Johnson focused on the Commission's role at this time (*packet p. 1*), and the significance of the recent strategic plan development. The Commission must continue to expand the advocacy and leadership roles. Chair Johnson commented on the Americans for the Arts Conference (AFTA) conference which she attended in June. She noted that the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics has a four-year curriculum that integrates art with academics so that the arts are part of the mainstream and define the school's norm. Chair Johnson encouraged Commissioners to continue to have deeper conversations about the role of arts throughout the state, to bring art into the mainstream in Washington.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kris Tucker, WSAC Executive Director, said there are fewer WSAC staff present at this meeting because of budget reductions. She noted that Commission Meetings have been an important time for staff to interact with Commissioners and the communities visited, and to understand the work of the arts in the state as a whole.

The Director's Report (*packet pp. 3-6*) begins with a reminder of the strategic work completed over the last three years. There is pressure to do less because of fewer resources. "Repositioning" decisions made in May relate to tough decisions before the Commission tomorrow.

Arts Leadership Initiative, or "ALI," is the new name for The Wallace Excellence Program, a four-year initiative. The Wallace Foundation prefers funded initiatives adopt a new name to encourage the initiative to outlive the lifespan of the funding period. WSAC has contracted with MeaningMatters, LLC, to develop the learning framework and topics for this initiative. Through the Arts Leadership Initiative, WSAC is working with ArtsEd Washington to sponsor a free arts leadership symposium in Seattle on August 20 with Michael Kaiser, President of the Kennedy Center in Washington DC.

WSAC is updating its Washington Administrative Codes (WACs), in two phases:

1. Technical changes, such as updating the address and references to RCW codes: the information is out of date, yet not debatable, and will be updated according to the required process.
2. Policy changes include updating the conflict of interest rules, clarifying the appeals procedure, and rewriting rules to be less program-specific and more flexible. Policy changes to the WACs require a public meeting for comments.

Tucker encouraged Commissioners to initiate, submit and/or support nominations for the Governor's Arts and Heritage awards. She said the Interim Committee met July 7, 2009; notes from that meeting are included in the packet (*packet pp. 5-6*).

POET LAUREATE

Tucker explained that the State Poet Laureate selection process will proceed in partnership with Humanities Washington. A selection committee, to include one Commissioner, will convene to define the selection process and follow the process to completion. Options include:

- Opening the application process, and
 - Inviting the current poet laureate to apply for a second term, or
 - Not allowing the current poet laureate to apply for a second term.
- Selecting Sam Green for a second term without opening the application process.

FY 2009 BUDGET REPORT - FOURTH QUARTER (PRELIMINARY)

Tucker reviewed the report (*packet pp. 6B1-2*). She noted that the capital budget numbers were higher due to the pace of activity in that program. Program grants and services show actual and anticipated actual figures, with an anticipated ending balance of approximately \$89,000, most of which is National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) or private funds that will carry over into FY 2010.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

ARTS EDUCATION RESEARCH INITIATIVE (AERI)

Lisa Jaret, WSAC Arts in Education Program Manager, presented findings from the Arts Education Research Initiative (AERI) entitled, *Measuring the Status of Arts Education in Washington State Public Schools*. While the State has sound arts education policy, there is a gap between policy and practice.

Jaret said the AERI 2006 report, *Arts for Every Student*, is used by OSPI, ArtsEd Washington, Seattle Foundation, and legislators, and others. The 2009 update will use a similar approach as that in 2005; reports are scheduled for publication and distribution by early 2010.

Research areas of inquiry included curriculum, assessment, teaching capacity, collaboration, scheduling, and funding. Music is the art form most frequently taught in schools, followed by visual arts, theatre, and then dance in fourth place. Similar findings have been made across the nation. Music curriculum is also more aligned with state standards than is curriculum for other art forms, and is more likely to be adopted by the local school board. Jaret said professional development and staffing are critical issues during these times. The survey shows schools are striving to find time to schedule arts education.

Commissioners discussed research findings, including funding for arts education, teacher training, and WSAC's Roster of Teaching Artists.

Commissioner Bridges noted that research shows an increase in the use of the arts assessments. Subjects that are assessed are more likely to be taught. He said one of the unintended consequences of high-stakes testing across our nation is that there may be "blindness" to certain subject areas.

Commissioners discussed why music instruction is more available than other arts disciplines; Commissioner McKay said that principals may be able to form a choir at little expense in comparison to other arts programming.

Jaret concluded that the AERI demonstrates WSAC's commitment to arts education, and our partners share the benefit of this commitment. Jaret asked Commissioners to share this information with leaders and potential partners in their communities, figure out what ideas seem most relevant to them, educate local policy makers, and help to create a call to action. Jaret introduced Una McAlinden, Executive Director, ArtsEd Washington.

McAlinden said that the first priority for ArtsEd Washington was to develop relationships with state-wide entities, including the State Board of Education, Washington State School Directors Association, and the Washington Teacher's Union. ArtsEd's agenda is to make the arts part of the mainstream education conversation.

She said ArtsEd Washington has used the previous AERI extensively. ArtsEd Washington works with WSAC to convene groups of emerging leaders in local communities and train them to advance arts education. ArtsEd Washington also helps to frame policy, find the local policy makers, and build the arts education leadership of school principals.

Chair Johnson said the AERI provides a starting point for conversations with local leaders to develop partnerships, and can be used by each Commissioner to find available opportunities to integrate the arts into their communities.

Commissioner Glatzer asked if organizations can advance arts education without a great deal of money or shifting teaching assets to arts from other areas. Jaret said the research shows some such examples, such as arts education integration in K-6 schools.

HELICON COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

Chair Johnson referred to the Helicon Collaborative report, *The Economic Recession's Impact on Cultural Organizations in Washington State (distributed via email)*, noting comparisons with other reports. She noted that priorities are changing and leadership is important.

Tucker said this research was commissioned to look at the impact of the recession across the state, and funded by WSAC's NEA and The Wallace Foundation funds. Tucker introduced Marcy Cady, Helicon Collaborative, project lead, to conduct this presentation via phone from California. Cady noted that Helicon was commissioned by WSAC to build on earlier research that involved a survey of 81 arts organizations in King and Pierce counties (by ArtsFund, December 2008) and interviews with 28 cultural organizations in the Puget Sound region (March 2009), funded by 4Culture, The Allen Foundation, Seattle Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, and the Seattle Foundation.

Cady said WSAC commissioned Helicon to conduct interviews with 11 cultural organizations across Washington state, excluding King and Pierce counties. These organizations fell within a specific budget range, represented various disciplines and regions, and had paid staff. Simultaneously, an on-line survey was conducted using a revised protocol from that developed by ArtsFund. Synthesis and recommendations are based on this data. Cady compared WSAC's state-wide study with findings of the Puget Sound-specific report:

- The recession has progressed in the last six months; it has become more severe. Many participating organizations expect declines to continue over the next two years.
- Fewer organizations are in denial about the impacts of the recession. Most now acknowledge that future success will require different, adaptive thinking. It became apparent that cultural organizations believe adapting a different way of working and thinking will determine survival.
- Most WSAC respondents expect attendance to rise and participation to increase over the next two years. ArtsFund respondents expect attendance to drop. This may be the single most interesting result of this research, and it holds up to other research around the country.

Cady said it is unclear if more arts organizations are offering free programming due to the hard economics, or whether there is more demand as people look for things to do close to home. Another unknown is whether cultural organizations have stepped up their service to fulfill a need or new role for audiences. Cady noted that WSAC surveyed small organizations (less than five employees) through Washington state, most of whom were self-identified as arts agencies and/or non-profit organizations. The ArtsFund report surveyed mostly large organizations in and around the urban areas of Puget Sound.

Cady summarized the findings:

- The recession is exaggerating pre-existing strengths and weaknesses within organizations.
- Adaptability and leadership distinguish organizations who are navigating the recession successfully.
- The most pro-active organizations are reconsidering basic assumptions; how to align their mission with broader community goals and current constituent issues.
- Most organizations saw declines in income last year (2008) and expect further declines in the future; some are predicting a decline of more than 30 percent.

- Attendance is expected to stay steady or increase, though ticket income will not necessarily increase.
- Technology holds potential for saving costs and realizing efficiencies in marketing, research development, etc., using social networks and going paper-free. What was missing was how to use technology to deliver services to constituents.
- Boards, key volunteers, and core constituents are stepping up to support their organizations in new ways.
- Collaborations and networks are desirable, but putting them together takes precious time and resources, which are in short supply at this time.
- Efforts to convene networks received mixed reviews because the process is time-consuming and organizations feel they need to spend most of their time meeting their own needs.
- Organizations expect to make difficult programming and staff cuts over the next two years. The first cuts of the recession were focused on administrative and service areas.

Cady reviewed other findings regarding revenue, expenses, participation, programming, and board engagement. Suggestions for funders include:

- Modify grant making policies and guidelines to respond to organizations' current needs.
- Link Washington State cultural organizations to national programs and models, such as WSAC with The Wallace Foundation and the ALI program.
- Join boards of directors, and provide firsthand financial and organizational expertise that cultural organizations need at this time.
- Increase advocacy for arts in Washington State, and provide guidance on how to access and use recovery funds.

Cady explained that approximately 80 percent of survey respondents think this is a time of opportunity to rethink and adjust what they do, how they do it, and how their artistic product is delivered to their audience. However, almost half of the respondents think this economic situation is a storm that needs to be weathered, until things return to normal. Even those who realize that they need to re-think their business are not clear what "doing things differently" really means or what effective planning for post-recovery entails.

Commissioner Jones commended Cady and the survey process. She said she is continually assessing the changing climate. Cady noted related research is happening across the country. Commissioner Elizabeth Conner said WSAC might consider providing opportunities for reflection, strategic thinking, and collaborative effort. Cady noted that this research tracks impressions and is not a financial analysis. People see external environmental issues from the last several years, including a change in how people consume products, the role of the internet, and changing demographics. They know this must impact cultural organizations and how they deliver art to people, but it is hard to make related changes. These trends are reflected in the contradictions of this report.

Commissioner Romero said the report captures what arts leaders have been experiencing, and reflects her experience.

Commissioner Kohl-Welles asked Cady for observations about attendance at films. Cady said interview questions did not target specific art categories and the data would have to be reexamined to

see if she could answer that specific question. In hard economic times, commercial film industry revenues typically rise, as people look for entertainment and films may be less costly to attend than other arts and cultural events. Arts organizations need to consider how to price arts events at a similar price point.

Tucker recognized ArtsFund for allowing WSAC to adapt their survey instrument for the Helicon report. There are many opportunities to connect all these reports, to create a richer conversation about the state of the arts in Washington. Dwight Gee, Executive Vice President, ArtsFund, said they are grateful for collaboration on the survey protocol, and for an opportunity to coordinate release of the data. ArtsFund is now reviewing data for their second survey, but initial findings correlate roughly with Helicon findings: declines of income of up to 30 percent for the current year; declines in attendance; related cuts in expenses and workforce. Roughly half plan to make changes in service by reducing the size and/or number of program offerings. Perceptions seem to be somewhat better than in December 2008. Gee predicts a smaller inventory of cultural organizations in the future.

Commissioner Conner asked about science groups participating in the survey; Gee provided a partial list. Commissioner Wikstrom asked about cuts to staffing, outreach, and programs. Gee said organizations are reducing the number and size of programs.

Commissioner Mandeberg referred to a recent survey of artists, and asked if larger organizations are doing more experimentation. Gee said organizations are collaborating on certain projects or ways of doing business, although they are not taking risks with new or inventive programming. Cady said organizations are presenting familiar favorites that more likely guarantee an audience.

Commissioner Kessler asked if either survey explored marketing the arts as escape or as part of a "stay-cation." Gee said most arts organizations plan to expend more funds on marketing next year, and some responses may indicate these trends. Cady agreed.

Chair Johnson introduced Fidelma McGinn, Executive Director of Artist Trust, to present *Artists and the Economy (Spring 2009)* (www.artisttrust.org). The survey indicates changes in external economic conditions and changes in personal economic conditions and outlook; these factors appear to be having an impact on the work and personal well-being of artists. Artists are selling fewer artworks, making fewer bookings, experiencing fewer opportunities to receive income revenue from their art making; 43 percent see decreased demand for their work, and 34 percent have less personal time to make their art because they are moving to other forms of income outside of their artwork to support themselves. Areas of change include increased use of technology; creating more saleable work and/or more functional art; mental health concerns; lack of access to health care; and pursuing non-arts jobs.

Respondents requested Artist Trust continue providing small grants. McGinn noted that Artist Trust is partnering with Washington Community Alliance for Self-Help (CASH) to develop small micro-loans for artisan based businesses. In addition, artists requested:

- Business training to develop small business entrepreneur skills; Artist Trust will continue its workshops on these topics.
- Access to low cost supplies and materials; Artist Trust will assume a broker with organizations to attempt to fulfill this request.

- Access to affordable space; Artist Trust continues to work with organizations such as ArtSpace and Mighty Tieton.
- Convening and networking to create a broader, more connected community for artists.

Helicon is conducting a national survey on the impact the economy is having on artists. McGinn said Artist Trust will conduct another state-wide survey next year to determine how things are evolving over time.

Commissioner Glatzer said filmmakers face different challenges from sculptors or painters. McGinn said the Artist Trust survey tracked media arts as the category for filmmakers. McGinn announced an all-day film event as a partnership between Artist Trust and Mighty Tieton on August 22-23, 2009.

ADVOCACY

Mary Langholz, Executive Director of Washington State Arts Alliance and Foundation (WSAA/F) said WSAA/F began over 33 years ago to lobby for the arts and to promote public policy at the local, state and regional level. Langholz participates in a national arts advocacy network, facilitated by Americans for the Arts, that meets by phone monthly. WSAA's Advocacy Committee strategizes with an arts lobbyist in Olympia to develop a legislative agenda, and works throughout the session to coordinate goals. Action Alerts are sent to WSAA members during the legislative session. Commissioners can join WSAA and receive these action alerts to stay informed. WSAA organizes trips to Olympia for hearings and testimony on arts related bills. WSAA also organizes:

- An annual Arts Day in Olympia.
- A Washington contingency to attend National Arts Advocacy Day in Washington DC.
- Arts advocacy meetings in King County and Spokane between September and June; meetings are beginning this fall in Pierce County.
- Educational programming for arts professionals, including the annual Washington Cultural Congress.
- Arts advocacy training sessions including a new National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) peer coaching leadership circle to develop new arts leaders.

Langholz invited Commissioners to become active members of WSAA and encouraged them to establish relationships with public officials on local, state, and national levels through meetings, invitations to arts events and festivals, and keeping them informed of arts related events.

Commissioner Carlson, WSAC Advocacy Committee Chair, discussed advocacy roles and praised last year's Commissioner participation in Arts Day. In the coming year, WSAC advocacy must recognize the impact of budget reductions. It will be important for Commissioners to emphasize how these difficult decisions were made based on strategic planning priorities, especially when constituents begin to talk with legislators about the impact of these cuts. The Advocacy Committee is working on messages to distribute to Commissioners, hopefully in the fall, that build on the Helicon and ArtsFund reports. Commissioners must show constituents that WSAC understands the challenges, and develop a message to explain to legislators how important the arts are to Washington.

Commissioner Carlson asked Commissioner McKay to share a presentation he made to the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner McKay said his presentation focused on thriving arts

communities and the current status of arts in their area, rather than approaching the organization for money. He included a shortened version of the Creative Vitality Index (CVI). Commissioner Carlson encouraged Commissioners to speak to organizations about arts-related issues. Staff may be available to assist in preparing such a presentation.

2009-2011 BIENNIUM BUDGET: RATIFY APPROVAL

Tucker said decisions on tomorrow's agenda reflect the reduced budget. Although the Interim Committee approved the 2009-2011 biennium budget on the Commissioner's behalf, ratification by the full Commission is required (*packet pp 9-14*).

Tucker reviewed graphics showing WSAC funding since the 2001-2003 biennium. She reviewed the 2009-2011 biennium budget as submitted, and noted that the budget report has been reformatted to reflect the newly defined three categories of Art in Public Places (public art), Community Services, and Operations. Administration funds were grouped within Operations; one staff position moved from Program Services to Operations. Commissioner Carlson said the graphics and reformatted budget information are good improvements.

Commissioner Kessler explained that the recent State budget update shows inadequate balances. Legislators are trying to avoid a special session and additional budget cuts. Commissioner Kohl-Welles noted the impact of the weather: the snow storm in the Puget Sound region in December 2008/January 2009 reduced attendance at cultural events during the holidays.

After general discussion, a MOTION to ratify the July 7, 2009 decision of the Interim Committee to approve the 2009-2011 biennium budget was made by Commissioner David Brown and seconded by Commissioner Lynn Kessler. It passed unanimously. There were no recusals and no abstentions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 pm for a tour of artisan businesses housed in buildings that previously served as fruit warehouses. Located in the town of Tieton, the project is called Mighty Tieton. Dinner at the home of Rob and Michelle Wyles will follow the tour, as arranged by Commissioner Noël Moxley and John Baule, Executive Director, Yakima Valley Museum.

CALL TO ORDER - AUGUST 6

Chair Johnson reconvened the meeting at 8:39 am on August 5, 2008. She introduced Mike Sweney, WSAC Art in Public Places Project Manager. She thanked Commissioner Moxley for arranging yesterday's tour and dinner.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS PARTNERSHIP

Tucker shared a presentation to explain the NEA Partnership grant. The NEA awards more than \$100 million per year in grants, investing in every state and congressional district, and estimates that each dollar awarded by grants generates \$7 total in the local community.

Tucker reviewed recent grants directly from the NEA to Washington communities, including \$1.2 million for Art Jobs Support. The NEA partners with state arts agencies to foster excellence through support of arts organizations and artists, provide arts education programs and services, and implement

national initiatives such as Poetry Out Loud. Forty percent of the NEA's grant budget goes directly to state and regional arts agencies. The NEA requires state arts agencies to have a commission or council to be eligible for this funding.

WSAC is required to submit an application to the NEA every three years and an update annually. The application focuses on the agency's strategic plan. WSAC must demonstrate fair decision-making, leadership in arts education, and have a record for reporting on our accomplishments according to our strategic plan and NEA standards. Funding is calculated on a formula that considers state population as well as the panel's review of the application submitted. A portion of the NEA grant is designated for arts education; another portion is for underserved communities. Each state defines the term "underserved" in a different way; WSAC defines underserved as rural, ethnic, low income, and people with disabilities.

WSAC can compete for folk arts infrastructure money, which WSAC has received for projects including our partnership with Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and creating a series of heritage tours. The NEA also provides money for special initiatives, such as Poetry Out Loud, an annual poetry recitation contest for high school students. WSAC is a member of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. Tucker said WSAC is submitting a full application to the NEA this year, and is pleased to have a great strategic plan as the basis for this year's submittal.

Commissioner Brown said advocating for NEA funding is a high priority for Commissioners' advocacy work. Tucker said that US Congressman Norm Dicks serves as Chair of the US House Interior Appropriations Committee, has been an important champion for boosting the NEA's budget. His goal is to increase the NEA's budget to the level it reached in the mid-90s. His district includes Tacoma, Bremerton and Port Townsend. Commissioner Mandeberg asked about the status for a new NEA chairman. Tucker said Rocco Landesman has been nominating by President Obama and is awaiting Senate confirmation.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Johnson asked Commissioners to approve Consent Agenda items, which include:

- Minutes of May 2009 Meeting (*packet pp. 15-30*).
- Grants to Organizations: Project Support Program-FY 2010-Round No. 1 (*packet pp. 31-35*).
- Arts in Education: Professional Development Support-FY 2010 (*packet p. 36*).

Commissioners McKay and Sneed recused themselves due to conflicts with the Project Support Program grants.

A MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Commissioner Robert Glatzer and seconded by Commissioner Noël Moxley. The motion was approved unanimously with two recusals. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the May, 2009 meeting.

PROGRAM ACTIONS: APPROVE PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Chair Johnson asked Commissioners to turn to the Program Action section of the packet.

Commissioner Mandeberg asked for a review of the panel process. Tucker explained there is a panel process for review of all grants: staff selects and convenes a panel, including one Commissioner, to

review applications. Panel members receive all application materials and grant guidelines to review in advance of the panel. Panelists are typically requested to complete a preliminary scoring prior to the panel meeting. Many applications require a work sample, which is viewed by the panel during the panel process. WSAC staff run the meeting, record panelists' comments and scores. Scoring is tallied to determine how many of the applications will be funded. Following the panel meeting, staff contact applicants regarding results. At the beginning of the panel meeting, WSAC's conflict of interest rules are explained.

The Project Support Program (PSP) panel is convened in a similar way, however the Executive Director approves PSP grants, and WSAC staff form the panel for reviewing applications. The Director's decision must be ratified at the next meeting of the Commission.

Commissioner Cindy Hill Finnie asked Tucker to describe the role of Commissioners in explaining grant funding decisions. Tucker said she hoped Commissioners have confidence in the process by which applications are developed and reviewed. WSAC does not have nearly enough money to fund all the applications received. Application forms and grant guidelines are available online. If Commissioners are asked to help constituents to apply for grants, Tucker suggested Commissioners defer that process to WSAC staff.

Commissioner Kessler asked if letters are mailed to applicants before Commissioners ratify the panel recommendations. Tucker said the panel recommendations are not final until they receive Commission ratification. Staff will contact applicants next week about today's grant decisions; staff will ask the Governor to announce the Art Jobs Support grants because they are stimulus funds that may receive greater attention.

ART JOBS SUPPORT GRANTS

Bitsy Bidwell, WSAC Community Arts Development Program Manager, presented recommendations to the Commission (*handout*). The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided these funds to the NEA to preserve and support existing arts jobs within Washington. Bidwell reviewed the panel recommendation.

Commissioner Brown participated in the panel process and commented that many of these organizations have only two or three staff members, only one of which might be full time. In these cases, the funding would literally keep the organization alive. That is true for all the arts organizations recommended for funding. Many are in rural and less well served areas, and may be facing other decisions regarding reductions to budgets and activities. Bidwell said preliminary review of the 98 applications shows that 18 organizations predict no change in their budgets, 41 predict budget reductions, and 39 predicted increases.

Commissioners Sneed, Finnie, Woods, Jones, Brown, Romero, Moxley, and Glatzer recused themselves as having conflicts of interest. Mayumi Tsutakawa, WSAC Grants to Organizations Program Manager, clarified that Commissioners are not voting on the grants that are listed as being directly funded by the NEA (*second packet page 36F*).

Commissioner Kohl-Welles asked for further explanation of the review process and criteria. Bidwell explained the matrix of criteria used by the panel to rate applications. Commissioner Romero asked what factors determined that two organizations were ineligible. Bidwell said one entity did not provide the required proof of non-profit status, as they are a government agency. The other did not provide required evidence that the application was to support and preserve an existing paid position.

Chair Johnson noted the value of coordination between various agencies to streamline the process for arts organizations, and make funding more accessible state-wide.

A MOTION to approve the panel recommendations for funding Art Jobs Support grants was made by Commissioner Jean Mandeberg and seconded by Commissioner Lanie McMullin. No other discussion ensued. The voice motion passed unanimously with eight recusals and no abstentions.

Commissioner Brown said these grants represent a significant percentage of the annual budget of some of these small organizations. He suggested staff encourage the funded organizations to leverage these funds as stamp of considerable approval for other local funding sources.

ARTS IN EDUCATION: ROSTER OF TEACHING ARTISTS

Tucker reviewed the panel recommendations (*packet pp. 37-38*). Jaret participated by phone.

Commissioner Moxley served on the panel and commented that the criteria for this roster has changed as teaching artists are teachers as well as artists.

Commissioner Mandeberg asked if there was discussion of professional development opportunities for artists and the need for training/mentoring. Commissioner Moxley said the panel had a brief discussion about how WSAC could provide professional development but did not reach any conclusions. Jaret said there are no current specific plans to provide this; although there is a clear need and a strong interest, resources are limited. WSAC has supported an effort by Seattle Repertory Theatre to develop a model for teaching artists, first in theater and eventually for all disciplines. That project is currently in the development stage.

Commissioners discussed the small number of applications and the potential for further outreach and assistance with the application process. The purpose of the roster was clarified, as stated in the panel recommendations as submitted.

A MOTION to approve the panel recommendations for the Roster of Teaching Artists was made by Commissioner Elizabeth Conner and seconded by Commissioner Lynn Kessler. There were no conflicts of interest; all voted in favor unanimously, with no abstentions.

GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS: LARGE ARTS INSTITUTIONS PROGRAM - FY 2010-FY 2011

Mayumi Tsutakawa, WSAC Grants to Organizations Program Manager, reviewed the changes to these funding programs, including the Commission's decision a year ago to discontinue the Institutional Support Program as a closed category (*packet p. 39-44*).

Tsutakawa said Commissioner Finnie had planned to participate on the panel, but cancelled due to a family emergency. Andy Fife, Executive Director, Shunpike, served in her place on the panel. Fife

explained that Shunpike assists small and mid-sized organizations in and around Seattle. Fife commented on the limited funds available for this group of applicants.

Commissioners Brown, Carlson, Woods, Romero, Sneed, McMullin, Jones, Moxley, and Bridges stated conflicts of interest and recused themselves.

Commissioners noted this category shows the impact of budget cuts and changes to WSAC grant guidelines.

A MOTION to approve the Large Arts Institutions Program grant panel recommendations was made by Commissioner Robert Glatzer and seconded by Commissioner Larry Haler. It passed unanimously with no abstentions and nine recusals.

GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS: MIDSIZED ARTS ORGANIZATIONS PROGRAM - FY 2010-FY 2011

Bidwell reviewed the new guidelines and review criteria for this category and said the newly defined mid-sized organizations category provides funding to established organizations, with new criteria identified in the panel recommendation (*packet pp. 45-50*).

Commissioner Jones served on the panel and commented that this was a painful process because there are so many well qualified organizations and so little money. WSAC grants express a message of confidence about the organizations that receive funding, and she wonders if WSAC can express such a message in another way. She is concerned about the message these non-funded organizations will receive, or those who will receive funding at a significantly lower level. Commissioners discussed the amounts of the grants and the geographic criteria.

Commissioners Sneed, Woods, Fraire, Moxley, Mandenberg, Jones, Conner, and McMullin identified conflicts of interest and recused themselves.

A MOTION to approve the Mid-sized Arts Organizations Program grant panel recommendations was made by Commissioner David Brown and seconded by Commissioner Monte Bridges. It passed unanimously, with no abstentions, no opposed, and eight recusals.

ARTS PARTICIPATION INITIATIVE – FY 2010

Tsutakawa reviewed the history of the Arts Participation Initiative and the panel recommendations (*handout*). Commissioner Sneed served on the panel and commented on the value of the training provided through this program.

Commissioners identified no conflicts of interest.

A MOTION to approve the Arts Participation Initiative panel recommendations was made by Commissioner Rosita Romero and seconded by Commissioner Brom Wikstrom. It passed unanimously.

PROGRAM ACTIONS: APPROVE CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES

FOLK ARTS: COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING – FY 2010

Tucker reviewed this community project funding contract (*packet p. 51*) to continue WSAC support in partnership with Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (WSPRC) for the Folk and Traditional Arts in the Parks program through this summer (FY 2010). She noted that this partnership is also discussed in the packet under Program News (*second packet p. 69*). Summer 2009 programs include an Asian concert series at Peace Arch State Park in Blaine and the Hip Nic Hip Hop Picnic at Saint Edward State Park in the Seattle area.

No conflicts of interest were identified.

A MOTION to approve \$10,000 in FY 2010 state funding for the WSAC-WSPRC Folk and Traditional Arts in the Parks program was made by Commissioner Kent Carlson and seconded by Commissioner Lynn Kessler. It passed unanimously.

ARTS IN EDUCATION: COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP – FY 2010

Tucker reviewed this contract (*packet p. 52*) for a cooperative partnership with ArtsEd Washington. Jaret said she serves as an ex officio board member for ArtsEd Washington and works directly and collaboratively on a variety of projects. WSAC's funding for ArtsEd Washington was \$7,500 in FY 2009.

No conflicts of interest were identified.

A MOTION to approve \$6,400 in FY 2010 funding for ArtsEd Washington as a Cooperative Partner was made by Commissioner Noël Moxley and seconded by Commissioner Jean Mandenberg. It passed unanimously.

GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS: COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIPS – FY 2010

Tsutakawa said the proposed four partners have been under contract with WSAC for many years (*packet p. 53*). The recommended funding amounts for each partnership reflect the 26 percent cut in WSAC's grant funding. As a direct result of this cut, Artist Trust's contracted services will change to reflect this funding reduction, and focus on fellowship grants.

Commissioners Brown, Finnie, and Romero stated conflicts of interest and recused themselves.

A MOTION to approve \$133,000 in FY 2010-FY 2011 funding for four Cooperative Partnerships as two-year contracts for services was made by Commissioner Elizabeth Conner and seconded by Commissioner Lynn Kessler. It passed unanimously with three recusals.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Tucker said the WSAC Nominating Committee serves two functions: to provide a forum for Commissioners to provide feedback on leadership and effectiveness of the Commission, and to present a slate of officers. This year's committee consisted of Commissioner Wikstrom as Committee Chair, and Commissioners Conner, Jones, and Sneed.

REPORT OF SURVEY OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Wikstrom reviewed the results of the Commissioner Survey conducted by the Nominating Committee (*handout*). A more detailed report will be provided to Commissioners later. Most interviews were conducted by phone with a few by email. Survey responses reinforced the importance of state-wide representation, and Commissioners' interest in having more time for discussion of arts issues.

Commissioners discussed their roles with advocacy and in representing WSAC locally. Because some upcoming Commission Meetings will be held by phone, there is interest in establishing guidelines so these meetings work well.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Wikstrom presented the Nominating Committee's slate of officers:

- Chair – Leann Johnson
- First Vice Chair – Cindy Hill Finnie
- Second Vice Chair – Noël Moxley (Commissioner Sneed is rotating out of office; Commissioners thanked him for his efforts in this role.)

Because Chair Johnson was on the slate as presented, Commissioner Steve Sneed called for a motion and vote. A MOTION to accept the nominating committee's recommendation was made by Commissioner Robert Glatzer and seconded by Commissioner Kent Carlson; it carried unanimously.

Chair Johnson thanked Commissioner Sneed for his role as First Vice Chair, and welcomed Commissioner Moxley to her new role. She thanked the Nominating Committee for their work, and the Commissioners for their vote of confidence.

2010 MEETING SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

Tucker reviewed the proposed 2010 meeting dates and locations (*packet p. 7*); these will be finalized at the November 2009 Commission meeting. Tucker asked Commissioners for their thoughts and suggestions. Commissioner Kessler suggested the March meeting be held later in the month so legislators can participate after the session ends.

The next Commission meeting will be Thursday, November 5 from 9:30 to 11:30 am by phone and internet connection.

Commissioners discussed the costs of conducting Commission Meetings. Tucker said the largest expenses are for travel and meals; room rental costs are minimal. Commissioners discussed various options for meeting locations.

Chair Johnson thanked WSAC staff, Commissioner Moxley, and the TVW crew for all their work to make this meeting successful.

Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 11:10 am; the Commission subsequently reconvened in their adjudicative capacity to consider an appeal from Dr. Jerry McKellar regarding the Art in Public Places Artist Roster.