

WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION – MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 4, 2010 / OLYMPIA, WA

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Leann Johnson, Chair  
Cindy Finnie, First Vice Chair  
David Brown  
Kent Carlson  
Elizabeth Conner  
Andrew Fife  
John Fraire  
Robert Glatzer  
Maureen Greeley  
Senator Jim Honeyford  
Representative Lynn Kessler  
Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles  
Beth Takekawa  
Brom Wikstrom

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Representative Larry Haler  
Jean Mandeberg  
Lanie McMullin  
Noël Moxley, Second Vice Chair  
Rosita Romero  
Steve Sneed  
Shauna Woods

STAFF PRESENT

Kris Tucker, Executive Director  
Mark Gerth  
Lisa Jaret  
Lou MacMillan  
Leslie Pope  
Willie Smyth  
Alice Taylor  
Mayumi Tsutakawa

GUESTS

Mary Langholz, Executive Director, Washington State  
Arts Alliance/Alliance Foundation  
Jens Lund, Washington State Parks and Recreation  
Commission  
Colleen Schafroth, Executive Director, Maryhill Museum  
of Art

## CALL TO ORDER

Chair Leann Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:11 am. Introductions were made around the room. Johnson welcomed Colleen Schafroth, Executive Director, Maryhill Museum of Art, a long-time WSAC grantee. Johnson announced that Commissioners David Brown, Cindy Finnie, Noël Moxley, and Brom Wikstrom had been reappointed by Governor Gregoire. Two Commissioner appointments remain to be filled.

Johnson congratulated Rep. Lynn Kessler who was recently awarded the 2010 William M. Bulger Excellence in State Legislative Leadership Award by the State Legislative Leaders Foundation and the National Conference of State Legislatures. Johnson thanked Rep. Kessler for her dedicated efforts on behalf of the arts for the state of Washington, as a legislator and in her role as WSAC Commissioner. The Washington State Arts Alliance will host a tribute to Rep. Kessler on September 9.

## APPROVE AGENDA

A MOTION to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner David Brown. It was seconded by Commissioner Brom Wikstrom and passed unanimously.

Senator Jim Honeyford introduced Schafroth, who provided an overview on the 70-year history of the Maryhill Museum of Art, and its programs and collections.

## CHAIR'S REPORT

Johnson said the FY 2010 budget challenges discussed by Kris Tucker, WSAC Executive Director, at the May Commission meeting were resolved and will be discussed later in the meeting.

The proposed Commission meeting dates and locations shown on the 2011 Meeting Schedule and Locations document (*packet p. 2*) are preliminary; Johnson asked Commissioners to check their calendars and inform Tucker of any scheduling conflicts. Commissioners will be asked to approve a schedule in November. Due to FY 2011 travel restrictions, the Commission will only meet in person for two meetings per year (August and February); meetings will be held by phone in November, March, and May. Travel restriction impacts on FY 2012 meetings are unknown at this time.

Johnson acknowledged the dedicated efforts of Commissioners Monte Bridges and Bill McKay, who have completed their terms; and Commissioner Kate Jones, who is moving to Colorado to pursue further arts endeavors.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tucker highlighted a few items from her report (*packet pp. 3-5*).

***Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2617*** (ESSHB 2617), passed by the 2010 Legislature and signed by the Governor, prohibits WSAC and other state agencies from expending state general funds to reimburse Commissioner travel expenses. Meeting locations are restricted to state meeting facilities unless approved by the Office of Financial Management (OFM). Use of private facilities requires OFM approval, even those with no rental fee. ESSHB 2617 restrictions apply to any and all meetings of identifiable groups, including boards, commissions, and committees from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. Efforts by Commissioners to reduce travel expenses are much appreciated.

***Anticipating the Next Biennium:*** Tucker said future budget forecasts are dire. WSAC will not request additional program funds, nor request reinstatement of grant funds that were cut. Tucker said the Governor's Office is currently considering calling a special session or requiring across-the-board budget cuts of all state agencies to address the current budget shortfall. An across-the-board cut of four percent equals \$54,000 for WSAC.

***WACs Update:*** WSAC staff and the task force continue work to update WSAC's rules as published in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC Title 30). Proposed rules will be posted online for public comment by mid-September, and there will be a public hearing in mid-October. Commissioners are invited to attend the public hearing at their own expense. Additional review is being conducted by Kathryn Wyatt, WSAC Assistant Attorney General, and by a peer agency. The public comment period ends November 2 and Commissioners will consider adopting all or part of the proposal at the November 4 Commission meeting. Tucker thanked Mark Gerth, WSAC Communications Manager, for managing staff input throughout this process, and asked WACs task force members for their comments. Commissioner Elizabeth Conner said changes to the WACs have clarified the language and reduced the length of the code.

***Arts Participation Leadership Initiative:*** Tucker said Arts Participation Leadership Initiative (APLI), funded by the Wallace Foundation, will host a forum and workshops on audience engagement on Thursday, August 26 with related workshops on Friday, August 27 at McCaw Hall in the Seattle Center. Daniel Windham, Director of Arts at The Wallace Foundation, will welcome attendees; Sandra Jackson Dumont of the Seattle Art Museum will provide additional comments. A November forum will focus on demographics in our region. The February 2011 forum will explore the use of technology to engage arts participants. Registration is free but space is limited; details will be posted on the WSAC website.

***Education Leaders Institute:*** Tucker reported on the recent Education Leaders Institute (ELI) in Chicago. The Washington team focused on improving middle school education and the engagement of middle school students through arts education. The team is exploring how video game design can engage middle school students. The ELI team is meeting next week with representatives from Digipen and to visit Arts Impact in Tacoma. Commissioner Jeanne Kohl-Welles requested that information on WSAC activities such as ELI be sent to all legislators to inform them of our involvement in this type of work.

***Appeals:*** Tucker said appeals letters were received from Music Northwest and Prabha Rustagi Memorial Trust, applicants for the Project Support Program, Round No. 1 grant. These appeals will be addressed according to the current appeals process.

***Poet Laureate:*** Funds from Humanities Washington totaling \$5,000 are available to support the Poet Laureate program, and the balance of funding will consist of Federal and Private funds only. No state general funds would be used to support this program. If approval to reinstate the program is granted by the Governor, Tucker said the Interim Committee will be asked to approve the allocation before the next Commission meeting. Tucker noted that this position is a paid job for an artist, has a positive impact on literacy and children, and is funded by non-state general fund sources.

## 2009-2011 BIENNIUM BUDGETS

Johnson said the FY 2011 budget was approved by the Interim Committee and is brought before the Commission today for ratification. Tucker explained the budget decisions before the Commission include three items: FY 2010 close, FY 2011 budget review and ratification, and consideration of revised grant amounts based on currently available budget information.

### FY 2010 BUDGET

Tucker said Commissioners were informed in May about a possible shortfall due to accounting errors, as identified by OFM. In May, the Commission approved reducing agency expenses, expediting public art billings, and reducing grants by 35 percent across-the-board. The Commission also established a task force to include Commissioners Carlson, Bridges, and Woods. Tucker thanked the task force for their work to understand and sort through complicated government accounting practices. Since then, OFM also identified additional errors that incorrectly transferred public art funds to the state general fund. Because of this discovery, OFM determined that there is no shortfall of funds; the result of these errors was a zero balance.

Tucker said Small Agency Client Services (SACS) is now processing all WSAC accounting, budgeting and payroll functions and is helping to implement new reporting standards to ensure accuracy and eliminate errors. SACS is a division of OFM; their expertise is in helping small agencies comply with OFM requirements. Tucker said that SACS staff is responsive, take their jobs seriously, work closely with OFM, and want their client agencies to be successful. Tucker said beginning with FY 2011, budget reports will not include a column for capital funds related to AIPP activities, as these funds are actually not received directly by WSAC.

Carlson said the task force found these were extremely complicated accounting issues, and SACS provided valuable assistance in the process. The task force is confident that WSAC will not experience these complications again. Commissioners expressed appreciation to those who worked on this situation, and discussed the Commissioners' role and responsibilities regarding the budget. Tucker said a SACS presentation would be helpful for Commissioners, but only if the information falls within the role of the Commission, which is responsible for approving the biennium budget and grants. Tucker said it may be important for the role of the Commission body to be described in the updated WACs. Tucker said Commissioners are protected from personal financial impacts regarding WSAC's budget, and the state regularly engages in an audit process.

Johnson said she was pleased with the collaboration between the task force, OFM, and SACS to understand these complicated accounting processes and determine what budgetary and financial information Commissioners need to know. Carlson said it is important for Commissioners to have confidence in WSAC's budget, and in grants spending and tracking. He suggested SACS provide a briefing at the February 2011 Commission meeting.

### FY 2011 REVISED BUDGET

Tucker said the FY 2011 budget (*packet p. 9*) includes a \$400,000 reduction in the grants budget; a reduction in meeting costs, reduced staffing costs due to vacant and eliminated positions, an increase in National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding, and increased state funding to support the Art in Public Places (AIPP) program to balance these expenditures on an annual basis. Across-the-board cuts of 25 to 28 percent were made to almost all grant programs. Tucker referred to related information in the packet (*pp. 9-11*).

A MOTION to ratify the FY 2011 budget was made by Commissioner Lynn Kessler and seconded by Commissioner Robert Glatzer, and passed unanimously with no abstentions or recusals.

#### FY 2011 REVISED GRANT ALLOCATIONS

Tucker said all grants presented for consideration (*packet pp. 12-21*) were previously approved by the Commission in May, when a 35 percent reduction to all grants was anticipated. The updated information shows changes to the funding amount of each grant.

A MOTION to ratify the FY 2011 revised grant allocations for Cooperative Partnership grants was made by Commissioner Elizabeth Conner and seconded by Commissioner Kent Carlson, with two abstentions due to conflict of interest as declared by Commissioners David Brown (WSAA) and Cindy Finnie (Centrum). The motion passed unanimously.

A MOTION to ratify the FY 2011 revised grant allocations for Midsize Arts Organizations grants was made by Commissioner Maureen Greeley and seconded by Commissioner Brom Wikstrom, with two abstentions due to conflict of interest as declared by Commissioners Jim Honeyford (Maryhill Museum of Art) and John Fraire (Washington State University Museum of Art). The motion passed unanimously.

A MOTION to ratify the FY 2011 revised grant allocations for Large Arts Institutions grants was made by Commissioner Robert Glatzer and seconded by Commissioner Maureen Greeley. Three Commissioners recused themselves: David Brown (Pacific Northwest Ballet, Washington State Arts Alliance); Kent Carlson (Pilchuck School of Glass, Seattle Art Museum); and Beth Takekawa (Wing Luke Asian Museum). The motion passed unanimously.

A MOTION to ratify the FY 2011 revised grant allocations for Arts in Education Consortia and First Step grants was made by Commissioner Maureen Greeley and seconded by Commissioner Elizabeth Conner, with one abstention due to conflict of interest as declared by Commissioner David Brown (Pacific Northwest Ballet). The motion passed unanimously.

A MOTION to ratify the FY 2011 revised grant allocations for Folk Arts Apprenticeship and Fellowship grants was made by Commissioner Maureen Greeley and seconded by Commissioner David Brown, with no abstentions or conflicts of interest. The motion passed unanimously.

#### APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Johnson asked the Commission to approve Consent Agenda items, which include:

- Minutes of May 2010 WSAC Commission meeting (*packet pp. 23-37*)
- Grants to Organizations: Project Support Program – FY 2011 – Round No. 1 (*packet pp. 39-42*)
- Art in Public Places: Deaccession of Artwork (*packet pp. 43-45*)

Johnson asked for conflicts of interest with the Project Support Program. Commissioners Andy Fife (DB Festival) and Kent Carlson (Pratt Fine Arts Center) recused themselves. Johnson asked for comments or corrections to the meeting minutes; two minor grammar corrections were made, one on each of pages 36 and 37.

A MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Commissioner Elizabeth Conner and seconded by Commissioner Lynn Kessler. The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously with two recusals.

## PROGRAM ACTIONS & UPDATES

### ARTS IN EDUCATION - ROSTER OF TEACHING ARTISTS

Lisa Jaret, WSAC Arts in Education Program Manager, presented the Roster of Teaching Artists for Commissioner approval (*second packet pp. 46A-C*). Jaret explained this list represents professional artists who have the necessary skills to work as educators at Washington public schools and who meet the artistic criteria specified in the grant guidelines. If approved, this roster will be listed on WSAC's website as a recommendation for use by Washington public schools. All employment arrangements are made directly between the artists and the public schools.

Teaching artists approved for the roster are accepted for a three-year period. This is the fourth year of the roster, and therefore, the first year of review of existing teaching artists. Panelists are listed in the packet. Commissioner Steve Sneed served on the panel, but is not present today. There were 17 applications and seven are being recommended for the roster. Comments are offered to those who are not being recommended, to provide guidance on specific areas where they may choose to build their strengths. Approximately ten teaching artists who were accepted onto the roster three years ago did not reapply for various reasons. They can reapply when the roster is open again in the future, if they choose to do so.

ESSHB 2617, which has affected travel reimbursement, also had an impact on this panel process. Previously, this would have been a two-day panel in Olympia, but due to travel expense restrictions, it was changed to a conference call followed by a one-day panel in Tacoma.

Commissioners discussed the geographic representation of the roster. Jaret said there are many teaching artists in Seattle and along the I-5 corridor, a strong presence in Bellingham, and scattered representation in Port Townsend, Yakima, Wenatchee, and Spokane. Jaret plans to continue to work with grantees and artists to increase exposure to, and interest in, the Teaching Artists Roster to reach more areas in Washington. Participation increased from the previous open application period, more people are aware of this tool, and more schools are encouraging their teaching artists to apply.

A MOTION to approve the panel recommendations for the Roster of Teaching Artists was made by Commissioner Elizabeth Conner and seconded by Commissioner Andy Fife. It passed unanimously with no abstentions.

### FOLK ARTS PARTNERSHIPS - APPROVE CONTRACT FOR SERVICES

Willie Smyth, WSAC Community Projects Manager, introduced the partnership between WSAC and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (WSPRC) to create the Folk and Traditional Arts in the Parks program (*packet pp. 47-48*). Smyth introduced Jens Lund, Folk and Traditional Arts in the Parks program manager for WSPRC since the partnership began in 2004. WSPRC credits this program with increasing diversity in park attendance. The program also reaches over 17 counties in Washington with over 120 events, including festivals and concerts.

Initially, this program was supported with funds from WSAC and NEA. In subsequent years, program funding has been a mix of grants directly from the NEA, WSAC federal funds from the NEA, and WSPRC funds. This year, an American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) grant paid Lund's salary and Northwest Heritage Resources was a partner in this endeavor; this support ends September 30 and the program will end. A grant to continue the program in 2011 has been submitted to the NEA

for consideration, but the grant would not cover salary expenses; with budget constraints, WSPRC may not be able to support the program manager position.

Tucker explained that Lund is a former state folklorist who has a national reputation for his expertise; he is very familiar with the diverse cultures in Washington, and has contributed much to the success of this program. Tucker supports continuing this partnership and asked Commissioners for their questions and comments.

Brown asked Lund if the programs are likely to continue without the requested WSAC funds. Lund said NEA funds, if approved, would support a limited program, but program administration would be difficult, including publicity, contracts, and outreach.

Takekawa said the state-wide occurrence of events is impressive. Glatzer said he was familiar with Lund's work and excellent reputation. Carlson asked what portion of the overall program budget is represented by the \$7,300 requested from WSAC. Lund said ideally, the program budget would be \$45,000, but in some years the budget has been reduced to the \$20,000 to \$30,000 range.

A MOTION to approve \$7,300 for the WSAC-WSPRC Folk and Traditional Arts in the Parks program for FY 2011 was made by Commissioner Bob Glatzer and seconded by Commissioner Lynn Kessler. Fife asked if this amount is included in the budget ratified by the Commission today. Tucker said the program, along with the amount requested, is included in the Folk Arts Grants and Projects line of the budget. The allocation of \$7,300 is a 27 percent reduction compared with last year. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions and no opposition.

Kessler commented that if everyone donated to fund parks projects with the optional \$5 license tab renewal fee, Washington parks would be in good shape.

#### ART IN PUBLIC PLACES - ACQUISITION METHOD UPDATE

Alice Taylor, WSAC AIPP Program Manager, presented the Curator Roster as part of a strategy to update art acquisition methods for state agencies, universities and community colleges with non-commissionable allocation amounts (*packet p. 49*). At the May 2010 Commission meeting, the Commission approved a new acquisition program, the *State Art Collection in K-12 Schools*. All allocations will be pooled from all qualifying public school construction projects to commission artworks for public schools that are selected through an application process. This pooling process does not include universities, state agencies and community colleges. All public school funds come through the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), so these funds can be pooled. Each community college, state agency, and university is a separate entity, and their funds cannot be combined in a pool. Therefore, a different acquisition method is needed, which is proposed as the Curator Roster.

WSAC has been facilitating curated collections with state agencies, universities and community colleges since 2004. WSAC proposes to create a Curator Roster for use by these partner agencies, which will begin in FY 2011 and is designed to align with the proposed updated WACs. The plan is to open a competition this fall to invite curators to apply to WSAC's Curator Roster. Detailed review criteria for this roster process will be clear and published with the application. A panel will review applications and recommend a list of curators for approval by the Commission.

Community colleges, state agencies, and universities would select a curator from this roster to advise the local selection committee during a direct purchase art acquisition process. The use of a qualified curator benefits the acquisition process by ensuring that artworks align with committee established criteria, are excellent examples of the media, and are scale appropriate for the site. The curator will make a recommendation to the committee for direct purchase from an artist. Honeyford asked what defines a professional artist. Taylor said *professional artist* will be defined in the updated WACs to include training, and experience practicing in their art field and with gallery exhibition.

Taylor said no action is requested by the Commission on this proposed Curator Roster process at this time. Panel recommendations will be brought to the Commission in November.

#### POLICY AND PRIORITIES – FY 2011 AND BEYOND

Johnson introduced a policy brief from the National Association of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) entitled *Why Should Government Support the Arts?*, and asked the Commission to consider the strategies most relevant to Washington state.

- Takekawa asked what percentage of the state general fund is budgeted for WSAC. Tucker said the national average is \$0.96 and Washington is at about \$0.40 per capita; additional calculations will be provided.
- Conner noted that the paper speaks about the value of voter education and how in many states, voters actively choose not to reelect officials because they did not fund arts education. Conner said we might consider how to align or readjust our message.
- Commissioners discussed the rationale for cutting all agencies by the same percentage; Kohl-Welles said for most legislators it is important to set deliberate priorities for the budget and that constituents have different priorities. Kessler noted that the State's constitutionally mandated K-12 priorities leave little margin for other cuts.
- Honeyford said everyone can make a case for what they support and the NASAA article presents the best case scenario of why the arts should receive funding.
- Carlson said the research data and relevance was very helpful; arts have a real economic impact and are an important education aspect of society.
- Greeley said WSAC's Teaching Artists Roster helps her organization and other nonprofits beyond arts organizations.

Commissioners discussed how this information can be shared, with compelling human interest and education messages showing the impact of the arts and relating the arts to other efforts, such as economic development and tourism. Strong case study materials may be needed. Wikstrom asked if grantees provide reports. Tucker said the contract requires grantees to submit a final report including testimonials; we also receive unsolicited comments from grantees and sometimes ask grantees directly for comments.

Johnson recapped the discussion:

- The importance of communicating the relevance and benefits of the arts
- WSAC is the catalyst to communicate these points
- The arts benefit peoples' lives and the economy
- Case studies bring to life the benefit of the arts in our state. Grant reports can be reviewed for data and messages.

Honeyford said legislators are focused on this biennium and the next election. It is very difficult to convince legislators to spend money now that is going to have results ten years from now. He said a case could be made for arts programs that keep juveniles out of prison 15 years from now, but immediate priorities are the bigger challenge. Data about the number of people employed in the arts might be persuasive, but tourism funding is a hard sell.

Kessler said the most effective tool for legislators is an economic impact statement with specific information on the number of jobs, the money generated in state revenue, etc., that can be read at a glance, because staff are overwhelmed by the amount of information received in legislative offices.

Carlson suggested having messages for both scenarios: quick economic facts statements and detailed success stories about the impact of the arts on peoples' lives. Tucker said messages with legislators are customized by WSAC staff. The Creative Vitality Index and Arts Education Research Initiative (AERI) reports provide at-a-glance information.

Commissioners broke into three groups to discuss grant applications and advocacy. Group reports:

**Group 1:** Reviewed Allied Arts Education Project, funded as an Arts Education Consortia grant. Carlson reported that this final report highlights Arts in Education for K-12 students, which is one of WSAC's priorities. Questions about program growth, future plans to grow the program, and sustainability would provide meaningful data for advocacy. The group thought that knowing what difference a grant makes, what would happen if the grant was not there, and developing objective measurements were important. Final report data could be used to create a one-page summary showing who we served, what education programs were served, the results by district, and how the grant fulfilled one or more of WSAC's priorities.

**Group 2:** Reviewed Maryhill Museum of Art, funded as a Midsized Arts Organization grant. Conner reported the group found ways to get both anecdotal and hard fact-type information throughout the grant process – from the application process, throughout the grant period, and afterwards, using specific questions based on what WSAC needs to know. The NEA requires grant recipients to show national impact; we thought to ask the question, "What impact has your organization made state-wide?" In this way, the grant recipient becomes a messenger. Greeley noted the importance of leveraging funds contributes to the organization's capacity and long-term sustainability.

**Group 3:** Reviewed Tacoma Art Commission, funded as a Midsized Arts Organization/Local Arts Agency. Beth Takekawa said the group suggested that grant applications ask open-ended questions but request short answers; stories can be told in many ways. Questions can build applicants' awareness of their legislative district, and can encourage outreach. Brown said that it can be hard to know that a good investment is being made until you know what's happened in the past, and therefore, the track record of a grantee becomes important. Wikstrom suggested seeking accurate measures of participation using methods to ensure accuracy. Johnson noted that data on geographic reach is important for documenting how WSAC reaches state-wide.

- Brown suggested more information about grants to organizations in a legislator's district, how much that was, how their grant amount compared to other districts, and one or two stories from grantees on how those funds translated into an impact in these districts.
- Fife said using the term "investment" changes the nature of the line of inquiry to be more targeted and strategic.
- Johnson suggested explaining how the dollar investment is spent and how it relates to WSAC's priorities and strategic plan.
- Conner said she sees that arts are about transformation, such as taking a dollar and making it into something else that is quantifiable and describable.

Johnson said notes taken during this group discussion will be reviewed by the Interim and Advocacy Committees. Policy ideas outlined in the packet came from previous Commission conversations – dating from about two years ago when Anthony Radich, WESTAF, helped the Commission develop policy messaging. Because there is not enough time to review this today, the Interim Committee will review them and develop a strategy to bring to the Commission.

Johnson said the Commission may reconfigure grant programs to conform to WSAC priorities and resources. Based on earlier discussions, we opted to do an across-the-board cut in FY 2011. In the next few months, the Interim Committee will gather data and background information about grants and other approaches, and will brief the Commission regarding related and issues in anticipation of upcoming decisions regarding possible policy and program changes.

Carlson said he has heard this economic situation may last for five more years, and requires relooking at our priorities and refocusing.

Tucker said we will continue our discussion about policy. She noted that WSAC impacts the state and policy through grants as well as through other approaches. Brown advised caution about narrowing the priorities of activities.

## ADVOCACY

Carlson said much of today's discussion has been about advocacy. A new Advocacy Committee will be appointed by the new Commission Chair. The role of the Advocacy Committee is to facilitate scheduling legislative meetings, such as for Arts Day, and collecting talking points for Commissioners to use during those meetings. Carlson suggested creating "white papers" on various topics including the economic impact of the arts, the educational benefits, and the social impact of art on those with dependency issues. The next Arts Day is February 2, 2011.

Johnson said Greeley started the advocacy process with her first advocacy presentation to the Commission in 2005, leading into the 2006 legislative session. Johnson said at that time, the entire Commission may not have fully understood their role as advocates. Now, Commissioners make progress and improve their advocacy approach each year. Johnson thanked Greeley for her courage, foresight and hard work in starting this process. Wikstrom said he ends each public presentation with encouragement to attend an arts event.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is comprised of Commissioners Jean Mandeberg as Committee Chair, Shauna Woods and David Brown. Brown reported on behalf of Mandeberg; 80 percent of Commissioners were interviewed. Identified as the most important leadership skills were experience with the Commission; ease in talking with legislators; and flexible, creative thinking (*second packet pp. 83-85*). All Commissioners prefer in-person meetings held at various locations around the state; the survey indicated most Commissioners would consider paying their own travel expenses in order to meet in various locations. Positive comments were made about eNews, an arts-related newsletter that is sent monthly by email. Commissioners were reminded that all past issues of eNews are available on WSAC's website.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Brown outlined the proposed slate of officers for 2011, which include Commissioners Cindy Finnie, Chair; Kent Carlson, First Vice Chair; and Elizabeth Conner, Second Vice Chair. Brown asked for additional nominations from the floor; none were brought forth.

A MOTION to accept the proposed slate of officers was made by Commissioner Lynn Kessler and seconded by Commissioner Bob Glatzer. There were no abstentions. The vote was taken by a show of hands, and the motion passed unanimously.

Johnson welcomed the new officers and thanked the Interim Committee for their work and dedication. The Commission body thanked Johnson for her efforts as Chair during the past two years. Tucker said she wanted to underscore how great it has been to work with Johnson and Interim Committee members this year, even though this year has had more challenges than expected.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wikstrom asked about plans for WSAC's Fiftieth anniversary, and Tucker said information on potential plans is forthcoming.

Finnie, assuming her new role as Chair, thanked Johnson and said that working with her has been an incredible experience. Johnson has been a tremendous leader for WSAC during the last two challenging years. Finnie looks forward to next year and said there is still much good work ahead for WSAC. Finnie asked Commissioners to let her or Carlson know if they are interested in being part of the Advocacy Committee.

Finnie adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm.