

**WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION
MAY 12, 2009 ARTS COMMISSION MEETING
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Leann Johnson, Chair
Cindy Hill Finnie, First Vice Chair
Steve Sneed, Second Vice Chair
Monte Bridges
David Brown
Kent Carlson
Elizabeth Conner
Robert Glatzer
Maureen Greeley
Kate Jones
Representative Lynn Kessler
Jean Mandeberg
Bill McKay
Noël Moxley
Rosita Romero
Shauna Woods

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

John Fraire
Senator Jim Honeyford
Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles
Lanie McMullin
Brom Wikstrom

STAFF PRESENT

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

STAFF BY PHONE

Bitsy Bidwell
Janae Huber

GUESTS

Claudia Anderson, Board President, Bainbridge Island
Arts & Humanities Council (BIAHC)
Ellen Bush, BIAHC
Zon Eastes, Executive Director, BIAHC
Mary Langholz, Washington State Arts Alliance
Ellen Whitlock, graduate student, University of
Washington

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Leann Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.

WELCOME

Chair Johnson welcomed Commissioners and led introductions around the room. Zon Eastes, Executive Director, Bainbridge Island Arts & Humanities Council (BIAHC) said there is much public support for arts in the Bainbridge Island community including cultural funding for arts organizations, arts and humanities projects, and public art. BIAHC recently updated its strategic plan, and is moving forward in light of budget cuts. Bainbridge Island is perhaps the only city in Washington with a city plan that includes a specified cultural element; BIAHC, an independent, 501(c)3 entity, has responsibility for implementing the cultural element of the city's plan.

Claudia Anderson, Board President, said the city of Bainbridge Island cut its funding to BIAHC by 62 percent, which will reduce BIAHC programs and services, and reduce the Executive Director position to half time; Eastes will soon be leaving. WSAC grants help fund the Bainbridge Island Arts in Education Community Consortium, which grew from two classrooms and 60 students to 4,000 students in Bainbridge Island and North Kitsap County, includes 52 teaching artists, and reaches every public school student on the island. Anderson thanked WSAC for its support of this program.

Eastes reported that BIAHC recently met with local arts leaders and city council members, where at least one City Council member indicated some regret about the funding reductions. Commissioner David Brown asked Eastes what three compelling things played a role in changing council members' opinions about the value of the work of BIAHC. Eastes said at the recent meeting:

1. each organization shared how their work and lives interact with BIAHC,
2. several people spoke on the impact of BIAHC's cuts on their organizations and the community,
3. council members seemed to recognize the impact of the cuts on programs, people, BIAHC, and arts on the island.

Chair Johnson thanked BIAHC for their good stewardship of Arts in Education (AIE) funding. She commended BIAHC for strength in the face of adversity; she said this will encourage WSAC in moving forward

Commissioner Kate Jones noted Eastes was a music teacher at her Massachusetts boarding school. She reported that Methow Arts Alliance was the successful bidder to purchase the 6.5 acre Forest Service complex that many Commissioners visited at last year's August 2008 Commission meeting. Commissioner Jones said the purchase was accomplished through many efforts, including a single donation of \$1 million. This is a community project with the core elements of arts and culture, sustainable agriculture, and education under the umbrella of economic development and sustainability. Commissioner Elizabeth Conner asked what provoked the one major donor to walk in the door; Commissioner Jones said the donor was encouraged by a close friend, who is a local artist and well acquainted with Jones.

Chair Johnson introduced a YouTube presentation showing spontaneous dancing in a subway to illustrate the power of technology to connect people and ideas world-wide in different ways.

APPROVE AGENDA

A MOTION to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Shauna Woods and seconded by Commissioner Noël Moxley. It passed unanimously.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Johnson asked Commissioners to identify any conflict of interest with items on the Consent Agenda. Commissioners David Brown, Kate Jones, and Monte Bridges recused themselves.

Consent Agenda items include:

- Minutes of February 2009 Meeting (*packet pp. 33-45*)
- Community Arts Development - Professional Development Assistance – Ratify FY09 Grants (*packet pp. 46-47*)
- Arts in Education - Professional Development Support – Ratify FY09 Grants (*packet p. 48*)

A MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Commissioner Maureen Greeley and seconded by Commissioner Robert Glatzer. The motion was approved with three recusals.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Johnson said she appointed a Nominating Committee that will conduct the annual survey of Commissioners for input and ideas to improve Commission activities; the Committee will present a slate of officers at the August Commission meeting (*packet p. 1*). The Nominating Committee includes Commissioners Brom Wikstrom (Committee Chair), Kate Jones, Elizabeth Conner, and Steve Sneed.

Chair Johnson acknowledged Commissioner Brown and Mary Langholz, Washington State Arts Alliance, for their leadership and work to put together the Cultural Congress for Washington State. She said it was an incredible event that provided time to learn about and share ideas for the arts community to move forward with a positive sense of cohesiveness.

Chair Johnson said the Interim Committee is meeting by phone on a regular basis due to the landscape of challenges before WSAC; notes from two meetings were included in the packet. She thanked committee members and Kris Tucker, WSAC Executive Director, for their time and participation. She acknowledged the hard work of WSAC staff.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tucker referred to her report (*packet pp. 3-7*) and a 2009 Legislative Report Update (*handout*). She thanked the Commissioners who helped create and implement a strategy to approach the bills related to public art during this last session. The foundation for a successful strategy started last year through meetings with legislators and others; Arts Day was well-intended and included meetings with legislators to discuss a set group of issues. As specific issues arose during the session, very specific messages and targeted contacts using those relationships allowed WSAC to address these issues successfully. This year's session reinforced the importance of building relationships with legislators over the years. Tucker thanked Commissioners Lynn Kessler, Jim Honeyford and Jeanne Kohl-Welles for their work on behalf of WSAC during the Legislative session.

- **Public Art:** Most public art bills were introduced early in the session and were defeated. A last minute amendment was introduced to the Capital Budget bill (ESHB 1216) restricting the Art in Public Places Program to use only Washington state artists. Although WSAC wants more jobs for

Washington artists, this approach would likely result in similar protectionist reactions from other states, meaning less job opportunities for Washington artists nationwide. Tucker received over 20 comments from state arts agency executive directors, who confirmed these states do not engage in this type of protectionism and had adverse responses to this possible limitation in Washington. WSAC is requesting a Governor veto.

- **Boards and Commissions:** The Governor's Boards and Commissions bill (SB 5995) is on the Governor's desk; this bill does not impact the Washington State Arts Commission. All other boards and commissions bills died in Committee.
- **Other Bills:**
 - Tucker thanked Commissioner Kessler and WSAA for their help to achieve success with SB 5680, which allows nonprofit artistic, scientific, historical, and performing arts organizations to rent their facilities for up to 50 days while maintaining their property tax exemption. This bill was signed into law by Governor Gregoire.
 - Tucker asked Commissioner Kent Carlson to explain Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (SBH 1119). Commissioner Carlson said most endowments are at historically low levels due to the economic situation; the new act outlines requirements to manage funds prudently and gives organizations a way to approach smaller endowments that contain restrictions that are no longer applicable. He said the effective date is after the Governor signs the bill; he will send Tucker further information to put on WSAC's website.

Commissioner Brown acknowledged the work of Commissioner Jeanne Kohl-Welles who was instrumental in helping to get the amendment included that would help colleges and arts organizations, as this is a \$600,000 consideration for Pacific Northwest Ballet this year.

Commissioner Carlson said one of the things that differentiate WSAC from a lot of other Boards and Commissions is that an independent Board is a required part of WSAC's ability to receive National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding; perhaps that fact played a part in legislators leaving the Arts Commission intact.

Commissioner Bridges explained the State Education System bill (ESHB 2261) which redefines basic education and requires two arts credits for graduation. Commissioner Bridges said it is a complicated plan, but the compromise bill may be a blueprint for future education finance reform. Commissioner Kessler said legislators are working hard to redefine basic education, which is provided primarily by the state and is considered the state's "paramount duty" according to Washington's constitution.

Commissioner Jones asked Commissioner Kessler to share the worst and brightest experiences of this session. Commissioner Kessler said literally every program and agency experienced cuts and it was very emotional for those involved; it was the saddest experience she'd had as a legislator in 17 years. Most agencies, including the Arts Commission, received approximately a 26 percent cut. Fortunately, the federal government gave Washington about \$3 million in stimulus funds, with many rules for its use, and these funds were directed towards programs such as education, medical care, and Medicaid.

Commissioner Jean Mandenberg asked Commissioner Kessler for the name of the federal rebate program that gives money back to students, and Commissioner Kessler said she will find out. Commissioner Conner asked for that information too. Commissioner Mandenberg also asked about the position of the

Democratic leadership regarding tax reform; Commissioner Kessler said this year, reform is constricted under Initiative 960 and taxes cannot be raised without a two-thirds vote. In the House, polling indicated the public would not support more taxes for education; for nursing homes, basic health, and hospice, polls indicated support was just barely over 50 percent, which is not enough support to pass new taxes. Initiating a state income tax takes a constitutional amendment and Senator Lisa Brown is researching this possibility.

Tucker said Representative Larry Haler, Richland, was just appointed to the WSAC Commission and plans to attend the August meeting. He is especially interested in economic development and the arts in the Tri-cities area and statewide. Tucker mentioned that two WSAC Commissioner legislators, Senator Jim Honeyford and Representative Lynn Kessler, co-chaired the Heritage Caucus this session; WSAC and the State Historical Society co-staffed the Heritage Caucus. Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles provided valuable advice and support, and introduced bills to support the arts. Tucker thanked WSAC Commissioner legislators for their support.

Commissioner Kessler said Sam Green, Washington State's Poet Laureate, wrote and read a poem specifically for the memorial service of Representative Mary Skinner.

Tucker finished her discussion with a few additional items:

- Building for the Arts received \$11.6 million of its original \$12 request for funding from the capital budget.
- Sam Green, Poet Laureate, has been very busy; Tucker will forward to Commissioners the poem he wrote for Representative Skinner's memorial. Tucker acknowledged Representative Skinner's contribution to establish the Poet Laureate in Washington and said it was fitting Green provided a tribute to her.
- Report on Early Learning in the Arts is complete; WSAC will fund a model project with National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funds in FY2010.
- Americans for the Arts meeting will be held June 17-20 in Seattle; Peter Senge, a business thinker, is a keynote speaker on Fri. June 19. All Commissioners are invited to an executive session on that day, by invitation only, from 3:30 to 5 pm. Senge has a life-long interest in creativity, the arts and sustainability.
- Tucker acknowledged the passing of Peter Donnelly, a mastermind of Building for the Arts and a long-time arts champion, who completely transformed arts funding mechanisms in Seattle.

2009-2011 BIENNIUM: PROPOSALS REGARDING BUDGET, PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

Chair Johnson reminded Commissioners their WSAC role is advocacy, policy, and oversight:

Commissioners are asked to focus on the "what" in policy decision, not the "how." She referred to the Helicon report, *The Economic Recession's Impact on Cultural Organizations in the Puget Sound* (packet pp. 6-29), as relevant to WSAC's mission and calling for WSAC's proactive approach to addressing challenges. Chair Johnson said WSAC's strategic plan, plus leadership and advocacy, are needed.

Chair Johnson asked Tucker to discuss the repositioning proposal (packet #2, DR1-6). Tucker said WSAC is contracting with Helicon Collaborative to survey arts organizations outside the Puget Sound area; Artist Trust has also reported on the recession's impact on artists in Washington. These findings will be

brought to the Commission in August for further discussion on the recession's impact on Washington artists, arts organizations and the effects on WSAC's future.

Tucker said that due to the budget reductions, WSAC must make tough choices to reposition, to do things differently and better, rather than simply downsizing and continuing its current programming with fewer resources. These recommendations are based on the strategic plan and the three pathways of education, community and stewardship. WSAC now faces a state fund reduction of 26 percent in the general fund and expected staffing reductions even while program workloads remain heavy; the public art program is funded by the capital budget; the Wallace Foundation is funding an initiative through FY2013; the NEA is funding a new, one-time grant program to support art jobs.

Tucker said a reduction in staffing will be necessary, but at this point in time, the agency's approved level of full time equivalents (FTEs) is unknown. In the budget passed by the Legislature, agency detail indicates FTEs will be reduced from 17.6 to 11.0; however, the Office of Financial Management (OFM) makes the final FTE determination; Tucker is working with OFM on this. WSAC currently has 16.75 filled FTEs. To balance the budget for 2009-2011, WSAC must expect there will be some staffing loss and some program decisions made today will also influence staffing.

Noting the strategic plan, Tucker asked the Commissioners to consider how WSAC can be successful in a future that is not what we hoped it would be, to position WSAC for excellence, and to fulfill a role no one else is fulfilling to advance the arts across the state; to do some things well, even though we cannot do everything. Tucker identified four priorities for action:

1. Smarter Grants
2. Community Investments
3. Commitment to K-12 Arts Education
4. Public Art Pooling and Conservation

Smarter Grants: With reduced funding, WSAC must "brand" grants to be more relevant and provide clear guidance to those reviewing applications. As WSAC tracks the return on investment, it is important to show that grant funds come from the Legislature and the NEA, and are distributed to benefit the state as a whole. Tucker proposes:

1. Award fewer operating support grants but establish a baseline minimum for general operating support of \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year for large institutions and \$6,000 to \$8,000 per year for midsized organizations.
2. Develop a responsive and flexible Project Support Program with more funding, and consider how this program can provide some "recession response." Currently this program has two application deadlines annually; this may be reconsidered due to staffing reductions.
3. Implement a one-time NEA Art Job Support program.
4. Discontinue the Professional Development Assistance Program (PDAP) grant.

Commissioners discussed how hard it is to get people to understand and grasp the concept of doing less. Although WSAC may be doing less, it needs to focus on seeking excellence and the highest quality in that work. In this way, WSAC can be a model for constituents.

There was discussion about operating support grant minimums and Commissioners considered the impact of funding on large and mid-sized organizations. New grant guidelines require grantees to achieve and show a specific public benefit for funded programs.

Commissioner Carlson said the Interim Committee discussed whether it was the role of the Commission to supply general operating expenses, or if WSAC should require applicants to specify what would be accomplished with WSAC funds, so that WSAC can align grants with our strategic plan.

Commission Moxley noted the importance of general operating support “to keep the lights on and the doors open;” she said this type of funding is difficult to attain, and may be more necessary than ever during these economic times.

Commissioner Greeley said WSAC should “brand” grants not only through the form and format, but also by supporting specific community programs and showing authorizers how WSAC is making a difference in communities. Commissioner Brown noted that WSAC operating support grant contracts require that WSAC be visibly credited for every program given by an organization receiving an operating support grant, not just a single project; branding opportunities exist in large arts organizations as well as small ones.

Community Investments: Tucker proposed three major routes to achieve this priority.

1. Reach all Washington counties: Make an intentional, across the agency effort to reach all counties every year, and track the impact. This will require varied efforts appropriate to each county, including arts in education consortia, a public art program, training teachers, building the teaching artists’ rosters, grants, folk arts programs, perhaps a Poet Laureate event.
2. Establish an initiative that supports significant local collaborative art and cultural projects: Tucker envisions four to six local collaborations as two-year commitments to integrate the arts into local priorities at a level WSAC has not achieved in the past. WSAC would provide funding and professional development. Examples of projects could involve an arts component of an urban renewal effort or a cultural tourism effort, using a partnership approach. Tucker said the idea must be developed further in the first half of FY2010, with funding in FY2010 and FY2011.
3. Provide technology tools to assist organizations in advancing the arts: Use WSAC’s website and other means to provide access and exposure to information and technology. Possible approaches include online tools for recession planning; local data collection for the Creative Vitality Index (CVI) for a select number of cities, and a do-it-yourself technical assistance component, where WSAC provides formats that local arts organizations can personalize and use, such as a website template.

Commissioners noted these proposals need further development, but agreed there is tremendous potential for WSAC. Commissioner Bridges said, “It jumps out at me – this is the future.” Technology could reduce the cost of making an impact, and increase the ability to communicate together. Commissioners had concern about adding more activities to WSAC’s role at a time when there will be fewer resources.

Commissioner Conner asked how community would be defined, and whether one or more of the community projects might be defined by something other than geographic region. Commissioners supported the idea to touch every county, not necessarily with money, but with some sort of activity or

recognition. Commissioner Romero said Commissioners could be ambassadors in their own communities.

Commissioner Sneed suggested WSAC should consider its current work tasks and determine what can be discontinued in order to have resources to pursue technology-based goals.

Commissioner Carlson said that ending the professional development grants will impact artists' access to information. He suggested using the WSAC website to provide information to artists, and to encourage social networking. It might be an interim process, where the focus is more on young artists than established ones and providing important information to support their growth, such as copyright protection, which is something young artists might not yet know.

Commitment to K-12 Arts Education: Tucker said WSAC arts education partnerships have been effective with remarkable results, as shown earlier with stories from BIAHC. The Governor, legislators, and grant recipients recognize this as the right investment at this time. The pilot project in early learning would continue into FY2010, and partnerships with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the Education Service Districts would be nurtured.

Commissioners were enthusiastic about continuing the current direction in K-12 Arts Education. In response to a question, Tucker further explained that the early learning pilot program is the result of a decision a year ago to dedicate \$10,000 in NEA funds to projects that explore potential roles for WSAC in early learning. An assessment of opportunities was completed, and a pilot project will be completed this calendar year. WSAC requested a proposal from Arts Impact, which works with the Puget Sound Education Service District to conduct K-12 education programs.

Public Art Pooling and Conservation: Tucker explained that the public art program is funded through the capital budget with the exception of some state money to fund collections management, conservation, and maintenance. Artwork acquisition is funded entirely by the state capital budget.

1. **Pooling:** Smaller capital allocations can be pooled to provide fewer, better, more strategically placed artworks for the State Art Collection. Currently K-12 schools with small capital allocations put their funds into a pool. Through an application process, contributing schools that have a commitment to stewardship and a willingness to work with the Art in Public Places (AIPP) process may receive artwork. Applicants that do not receive artwork through this process can have access to art by choosing from artworks that have been returned to WSAC for various reasons. Staff seek to pool more artwork allocations.
2. **Conservation:** Conservation and restoration, even in a tight budget environment, is more cost effective if addressed from the beginning of the process, and by engaging in preventative maintenance. During development of artwork, a conservator will consider preservation issues to ensure correct installation, accurate and detailed WSAC records related to the piece, and ways to increase the longevity of the artwork. This approach relates to the stewardship pathway.

Commissioners asked for clarification of pooling. Alice Taylor, WSAC Art in Public Places Program Manager, said currently 16 to 20 school districts have pooled their allocations; each had an artwork budget too small to commission an artwork through the AIPP process. Five of those schools applied for pooled funds to allow them to commission artwork. Staff is proposing that all K-12 public school

artwork allocations would be pooled; this is allowed by legislation. Tucker said staff will be working to get support from OSPI for this state-wide pooling approach for smaller allocations.

STRATEGIC APPROACHES

Tucker said discussed five strategic approaches that would focus on efficiencies for WSAC:

1. Rethink Use of Technology
2. Maximize Impact of Wallace Excellence Project
3. Establish a Promotions Plan
4. Internal Efficiencies
5. Commissioner Expenses

Rethink Use of Technology: The recent report on the impact of the economic downturn stated more arts organizations are using technology to distribute information and create other efficiencies; these might include record-keeping and online grant application systems. WSAC will need to contract with outside sources for some of the technology expertise needed.

Maximize Impact of Wallace Excellence Project (WEP): The Wallace Foundation has agreed that the program will be renamed to connect the scope of work to other WSAC projects and ensure the program continues past the funding period. Wallace investments will be repositioned to relate to WSAC priorities. Tucker said Commissioners should expect to get regular briefings on this initiative to keep informed and think about how this information could relate to WSAC goals.

Establish a Promotions Plan: Develop and use documents and data about WSAC investments that effectively promote the arts, develop public understanding of the value of the arts, document return on WSAC investments in the arts, and communicate priorities and investments in Washington communities. The intent is to determine a few projects to pursue that tell the story of the arts in Washington State in a meaningful way. This might include communications about WSAC's arts-based accomplishments and achievements during our 50th anniversary in 2011.

Commissioners offered ideas including:

- activities that focus on multiples of 50 to recognize WSAC's 50th anniversary
- a project modeled on National Public Radio's StoryCorps project
- developing stories about the impact of budget cuts

Internal Efficiencies: Tucker explained that making payments through electronic funds transfers (EFT), not checks or warrants, will save approximately \$15 per transaction; the EFT deposits funds directly into a specified account. Tucker asked Commissioners to consider submitting an electronic funds transfer request form for travel reimbursements. WSAC will make this transition for grant and contract payments where possible to save money, eliminate paper, and reduce staff time requirements.

Commissioner Expenses: Tucker proposed changing the Commission meeting schedule to hold five meetings in the fiscal year; two by phone and three in person. The August 2009 meeting will be held in Yakima as scheduled. The November meeting would be conducted as a two-hour conference call using the phone and computer. The February meeting in Olympia, along with Arts Day, and the May and August meetings would remain in-person meetings. An additional meeting by phone/computer would be held sometime in March. This change will save approximately \$5,000 per year in meeting expenses.

Commissioners discussed the web conference idea and asked the cost. A two-hour web conference will cost approximately \$300 per meeting. Commissioner Mandeberg asked how a phone meeting would be accessible to the public. Tucker said the meeting information would be published and staff would provide opportunities for the public to participate. It was suggested that the February Commission meeting be held the day before Arts Day, so that Commissioners can review issues and prepare for meetings with legislators; Commissioners expressed general agreement with this suggestion. Commissioner Kessler recommended that Arts Day be scheduled in consideration of the Legislative calendar.

Tucker discussed how the repositioning recommendations relate to the strategic plan's three pathways:

- **Education:** With reduced funding, this proposal focuses on K-12 education, not adult learning. It also includes an emphasis on promoting the arts by using WSAC information and data, and linking the arts to local issues. She noted that last year's planning process resulted in several recommendations about adult learning, but the K-12 focus is a higher priority.
- **Communities:** With reduced funding, the emphasis is on diverse quality arts experiences and building local capacity. The Arts Participation Initiative (API) will be discontinued after the FY2010 round of grants, which will use NEA funds. International cultural exchanges will not be actively pursued. Accessibility and other Americans with Disabilities Act issues will be pursued through partnerships where possible, but there will not be a focused strategy.

Chair Johnson suggested technology might be used to pursue the international cultural exchange concept.

- **Stewardship:** With reduced funding, the State Art Collection is the stewardship priority. It is also important to support arts organizations with grants that are relevant, accountable, and efficiently administered. WSAC must support artists through partnerships. The Professional Assistance Development Program (PDAP) will be discontinued in FY2010.

Commissioner Woods asked if WSAC will be criticized for reducing the focus on accessibility. Tucker said in the strategic plan under accessibility, WSAC mentions providing accessibility training and site assessments. While WSAC does not currently have funds to do this, we might accomplish part of this goal through partnerships or with technology. Woods suggested that technology can help WSAC achieve the first point in WSAC's strategic plan that states, "provide training and information to assist cultural organizations in achieving full compliance with ADA regulations." Accessibility policies will be stated in grant guidelines and contracts. Chair Johnson noted that the Commission recently approved an accessibility complaint procedure.

Commissioner Jones asked if WSAC might encourage grantees to invest in professional development or education for their staff. Tucker said that while PDAP will be discontinued, WSAC will support some education opportunities for grantees, such as an AIE consortia grant. WSAC also can use technology to share information, and as a form of training and professional development.

Chair Johnson thanked Tucker for creating this overview and noted there were few issues about the overall direction, except for grant funding levels. WSAC grant guidelines have been published and

distributed for two-year grants; exact funding amounts have not been determined. Chair Johnson said the various grant related comments were valid, although not part of the overall adoption of these recommendations.

A MOTION to approve the 2009-2011 Biennium: Director's Proposal for Repositioning document was made by Commissioner Robert Glatzer and simultaneously seconded by Commissioners Jean Mandenberg and Lynn Kessler. Commissioner David Brown clarified that a vote in favor means Commissioners authorize staff to allocate firm resources to this proposal. Chair Johnson and Tucker agreed. Chair Johnson called for a voice vote. All were in favor. There were no opposed and no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Johnson thanked Commissioners for their good work and candid discussion, recognizing this as a monumental moment in WSAC history.

BUDGET-RELATED ACTIONS

Chair Johnson said there are too many unknown variables (*see packet #2 pp. B1-3*) to allow WSAC staff to prepare a FY2010 budget for Commissioner approval for this meeting. However, there are three specific program related allocations to be approved and she turned the discussion over to Tucker.

Tucker asked Commissioners to approve the distribution of funds as shown on p. B1 for Arts in Education, Project Support and Folk Arts grants based on a preliminary estimate of state funding. The AIE grants include state and federal money (First Step and Consortia). Project Support grants are for the first round of a two-round cycle, so Tucker said the PSP budget for FY2010 could be adjusted in the fall, if needed. The Folk Arts grants are paid entirely with NEA funds. There is a slight increase in NEA funds this year (*see B-2*) due to congressional action, thanks to Congressman Dicks and President Obama. Tucker said WSAC has asked for an extension for use of NEA funds to the end of calendar year 2009 (*see B-3*).

Commissioners are not being asked to approve the allocation of NEA funding at this time. The budget is consistent with earlier discussion today including funding for Project Support grants, a reduction in grants to large and mid-size organizations, and support for local arts agencies and community collaborations. The Cooperative Partnerships category supports Artist Trust, Arts Northwest, Centrum, and Washington State Arts Alliance Foundation. American Masterpieces grants that funded programs in rural communities was completed in FY2009. In FY2009, additional one-time PDAP scholarship funds supported the Americans for the Arts convention in Seattle.

A MOTION to approve the specific allocations outlined on page B-1 was made by Commissioner Shauna Woods and seconded by Commissioner Steve Sneed. The motion passed unanimously.

PROGRAM ACTIONS

ART JOB SUPPORT (NEA STIMULUS FUNDING)

Tucker said the proposed guidelines for NEA funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 allows WSAC to establish a one-time initiative to support jobs in the jobs, whether salaried or contracted (*see packet pp. 49-50*). Additionally, Western States Arts Federal (WESTAF) will receive art jobs money that is available to Washington arts organizations through WSAC's application process; WESTAF guidelines and criteria are a little different. WSAC Art Job Support grants will provide up to

\$5,000 for contractor positions and up to \$15,000 for full time positions. Matching funds are not required. WESTAF grants will be up to \$50,000.

For WSAC's art jobs support funding, application review criteria include:

- Relevance of the position to WSAC priorities (arts education, participation in underserved communities, building capacity, protecting/presenting diverse cultural resources)
- Management of the applicant organization
- Sustainability of the requested position; importance of the requested position to the mission of the organization
- Public participation in the organization's programs and services; evidence of significant support from the public.

Consideration will be given to geography so WSAC can distribute the money throughout the state as much as possible. Organizations can only receive one arts stimulus grant (from the NEA directly, WESTAF, WSAC, or a local arts agency); for this reason, applicants may need to decide among two or more potential awards. The NEA will approve their grants in late June. Both City of Seattle and King County have applied for NEA funds to regrant to arts organizations in their regions and, if either or both entities receive a grant, then organizations in those areas will have another opportunity to apply for funds. WSAC and WESTAF will approve grants in August. WSAC will use the CultureGrants© online grant application system offered to all state arts agencies in the Western region by WESTAF at no charge. Tucker asked Commissioners to spread the word about this initiative.

Commissioners discussed the timing of WSAC or WESTAF grant application decisions, whether grantees will be clearly informed of acceptance deadlines, and if those deadlines will be coordinated among the various organizations offering grants. Tucker said that if Commissioners approve the motion today then the guidelines may be published next week; applications will be due in early July after the NEA announces its decisions, and grants will be reviewed so that panel recommendations can be approved at the August Commission meeting. If King County and/or Seattle receive NEA funds to redistribute, their grant decision timelines will be congruent with WSAC's.

Commissioner Jones said that it is a burden, especially for small organizations, to complete multiple applications for the various granting entities. Tucker clarified that only King County and Seattle organizations may have the option between five grants. In other parts of Washington, only three grants are available (NEA, WSAC and WESTAF); because WSAC and WESTAF will use the same application, there are no more than two different types of applications for most arts organizations.

Tucker clarified the NEA requires that the position be in a nonprofit organization; government entities do not qualify. If an arts organization is part of a city or county government, then it would be considered a government entity and would not be eligible. Mayumi Tsutakawa, WSAC Grants to Organizations Program Manager, asked if a tribal government would be eligible and Tucker said she would check on that.

A MOTION to approve the Art Job Support guidelines as proposed was made by Commissioner Monte Bridges and seconded by Commissioner Shauna Woods. Chair Johnson called for further discussion; none was forthcoming. The motion passed unanimously.

ARTS IN EDUCATION: APPROVE PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS-COMMUNITY CONSORTIA AND FIRST STEP GRANTS
Community Consortia Grants: Lisa Jaret, WSAC Arts in Education (AIE) Program Manager, presented the panel recommendations (*packet #2, pp. AIE1-4*). The panel reached a consensus of percentage funding for each tier and Jaret adjusted grant award amounts in keeping with panel recommendations once the budget had been approved and available state funds were known. All grantees will now begin a two-year cycle. Six applicants from last year were recommended for two-year funding and had to reapply this year in order to align with the new funding cycle, as approved at the November 2008 meeting. Commissioners requested these six applicants be awarded funding for FY2010 based on last year's panel recommendation, since those levels of funding were already approved. Funding for FY2011, however, is based on this year's panel recommendations. Scores for these six organizations varied between the two years and Jaret provided information to show how the Commission's recommendation is being taken into account. (This split applies only to these six applicants who were "off-cycle;" all other applicants are being recommended for funding for both FY2010 and FY2011 based on this year's panel ratings.)

Jaret asked Commissioner Conner, a panelist for Consortia grants, for comments. Commissioner Conner said this process was extraordinarily complicated, and the panel offered diverse perspectives and good discussion. Some applications showed communities are stepping up to address current challenges with specific, well thought-out strategies. The panel looked for applications geared towards sustainability. She said it was hard work, and a revelation to see how complex partnerships can be. She thanked staff for a well facilitated process.

Commissioner Woods asked if smaller requests can help organizations reach their full capacity. Commissioner Conner said there were circumstances where it was obvious that small amounts of money would be used with significant impact.

First Step Grants: Jaret reviewed panel recommendations (*packet #2, pp. AIE1-4*), and said this smaller, one-year grant category had nine applications. The first tier is funded at 100 percent; the second tier at 80 percent. Jaret said Commissioner Lanie McMullin served on the panel, but was not present to speak about the process.

Commissioner Brown asked if WSAC staff provide feedback to organizations that did not score very high. Jaret explained that notes from the panel review include panel comments about how applicants addressed grant criteria; Jaret strives to explain the outcome with a one-on-one discussion with grant managers of organizations not funded, or that receive less funding than requested.

Commissioner Greeley asked if the funding amounts presented were solid, given the unknown state of WSAC's FY2010 budget. Tucker confirmed the numbers are fairly solid. These grants align with WSAC priorities for FY2010 and, if necessary, Tucker said some adjustments to the budget could be made to meet these commitments.

Chair Johnson thanked Commissioner McMullin for serving on the panel and Jaret for a thorough and complete job in making the outcomes clear to the Commission. Commissioners Bridges, Brown, Jones and Woods identified their conflict of interest and intent to abstain from the vote.

A MOTION to approve the FY2010 funding recommendations from the AIE grant panels was made by Commissioner Maureen Greely and seconded by Commissioner Noël Moxley. The motion was approved with four abstentions.

FOLK ARTS: APPROVE PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY10 APPRENTICESHIP AND FELLOWSHIP GRANTS
Chair Johnson said she was on this panel; for her, the experience affirmed that WSAC staff and panelists have a high level of content expertise to review these applications, and that the review of applications was thoughtful and well done.

There are two categories to approve, the *Folk Arts Apprenticeship* Awards that support the teaching of traditional heritage arts by master artists to students from the cultural communities from which the art forms originated, and the *Folk Arts Fellowship* Awards that represent “lifetime achievement” awards for community contributions and excellence within a traditional art form (*handout*). A total of \$25,000 was available for the Apprenticeship awards and \$10,000 for the Fellowship awards.

A MOTION to approve the FY2010 Folk Arts Apprenticeship and Fellowship grant funding recommendations was made by Commissioner Shauna Woods and seconded by Commissioner Lynn Kessler. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES: DEACCESSION OF ARTWORK

Taylor presented on behalf of Janae Huber, WSAC Collections Manager, who joined the meeting by conference call. The first packet contained an overview (*packet p. 51*) and a more comprehensive handout was sent in the second packet (*packet #2 pp. 51A-C*). Taylor provided an overview of the deaccession process. When the warranty period of a newly commissioned artwork expires, the responsibility for the care of artwork is transferred from the assigned acquisition project manager to Huber.

In 2006, the Commission adopted *ArtCare: A Collections Management Framework for the Washington State Art Collection*, which includes the deaccession policy. Deaccession is the formal name for the process of removing an artwork from a collection, which is a standard aspect of collections management and is anticipated in any collection, especially those with broad public access. *ArtCare* states:

“Deaccession and disposal are legitimate parts of the formation and care of the State Art Collection. These actions help maintain the integrity of the State Art Collection.”

Works of art are removed from the State Art Collection when reasonable cause has been established by one of the following:

- the artwork has been lost or stolen,
- the artwork presents a safety hazard in its present condition;
- conservation and restoration of the artwork’s structural integrity is
 - technically infeasible (beyond repair);
 - disproportionate to the value of the artwork;
- the environment or architectural support (on which a site-specific artwork depends) is to be destroyed or modified as to compromise the artist’s intentions.

Commissioners Brown, Carlson, Conner, and Jones served on the Deaccession panel and unanimously recommend the deaccession of three works from the State Art Collection:

1. **Lee Kelly, *Gate I, 1969-70***: removed and destroyed during a construction project
2. **Thomas Lindsey, *Landed Bridge Series, 1979***: significant corrosive damage throughout the piece
3. **Elizabeth Franko, *Salish Symbols: Images of Life on Earth, 1978***: an artwork permanently on a wall that will be destroyed in a construction project

Commissioner Brown said the situation surrounding the Lee Kelly work was most interesting; no one at the Evergreen School District could discover what really happened to the artwork. WSAC staff involved the artist in the process of providing replacement art. The school district now requires someone from their capital projects office to sit on the art selection committee to increase awareness and avoid repeating this type of situation.

Commissioner Conner said this process takes a significant amount of staff time, and that investment played a role in steering the Kelly artwork situation toward a positive outcome. Taylor said Huber takes the deaccession process seriously and is committed to the process to ensure thorough recommendations to the panel.

Commissioner Glatzer asked why a Commission vote was necessary; Huber explained the significance of this decision and the importance of the panel recommendation.

Commissioner Romero asked why a school that lost artwork would be given another artwork and Huber said this was negotiated with the school district. The interagency agreement has since been revised with a focus on stewardship. Commissioner Conner said because of the nature of public art being in the public realm, it is not unusual to lose public art.

A MOTION to accept the recommendation of the Deaccession Committee to deaccession the three cited artworks by Lee Kelly, Thomas Lindsey, and Elizabeth Franko was made by Commissioner David Brown and seconded by Commissioner Rosita Romero. The motion passed with no abstentions.

PROGRAM UPDATES

GOVERNOR'S ARTS & HERITAGE AWARDS

Commissioner Woods reported that a committee including herself, Commissioner Mandenberg and Mark Gerth, WSAC Communications Manager has discussed the Governor's Arts and Heritage Awards for FY2010. Several key discussion points include:

- The Governor's mansion is the preferred location for an invitation-only reception for recipients and a small number of their friends and family. Attendance must be limited for this venue due to capacity issues. The Rotunda or Columbia Room in the Legislative building may be used for a separate, larger, public awards ceremony and performance.
- In addition to the Poet Laureate doing a reading, a former GAHA recipient will be asked to perform; current recipients will also be given the opportunity to perform or display artworks.
- The WACs establish eligibility criteria: a nominee must be 1) a current resident of the state of Washington, or have been a resident of the state of Washington during the time the contributions were made, and 2) not have been a previous recipient. The committee discussed changing the WACs to allow organizations who received an award more than 20 years previously to be nominated again.

- Eligibility criteria will remain the same as previous; added consideration for the impact of the contribution of an artist or organization. For artists, an additional consideration of the quality of the artworks produced was added.
- Geographic diversity is a consideration, though not a requirement.

To review nominations, the panel will include three Commissioners (Woods, Mandeberg and McKay) and two citizens chosen to represent a broad geographic distribution of Washington State.

This year, awards will be considered in the following categories: Individual Artist, Individual Heritage, Arts Organization, Heritage Organization, Arts Education (individual or organization), and Supporter (individual or organization). Commissioners who are not on the panel are encouraged to make nominations and actively solicit nominations. A nomination form will be available on the WSAC website at a future date, based on the GAHA timeline.

Commissioner Greeley suggested that GAHA nominations be opened to past recipients next year, for WSAC's 50th year anniversary. Past applicants should be invited to the ceremony. Commissioner Mandeberg agreed GAHA could be linked with WSAC's promotions plan, and suggested previous and future recipients could be asked or required to list the WSAC logo on their websites. Gerth said he plans to provide a more complete picture of the GAHA recipients' accomplishments on the WSAC website.

Chair Johnson thanked Commissioners Woods and Mandeberg, and Gerth for their responsiveness to last year's feedback.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Elizabeth Conner and seconded by Commissioner Noël Moxley. The motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Johnson thanked Commissioners for their work during the last several months; WSAC is on the right path regarding advocacy.

The next meeting will be August 4 and 5 in Yakima; Commissioner Moxley has promised hot weather, a good meeting location, and arts-centered entertainment for Tuesday night, August 4. Tucker said the Washington State Arts Alliance/Foundation board will participate in part of the Yakima meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 pm.