



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: February 9, 2016

2016 Legislature

The 2016 Legislative Session was convened on Monday, January 11. We will participate in the weekly Heritage Caucus every Wednesday at 7 am in the Cherberg Building, Rooms A-B-C.

House Bill 2583 has been introduced to authorize a local government to designate a creative district within its territorial boundaries subject to verification as a state-certified creative district by the Washington State Arts Commission. Current sponsors (as of 1/26) include Representatives McBride, Haler, Zeiger, Stambaugh, Moscoso, Bergquist, Fitzgibbon, Peterson, Van De Wege, Springer, Santos, Goodman, Hickel, and Tharinger.

Agency Budget / Finances

A supplemental budget request was submitted to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) in October 2015. In December, we received word that both requests are in the Governor's budget and slated to be fully funded. We requested funding for a contracted lease rate increase, which starts in FY 2017. The five-year lease was re-negotiated in 2014 and expires July 31, 2019. Starting August, 2016 the rate increases by \$1,136 per month. The decision package requested funding for the lease increase, for an additional \$12,500 for rent (11 months). ArtsWA also requested additional funding to pay for Mayumi Tsutakawa's leave buyout, as a result of her retirement in December 2015. Total request was \$23,000. The Legislature will need to ratify the supplemental budget before the end of the session on March 9, 2016.

National Endowment for the Arts: Chair Jane Chu's Visit to Washington State

The dates for Chair Chu's visit to our state are set for February 16-17, 2016. Working closely with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) staff, with Congressman Kilmer's office, with key partners around the region and with ArtsWA staff, we have a very full, but meaningful agenda for our two days with the Chair.

The first day will include:

- A breakfast meeting at the Broadway Center in Tacoma (Partners: The Broadway Center for the Performing Arts / Congressman Kilmer)
- The Hot Shop Heroes program at the Museum of Glass (Partners: The Tacoma Museum of Glass / Congressman Kilmer)
- Port Townsend where we will visit the Centrum Campus, including Copper Canyon Press, hear from the Blue Heron Middle School regarding the Tales, Texts and Theater program, culminating with a lunch time presentation / conversation with the NEA Chair (Partners: Centrum/Copper Canyon Press/Blue Heron Middle School)
- Bainbridge Island Museum of Art visit / reception (Partners: Bainbridge Island Museum of Art and Congressman Kilmer)

Executive Directors Report: Feb 9, 2016

The second day will include:

- A tour and presentations at 12th Avenue Arts in Seattle's Capitol Hill District (Partners: 12th Ave Arts/ Seattle Office of Arts and Culture)
- 4Culture hosted luncheon (20 people) with presentation by the "Creative Justice" Project (Partner: 4Culture)
- Site Visit: Tashiro Kaplan Artist Live Work Space
- Franklin High School / Songwriting Challenge site visit. See a workshop, have an opportunity to talk with some of the students as well as with members of the 5th Ave Theatre staff. (Partners: 5th Ave Theatre / Seattle Office of Arts and Culture)
- Press interview with Chair Chu (location: Franklin High School or nearby location TBD)
- Site visit: The Wing Luke Museum-tour exhibits, hear story of the Museum from Beth Takekawa, Director, and hear from some of the people leading the Seattle Chinatown-International District Preservation and Development Authority Our Town project (Partners: The Wing Luke Museum / PDA/Seattle Office of Arts and Culture/4Culture)
- Reception at The Wing Luke sponsored by Seattle Arts Commission and the Seattle Office of Arts and Culture
- Town Hall: Wing Luke Community Hall (110 people)

Governor's Arts and Heritage Awards

This event took place once again at Teatro ZinZanni in Seattle. Attendance was approximately 220. First Lady Trudi Inslee joined us, and presented the Young Arts Leader award to Ben Hunter, founder and director of Community Arts Create in Columbia City. Other winners included Heidi Arbogast, Program Manager at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture in Spokane, recipient of the Arts Educator award; Jamie Valadez from the Olympic Peninsula's Elwha Tribe, who received the Individual Heritage award; Linda Hartzell, Artistic Director at Seattle Children's Theatre, winner of the Individual Arts Award; Northwest Heritage Resources, recipient of the Heritage Organization award; and Northwest Sinfonietta, winner of the Arts Organization award. ArtsWA was more involved in the programming of the evening this year, aiming to highlight some of the best and brightest talent in our state. This included Mac Potts, a young, accomplished piano player and recent graduate from the School for the Blind; Extraordinary Futures Break Dancers; and members of the Northwest Sinfonietta performing the Brahms Piano Quartet No. 1, Op. 25-4.

Folk and Traditional Arts

A "Visioning Retreat" was convened in Olympia on January 11, 2016. Karen Hanan and Miguel Guillén, Grants Program Manager attended. The aim was to discuss the possibility, mechanisms and logistics of establishing a Center for Washington Cultural Traditions in our state. The day included work on the development of a mission statement for the Center, a start on outlining what the work of the Center could include, what the role of the Advisory Board or Committee to the Center could be, and consideration of the roles of the partners - Humanities Washington, ArtsWA, 4Culture and Northwest Heritage Resources. Sustainable funding was also a topic. The day was facilitated by consultants Melanie Beene and Robert Baron.

Poet Laureate

Governor Inslee has approved appointment of Dr. Tod Marshall as Washington State Poet Laureate for a two-year term beginning February 2016. Tod is already filling dates on his calendar including today's Board meeting, a meet and greet with Governor Inslee on February 10, and a date with the Poetry out Loud finals in Tacoma on March 5, where he will be a judge for us.

Executive Directors Report: Feb 9, 2016

The Poet Laureate helps build awareness and appreciation of poetry—including Washington’s rich legacy of poetry—through public readings, workshops, and other activities in communities throughout the state. The State Poet Laureate position was established by the 2007 Legislature. Again this year ArtsWA will partner with Humanities Washington to manage aspects of the Poet Laureate program.

Administration

Heide Fernandez-Llamazares started on January 4, 2016 as the Project Manager for the My Public Art Portal. Heide brings a diverse skillset to our “My Public Art Portal” Project Manager position. Prior to joining the ArtsWA team, she managed a private collection of vintage motorcycles and automobile-related artifacts since 2011. Before that, she was a Museum Educator and Docent Manager at Tacoma Art Museum, where she led schools tours, supported curriculum development, and oversaw the Open Art Studio. Heide also brings experience as a technical writer, has a bachelor’s degree in computer science, and speaks Spanish, German, and French!

Miguel Guillen started on January 4, 2016 as our Grants to Organizations Program Manager. Miguel brings more than a decade of professional experience as an arts administrator and a demonstrated commitment to equitable management of funding and support programs for creative communities and organizations. With deep experience and expertise in the world of Arts Administration, Miguel has been recognized for his ability to provide programmatic and project consultation and management to arts organizations, resulting in increases in organizational and individual success in the areas of funding (four major merit-based grants awarded to individuals), promotion (coaching on increased use of social media and public outreach language resulting in increased participation), project management and program development. Clients have included: Artist Trust, University of Washington, Jubilation Foundation, Movimiento Afrolatino de Seattle, DE CAJÓN Project, Universal Language Project, Casa Latina, Early Music Guild, eSe Teatro, 4Culture, and Seattle Office of Arts & Culture.

Sincerely,



Karen Hanan, Executive Director
February 9, 2016