Minutes
February 16, 2007 Arts Commission Meeting
The Evergreen State College - Olympia, Washington

Commissioners Present
Jean Mandeberg, Chair
Leann Johnson, First Vice Chair
Steve Sneed, Second Vice Chair
Kent Carlson
Charlene Curtiss
Maureen Greeley
Cindy Hill Finnie
Kate Jones
Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles
Silvia Lazo
Cheryl Leo-Gwin
Mary Ann McCurdy
Ben Moore
Joan Penney
Rosita Romero
Shauna Woods

Commissioners Absent
Monte Bridges
Chris Bruce
Rep. Lynn Kessler
Bill McKay
Lanie McMullin

Staff Present
Kris Tucker, Executive Director
Kristine Bartruff
Bitsy Bidwell
Mark Gerth
Patricia Hopper
Janae Huber
Lisa Jaret
Lou MacMillan
Saya Moriyasu
Willie Smyth
Alice Taylor
Mayumi Tsutakawa

Guests
Laura Grabhorn, TESC Longhouse
Dale Erquiaga, Consensus LLC
Gretchen Johnston, WA State Arts Alliance
Ben Rosas, TESC Arts Council
Lee Lyttle, TESC
Anne Friedman, TESC
Peggy Weiss, Jacob Lawrence Project
Jens Lund, WA State Parks
Call To Order
Chair Mandeberg called the meeting to order on February 16, 2007 at 8:42 a.m. at the Longhouse at The Evergreen State College (TESC).

Welcome
Laura Grabhorn, assistant director of the Longhouse, welcomed the group. She said the Longhouse opened in 1995, and is the first public longhouse on a US college campus. It represents the cultures of Native Americans in our state and provides a gathering spot for people of all cultures to meet. She explained some of the building’s artwork, and provided a publication, Cultural Luminaries, which catalogs the work of a recent artist-in-residence program at TESC.

Approve Agenda
Mandeberg asked for any changes or additions to the published agenda. Greeley said Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles, WSAC’s new legislative member, would be joining the meeting in the afternoon and suggested that the discussion of the 2007 Legislative Session be moved to 1:30 p.m., and the Accessibility Committee and Budget Reports be presented at 9:30 a.m. It was moved by Penney and seconded by Woods that the agenda be modified as suggested; approved unanimously.

Chair’s Report
Mandeberg began self-introductions by all present, and said she would like her report to regularly include an opportunity for a Commissioner to share interesting work they are doing in support of the arts. Commissioner Lazo told of a project, Children of Darfur, a touring exhibition of drawings of children from refugee camps, and a weekend of lectures, dance and music. She provided a handout, Ethical Fashion, from a magazine from Brazil.

Mandeberg referred to pages 3-6 in the packet, with information about ways Commissioners can play a role in their communities. Besides the priority of advocacy, Commissioners can serve on various panels and committees. Mandeberg will form a Deaccession Committee and a Nominating Committee soon.

Moore asked for clarification about policy on accepting free tickets to an event presented by a potential grant applicant. Tucker said there is an opportunity to declare a conflict of interest when serving on a grant panel. The WAC allows free tickets only for evaluation purposes, unlikely to be expected of Commissioners. We need to be sensitive to even the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Director’s Report
Tucker referred to pages 7-10 in the packet, and encouraged Commissioners to add the hole-punched packet to the Toolkit ring binder. She thanked those who came to the previous night’s poetry reading; approximately forty people attended. It was a great event, and Batdorf and Bronson coffeehouse provided their staff and refreshments. Tucker thanked Commissioners Mandeberg and Greeley for the idea; there is already talk of a poetry reading for Arts Day 2008. She also thanked Mark Gerth for the tech support.

Tucker referred to her recent visit with Jim Haseltine, the first director of the Arts Commission, who was hired in 1967 and served as director until 1980. WSAC’s public art program was established in 1974 when former governor Dan Evans was working on the design of the east capitol campus and asked Haseltine for public art there.
Haseltine wanted to use the opportunity to establish a percent for art program for all public buildings, suggesting 2%. Dan Evans countered with 1%, legislation was introduced and in the last three minutes of debate a legislator cut it to ½%. Haseltine also donated to WSAC records of public arts programs around the work, slides of artwork around the world, and the State of the Union address given by President Eisenhower in 1955 stating that we needed a federal policy and a federal agency for the arts. The NEA was established ten years later. WSAC’s fiftieth anniversary is in 2011, so this is a good time for us to think about the kind of legacy we want to build.

Tucker said that in just one year strategic planning resumes; it is done every two years. The last round of planning did not include broad constituent input or work the state as a whole; more comprehensive planning may be done in the next round. Today’s conversation about international, separate from our strategic planning process, gives us an opportunity to think big, and then think strategically about what the steps would be.

Tucker referred to page 8 and recapped the status of consideration of a cultural taxing district and 4Culture’s pursuit of a change in the hotel/motel tax rules in this session through the bill to provide public funding for the Sonics’ arena. The Prosperity Partnership proposal to establish a cultural taxing district to support the arts will not go before the 2007 legislature. The proposal will be fine-tuned over the next six months and probably go before the 2008 or 2009 legislature to establish the taxing district, and then the residents in the district would have to approve it also. Tucker said she continues to explore the potential impact of a cultural taxing district and what role WSAC might play. She may consider convening some kind of symposium or forum with a small discussion group, and possibly also commissioning some research about similar efforts in Colorado where such a taxing district has been in place for about 20 years, and then possibly a subsequent conversation based on that research. She observed that dedicated funding for the arts in a four-county region would have a dramatic effect on WSAC and on the ecology and economy of the arts in the larger region.

Tucker invited questions. Commissioner Moore commented that if the Prosperity Partnership becomes a reality it should be viewed as an opportunity for this agency to reform itself, because the landscape will change; WSAC then can dedicate its energies in a different way that has a more meaningful impact, and without spreading resources quite so thinly across the landscape. Moore said Tucker’s initiative on this seems very well timed in terms of the strategic planning process that will begin presently, for that process to be informed by experiences elsewhere in similar situations will strengthen our position.

Mandeberg said she and Commissioner Woods met with Senator Karen Fraser on Arts Day. The Senator had several questions and comments about how grants fuel the arts in the entire state. She said over and over again, “Our view is statewide. How are we doing with that?” Mandeberg said she likes the idea of re-thinking what our role might be as a state arts commission, and not sitting on the sidelines but fully participating. She asked Commissioners to think about how all can participate in the process.

Tucker noted that Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles from Seattle was appointed to the Arts Commission this week in the Senate Democrat seat formerly held by Senator Thibaud-deau.
Approve Consent Agenda

Mandeberg referred to the three elements of the consent agenda: Minutes of November 2006 WSAC Meeting – p. 11-21, Professional Development Assistance Program Grants – p. 22, and Project Support Program Grants - Round #2 of FY2007 – p. 23-29. Brief discussion noted the need to differentiate between individuals with the same last name (referring to Victor Moore and Ben Moore in the November director’s report), verified there is no restriction for using PDAP funds for international versus national, and summarized criteria for eligibility for Project Support (PSP) grants. In the last round, some applicants provided as a work sample a collage of scenes from different plays or dances, with one piece of music recorded over the entire collection. This denies reviewers an opportunity to see the integrity of the individual artistic moment, and that was the reason for some rejected applications. A commissioner asked how that would be communicated to future applicants. Tsutakawa said the guidelines specifically describe the work samples. When asked if Challenge America funding is described to applicants, she said staff decides what proportion of Challenge vs state funds will be applied to a particular grant.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the entire consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Leo-Gwin and unanimously approved.

Accessibility

Bidwell showed a powerpoint presentation of visual arts by Washington artists with disabilities from VSAarts juried exhibitions. Commissioner Curtiss referred to two handouts -- a request from the Accessibility Advisory Team to meet with the Commissioners when they convene in May, and the Accessibility Committee Report, which addresses the Access Plan for 2007 and communicating with grantees about accessibility issues. Bitsy Bidwell described a conference call meeting with WSAC’s four Cooperative Partners, which is reported in the Committee Report handout. Commissioner Curtiss said her term on WSAC will end after the May meeting; the Accessibility Committee consists of Commissioners Kessler, McCurdy, herself and staff Bitsy Bidwell. She encouraged interested Commissioners to consider filling the vacancy. She challenged everyone to try getting to the next meeting in a wheelchair.

Approve Budget Reports

Lou MacMillan presented the budget reports. In the FY 2007 Financial Report for the second quarter, American Masterpieces (NEA funds) now has its own budget line rather than being included in Program Services. The funds budgeted for Grant Appeals have not been used, and will now become available for PDAP.

MacMillan introduced the memo on page 58, which identified a positive balance of $514,456 in General Fund-State at closing FY06, discovered during final closing process in November. Analysis determined that those were funds that had been brought in by the agency in previous years to cover AIPP (Art in Public Places) expenditures. Because is became general fund money, in accordance with state law, 50% of these funds went to Savings Incentive Fund; the other 50% went to OSPI (Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.) The WSAC Interim Committee reviewed the issue in January, and recommends Commission approval of the revised FY06 closing balance. Staff is working with OFM (Office of Financial Management) to determine related impacts, change ac-
counting practices, and implement a better tracking program. MacMillan described the process for expenditures and billings for AIPP projects, which often span multiple years. In the ensuing discussion, several points were clarified:

- State accounting systems don’t provide complete detail for tracking disbursements
- WSAC has no reserve account that would allow carrying funds over from year to year
- Public art funds can only be used for public art

Finnie suggested reporting public art expenses and revenues separately. Carlson suggested a briefing on government fund accounting.

The 2005-2007 Biennial Budget (p. 59-61) is self-explanatory.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the FY 2007 Financial Report (through 12/31/06), the amended FY06 closing balance, and the 2005-2007 Biennial Budget. The motion was seconded by Greeley and unanimously approved.

**Discuss Potential Role/s Internationally**

Kris Tucker reviewed the history of WSAC’s interest in international programs, which began about four years ago: In 2003 WESTAF provided an analysis of current practices among state arts agencies nationwide. Tucker led a delegation of Commissioners, artists and arts leaders to China in 2004, and WSAC requested funding for international programs from the state legislature in 2005. The request was not successful. In May 2006, a survey of Commissioners by the Nominating Committee showed a clear division about whether international programs should be pursued.

Dale Erquiaga, contractor from Consensus LLC, was introduced to facilitate a discussion. He asked Commissioners to review major themes in the printed background materials on pages 33 - 56 in the packet. He showed a video about international programming in Ohio. He asked Commissioners to explore options and discuss pros and cons. Comments were recorded on flip charts. The goal was to leave knowing what to pursue and what to drop to narrow the scope. He will submit a report summarizing the discussion.

**Arts Participation Initiative report**

Mayumi Tsutakawa referred to page 79 in the packet, and distributed the new API booklet, *Building Strong Communities through the Arts*, the result of five years of work beginning with Wallace grants to 13 states. It documents the success stories of fifteen organizations in underserved (ethnic, low-income, rural and disabled) communities around the state. The overriding characteristics of the program are multi-year funding, training for capacity building, and documentation and evaluation of results.

Commissioner Sneed reported on a conference he attended in Chicago in November with other Wallace grantees. It emphasized participation by conference attendees, being divided into groups for their own arts experiences. His group was tasked with writing and performing a play dealing with a hypothetical problem for an arts organization. There was also a strong focus on arts education, with presentations from Texas and New York about programs that will now be followed for their work and impact.

Tsutakawa said WSAC is involved in a national planning effort for the 11th biennial conference of The Association of American Cultures (TAAC). She handed out postcards
announcing the event in Denver July 12-15, 2007 and said the theme will be inter-
national and global issues. Speakers from Europe and Mexico will be featured.

Upcoming deadlines in the Grants to Organizations Program are April 2 for Project
Support and April 22 for Organizational Support. The latter is for operating support for
mid-sized (above $79,000 annual income) organizations, and awards are made only every
two years. The field is highly competitive and represents the artistic richness of our
entire state. The grant guidelines are posted on the WSAC website. The Project Sup-
port grants will be for activities taking place July 1 through December 31, 2007.

2007 Legislative Session

Mark Gerth referred to a handout from Arts Day, a ‘thank you sheet’ listing bills of
interest to WSAC, and pages 31-32 in the packet. He reported that the Poet Laureate
bill passed the House 90 yea, 5 nay, and will now move forward in the Senate. He tracks
all bills that mention the Arts Commission, and participates in weekly legislative liaison
meetings. Two recent new bills (HB2192 and SB 6065) call for use of WA lottery funds
for arts education programs, to be administered by WSAC and OSPI beginning in 2012.
SSB 5534, sponsored by Senator Kohl-Welles, provides small performing arts organiza-
tions an exemption from unemployment compensation when paying certain workers a
stipend. The progress of arts-related bills is monitored closely. There was general
discussion regarding various bills.

Commissioners recapped Arts Day, February 15, noting the increased participation
by Commissioners, the value of advocacy and the interviews with legislators before the
session, and ways to effectively communicate with legislators. Gretchen Johnston,
Washington State Arts Alliance, said there were about 150 present for Arts Day. The
Cultural Congress will be April 23-25 in Leavenworth; Arts Advocacy Awards (one for
local community and one for wider-reaching work) will be given at the WSAA annual
meeting on June 27.

Folk Arts in the Parks

Jens Lund, Program Manager, referred to his report on pages 62-65 in the packet,
and showed video highlights of the second season of Folk Arts in the Parks (2006). Near-
ly 3000 people attended the 18 events held last year. The goals are to increase the
diversity of park visitors and to celebrate cultures. The program is supported by NEA
grants, State Parks, WSAC, Smithsonian, and others.

Art in Public Places

Janae Huber, Collections Manager for the State art collection, referred to the
brochure in the packets about the current exhibition of works by Jacob Lawrence. The
series of 22 screen prints depict the “Legend of John Brown” and are part of the Wash-
ington State art collection, which numbers over 4500 pieces acquired over its 30+ year
history. The exhibition is funded by the NEA’s American Masterpieces Initiative.

Peggy Weiss, contracted coordinator of the Jacob Lawrence Exhibition, explained
that the prints will be shown at Columbia Basin College in Pasco, and Clark College in
Vancouver. At both venues there is a public programming component involving other
activities such as lectures and dramatizations. There is also information and images of
the prints on the WSAC website.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.
Minutes

MAY 15, 2007 ARTS COMMISSION MEETING

RAINIER VALLEY CULTURAL CENTER – SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT
Jean Mandeberg, Chair
Steve Sneed, Second Vice Chair
Monte Bridges
Kent Carlson
Charlene Curtiss
Cindy Hill Finnie
Kate Jones
Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles
Mary Ann McCurdy
Lanie McMullin
Ben Moore
Joan Penney
Rosita Romero
Shauna Woods

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT
Leann Johnson, First Vice Chair
Chris Bruce
Rep. Lynn Kessler
Bill McKay
Maureen Greeley
Silvia Lazo
Cheryl Leo-Gwin
Rep. Mary Skinner

STAFF PRESENT
Kris Tucker, Executive Director
Kristine Bartruff
Bitsy Bidwell
Mark Gerth
Janae Huber
Lisa Jaret
Esther Luttikhuizen
Lou MacMillan
Willie Smyth
Mayumi Tsutakawa

GUESTS
Jerri Plumridge, SEED
Abbey Norris, SEED
Gretchen Johnston, WA State Arts Alliance
Thatcher Bailey, Centrum
Brom Wikstrom, Accessibility Advisory Team
Bill Merriman, Accessibility Advisory Team
Robert Roth, Accessibility Advisory Team
Daniel Schmitt, Accessibility Advisory Team
Fidelma McGinn, Artist Trust
Una McAlinden, ArtsEd Washington
CALL TO ORDER
Chair Mandeberg called the meeting to order on May 15, 2007 at 9:17 a.m. at the Rainier Valley Cultural Center in Seattle.

WELCOME
Jerri Plumridge, SEED Arts Program Director, welcomed the Commission and described the many programs and the impact on the local community.

APPROVE AGENDA
Commissioner Moore moved that the agenda be approved. Woods seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

CHAIR’S REPORT
Mandeberg said her report would focus on three things: Arts Ed Week, the Nominating Committee, and the summer WSAC meeting at Centrum. Staff Lisa Jaret called attention to ArtsEd Week, an awareness campaign May 14-20; she read a quotation from Arkansas Governor Huckabee about the value of arts education, and distributed a handout, “10 Lessons the Arts Teach.”

Mandeberg explained that the Nominating Committee consists of Commissioners Woods, Sneed and Johnson. WACs specify the committee will report at WSAC’s summer meeting. It has two jobs -- surveying all Commissioners to assess work, and making recommendations for officers for next year.

The summer WSAC meeting will be July 31 and August 1 at Centrum at Fort Worden. Commissioner Finnie is working with Thatcher Bailey, Centrum’s director, to plan a tour and reception for the commission. It will be Centrum’s Country Blues Week, when people from all over come to work with masters, and participate in evening jam sessions. It will be an opportunity to see the successful partnership of WSAC, State Parks, and OSPI.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Tucker said the new state quarter was launched in a ceremony in Seattle on April 11 and response has been positive. She referred to page 2 of the packet, noting that results of WSAC requests to the legislature were mixed; some requests were supported by legislation, but no new grant funding for capacity building was provided. The arts were supported in other ways; for example, Building for the Arts (p. 7) and other Capital Budget Projects (p. 8). Tucker serves on the Building for the Arts advisory committee. Fort Worden got $465,000 from general funds for planning.

Tucker reviewed the allocation lists with Commissioners. She referred to p. 9-10 in the packet, the list of bills WSAC is tracking. Gretchen Johnston announced that the Governor was expected to sign SSB5647 without veto.
Johnston and Tucker clarified that HB1777 was initiated by Secretary of State Sam Reed last year; the bill has since been streamlined, and the audit requirement was lowered.

Tucker and MacMillan reviewed the WSAC 2007-09 Operating Budget on page 5.

Tucker reported on the Sister Parks Conference sponsored by the National Park Service (NPS) in Mesa Verde, Colorado. She was the only representative of a state arts agency. There were representatives from four US National Parks and three Mexican National Parks. At the conference, Tucker and Jens Lund spoke about the partnership in the Washington Arts in the Parks program, and Karen Hanan, Executive Director of Arts Northwest, spoke of the practicalities of presenting in parks. Tucker learned that preservation is the primary purpose of NPS; visitor experience is secondary. These are state level priorities also. Arts in the Parks’ emphasis is more on the participant experience, yet preservation of art forms, cultural facilities, and tradition of attending and participating in the arts have a role. Tucker gained some new reflections on the importance of cultural and heritage tourism, and some opportunities for WSAC to be part of these dialogs.

Tucker referred to page 4, Tracking Public Art Expenditures. The public art part of the budget will now be identified as “estimates” rather than “targets.” Staff will work with OFM to develop a supplemental report to monitor the public art activity as compared with the estimates.

A new professional development account for Arts Education has been initiated to allow for Arts Education partners to participate in Cultural Congress and other opportunities.

A strategic planning process will be initiated at the summer meeting that will result in the framing of WSAC’s work for the next biennium, and identify advocacy and legislative requests. The strategic plan will be submitted to the Governor in June 2008. WSAC’s work in international is one window into that. It is an opportunity to think of WSAC’s role in some new ways, to address strategic planning not as a little more or a little less of the same, but a different way to understand WSAC’s appropriate and necessary role in the state of Washington.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Mandeberg invited questions regarding the items listed for the consent agenda. There being none, it was moved by Bridges and seconded by Woods that the consent agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Finnie disclosed that she is still on the board of Centrum.

ADVOCACY INITIATIVE DISCUSSION

Mandeberg acknowledged Commissioner Ben Moore’s six years of service on WSAC, thanking him for his insight and balance. Commissioner Moore reflected on his time with the Arts Commission. He encouraged Commissioners to continue to push for increased funding, even though
progress is extraordinarily incremental. He said Commissioner Greeley is doing great in leading advocacy efforts, and suggested a small group of Commissioners could provide more help.

Mandeberg said advocacy will be on every WSAC agenda and will be a running theme throughout the strategic plan. Commissioners will continue meeting with legislators over the summer. There will be more discussion/orientation for new commissioners about the role of advocacy and building potential as leaders in discussing arts issues throughout the state.

Mandeberg asked commissioners to share their experiences and ideas regarding arts advocacy efforts.

Romero described meeting with a legislator who couldn’t understand what arts do for his constituents. He was more interested in economic impact, and asked why waste time teaching art. He didn’t understand what art could do for the public.

Mandeberg noted that as a member of WSAC, people ask different kinds of questions that can lead to talking to people in new ways.

Finnie said people may be hesitant if they do not know how to approach and deliver the message. At the last meeting we learned that few legislators had been contacted since the previous meeting; she suggested some specialized education for new commissioners to prepare them for meeting with legislators. Then, once there has been an initial meeting with a legislator, there should be a plan in place for continuing the relationship. What is the message, the goal?

Penney suggested looking at the reasons commissioners are not participating and what is needed to engage people and make the agenda meaningful. Arts Commission meetings have to be significant to people.

Mandeberg reminded that the Nominating Committee will ask questions about the extent everyone has been participating in advocacy, and what can be done to make them feel more comfortable with it.

Carlson said he has been unclear what his message was supposed to be; he said the Commission message does not seem organized. We may also try to find “natural partners,” staff people as well as legislators, who are key to advancing our position. Yesterday’s ArtsFund speech by the NEA chairman was incredibly focused.

McCurdy said the existence of WSAC recognizes the arts are an important state function.

Woods felt it is important to view Arts Day as culmination of a year-long advocacy. It would be helpful to develop a “cheat sheet” describing issues on the state arts scene. Arts Day is key, but a year-long focus is needed.
Mandeberg stressed the need to be meeting with legislators out of session.

Sen. Kohl-Welles mentioned that legislators sometimes get intimidated too. It’s been helpful to her to get to know the individuals in organizations. She said it is important to build relationships with legislators out of session. She said she would assist with orientation. She said legislators get discouraged when constituents focus only on what they did not get. There are many areas that need attention, and legislators are pulled in many different directions and represent different demographics. Understand “the whole” and address the needs. Arts education is something most legislators can understand.

Tucker announced that Gretchen Johnston has resigned from the Washington State Arts Alliance as of the end of June. WSAA has become a strong partner with the Arts Commission, and she expects to continue to work well together. She thanked Gretchen for her great support and wonderful leadership. The WSAA annual meeting will be June 27 at Seattle Art Museum’s Sculpture Park.

INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE DISCUSSION
Mandeberg referred to consultant Dale Erquiaga’s report from the February discussion of international opportunities. Page 23 identifies three areas of interest and three areas not to emphasize immediately. Recommended actions are on page 24. She told the commissioners of discussions she and Kris Tucker have had subsequently:

- A discussion with Artist Trust director about their experience with an artist exchange program with Ireland. This will not become part of WSAC agenda.
- A review of Centrum’s International work. Artists from all over the world come to perform, but there is no coordinated initiative or existing program with which WSAC can connect.
- A meeting of Kris Tucker and Mandeberg with Mark Calhoon of the State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED), Office of International Trade.
- A meeting of Kris Tucker and Mandeberg with Brent Heinemann of the Governor’s Office, who manages the Governor’s trade missions.

The latter two meetings were scheduled as a follow up to work done in February, and they were productive. CTED works primarily to help develop Washington businesses internationally and help them be successful. It became apparent that meetings such as this are about relationships, and valuable to talk with these managers about the arts as part of their work. The Governor is leading a delegation to Mexico this summer and although governors’ trade missions have been going on a long time, Tucker sees that in the future WSAC could have a meaningful role in them. Each member of the delegation sets an individual itinerary for participation, and the Governor’s office coordinates some activities. Participating arts organizations or artists might schedule meetings with gallery owners, visits to performance centers, or meetings with cultural peers. Heinemann said there might be some opportunities to facilitate and develop an expanded connection with the arts for visiting delegations.
Mandeberg observed that meeting with both CTED and the Governor’s office, she and Tucker went in to ask questions, to show the facilitator’s report, and to express interest in an international role. As both discussions progressed, there was more excitement about the possibilities, and the realization that the arts should be included. By the end of the conversations it was clear there should be a follow up conversation, and perhaps meeting with other people. Japan, Mexico, state parks and national parks came up in both conversations. The idea of promoting the artists and artwork of the state of Washington also was mentioned, both in terms of delegations traveling from Washington and those visiting the state.

Woods mentioned that University of Washington has an international dance series and has created a vice-provost position to coordinate a global outreach approach. She suggested having a conversation with them.

Mandeberg said that Heinemann had also suggested working with Marc Baldwin in the Governor’s policy office. She recalled Leo-Gwin’s mention of the importance of understanding the Governor’s agenda; it would be helpful to have the Governor’s backing, even on a first step in an international agenda.

Tucker said that beyond involving artists and arts organizations, there may be an opportunity to exchange artwork, and to collaborate with other state arts agencies. She reviewed some potential partnership opportunities with Meridian International; funders; state and national parks; cultural organizations in Mexico. She also noted that one serious role for WSAC may be to distribute information about opportunities immediately. WSAC grant programs already have an ongoing international role; for example, PDAP support for travel to international festivals, and grant support of Meany Hall, the International Film Festival, and the Seattle International Children’s Festival. A large project like a curated, touring exhibition would have to include a budget with staffing. Smaller projects in the convening and brokering role are mostly within current resources.

Commissioner Cheryll Leo-Gwin was unable to attend meeting, which marks the end of two terms’ service, but she provided a DVD on which she talked about her three passions:

- Administering/advocating. Commissioners need to see their position as being relevant. She supports arts education for adults, otherwise feels we send the message that art is just for kids.
- International. She would like to develop outreach with private businesses, to have economic development as part of WSAC’s work. She said the sentence at the bottom of p. 23 on Erquiaga’s report is disproved by WSAC’s work in arts education. She cautioned WSAC to start with willing partners, and agrees with forming a Task Force to study recommendations.
- Making her own art. Leo-Gwin suggests bringing art to every WSAC meeting. The DVD ended with slides of her own art.
ACCESSIBILITY INITIATIVE

Bidwell introduced members of the Accessibility Advisory Team: Rob Roth (accompanied by interpreter and two interns), Bill Merriman, Dan Schmitt, and Brom Wikstrom. Bidwell referred to the report in the supplemental mailing, inserted after page 26 in the packet. The Team plans on a calendar year basis. For 2006, some things were accomplished, some to continue working on. The team now asks the Commission to focus on the 2007 plan. Bidwell reported on the May 2 workshop at Seattle Center for artists with disabilities.

Curtiss presented the draft of a complaint procedure, aligned with state law and NEA recommendations. Discussion by commissioners followed.

Woods expressed concern about taking back prior funding that may have already been spent. Jones asked if there is a proactive component to this plan, to help an organization ensure accessibility before a complaint needs to occur. Bidwell explained that the NEA requires WSAC to have a complaint procedure and an Accessibility Advisory Team. The 1994 law allows the NEA to pull back its funds if WSAC is out of compliance. The ADA went into effect in 1992 and every agency that was affected by the law had 18 months to put in place a plan to reach accessibility. Curtiss said it might be unlikely that an organization would be required to return dollars granted years ago, but compliance is likely to be a factor when an application is pending. She pointed to the 2006 and 2007 Accessibility Plans as proactive efforts. A grievance procedure that is on file and distributed with grant applications increases credibility within the community and indicates you are serious about access.

Bidwell said WSAC has had only one complaint in twenty years; this was about an outdoor festival that did not have an accessible portapotty. By the time the complaint came in, the festival was over. WSAC met with the organization, which agreed to provide an accessible potty at their next event.

Woods said it is important to consider worst-case scenarios, even if that is unlikely to occur. WSAC must be willing to stand behind policies. Curtiss suggested WSAC state that the NEA could potentially withdraw funding from WSAC for violation. She said WSAC has been providing money for non-accessible events for years, and it is important that what we send out is the law. Woods said the NEA link is important because otherwise this policy seems onerous, especially to come back for money that has been spent in the past. Schmitt said the Advisory Team was not thinking about past years, but was talking about the most recent grant. He said the law will not be taken seriously until people realize there are consequences. There have been no consequences, and up to this point hiding your head in the sand has worked. Roth asked what recourse WSAC would have if the party won’t negotiate for 90 days. He said that there is no “bite” combined with ADA. He reflected that “seek return of any funds previously granted” may be overly broad in terms of talking about funding. It is unclear if this is about the funds specifically granted for that project that was awarded, or about anything previous.
Carlson said he is not sure WSAC can enforce repayment of funds previously awarded. He asked if our grants say you must be in compliance such that grantees know the rules. Bidwell said there is a compliance section in grant applications, but people often don’t read it before signing. We have not provided adequate information. Mandeberg said the discussion could continue with members of the Advisory Team during lunch, and suggested at least this last sentence in #3 should be clarified. Curtiss agreed that the discussion was helpful, and asked that relevant comments be forwarded to Bitsy.

Mandeberg said the plan and complaint procedure will be revised for approval at the summer meeting. Curtiss noted that the Team will continue to work on the plan.

Commissioner Charlene Curtiss was acknowledged for her six years’ work with WSAC. Curtiss recapped the evolution of WSAC’s work towards accessibility over the years. She said to her access means all things for all people at all times, a completely inclusive concept. She said many people see a disability as a “them” issue, not an “us” issue. She cited a Washington Post article about a wheelchair dancer that assumed this was rare, and so was not an accurate portrayal of the art. She advised Commissioners that the term disability is a label, and labels tend to misrepresent what is true.

APPROVE BUDGET REPORTS
Lou MacMillan reviewed three budget reports as presented.

FY 2007 - THIRD QUARTER FY07
The key change is the allotment of $22,000 for technical improvements (new servers). Much of the Savings Incentive Fund is still being held to meet AIPP contracts. Overall, agency is on target at 78% expended. (p. 27-28)

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the report. Woods seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

FY 2008 NEA FUNDING PROPOSALS
Tucker noted that WSAC’s NEA allocation is slightly less than the current biennium’s, and there has been some realignment of funds for specific purposes. Poetry Out Loud is now part of our state plan component, and Folk Arts Infrastructure Support is part of the underserved communities component. WSAC was required to tell the NEA, by the end of April, how the money will be spent. The Interim Committee unanimously approved this proposal. This item deals only with Challenge America and American Masterpieces funding. Other NEA funds will be part of the next action item. (p.29-30)

Commissioner Woods moved to ratify the decision of the Interim Committee. McCurdy seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
2007-2009 BIENNIAL BUDGET

MacMillan said this report is based on the budget approved by the legislature, and assumes no substantive changes made by the Governor upon signing. (p. 31-32)

Commissioner Carlson moved to approve the report. Bridges seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

MacMillan showed slides depicting revenue overview by source using pie charts and graphs. Senator Kohl-Welles reminded commissioners that after 2001 many things affected state funds (9-11, earthquake, forest fires, etc). She also said it is important to talk not just with any legislators, but with key legislators. The Building for the Arts program was initiated in 1991 (by then Corporate Council for the Arts, now ArtsFund) and Boeing as a program of CTED, where it has been well managed. Tucker said she hopes it may eventually become a WSAC program as a logical policy move of the state. Building for the Arts funds are not included in reports comparing WSAC with other state arts agencies, yet the state is investing in the arts through this program, and having an impact on the opportunities citizens have to participate in the arts, and on an increase in grant requests to WSAC.

ARTIST TRUST

Tsutakawa explained that Artist Trust is one of WSAC’s cooperative partners, which provide services statewide.

Fidelma McGinn, executive director of Artist Trust, described Artist Trust’s Fellowship Program, a biennial process of selecting artists in specified categories for grants. She provided an information packet and showed slides of works by artists who have received fellowships. This year 363 applications were received, and 21 artists selected (six supported directly by WSAC funds). Statistics show that visual artists are plentiful in Washington State. Artist Trust makes efforts to reach out and extend beyond metropolitan centers.

Other options for funding for individual artists include Artist Trust’s GAP and lifetime achievement grants, grants from 4Culture, Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, and Allied Arts throughout the state, national fellowships through NEA, and scholarships through US Artists. Artist Trust publishes Possibilities, listing opportunities for artists across all disciplines. Tsutakawa complimented Artist Trust for its great outreach in increasing workshops at the Cultural Congress and in many parts of the state. Bidwell said Artist Trust presented a major portion of the recent workshop for artists with disabilities; it was well done and greatly appreciated.

PROGRAMS

Mayumi Tsutakawa referred to page 50 in the packet, and thanked Commissioner McMullin to volunteering to serve on the OSP (Organizational Support Program) panel that convenes every two years. It is one of the key ways WSAC supports mid-sized organizations. Over 100 applications have been received from all over the state. She reported that Arts Participation Initiative
had strong participation at the Cultural Congress, with many workshop sessions. The API is now in the third year of grants for the second round of grantees.

Referring to the supplemental report, inserted after page 50 in the packet, Tsutakawa said the GO task force began as a review committee of commissioners and staff (Tsutakawa, Moore, Greeley, and Tucker). Now they would like to expand to become a task force that includes members of the community and constituents and continue the discussions. Ideas being explored include: range of opportunities, support other than grants, and communication with other granting organizations. The committee polled 4Culture, Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, and ArtsFund and developed a matrix of basic information about their definitions, procedures and methods of granting. Representatives of those organizations want to take part in the conversation because they want to improve also. WSAC could request a new program that would specifically work to develop local arts agencies in the areas outside the large metropolitan areas.

Commissioner Moore said he hopes to develop a different way of thinking and working with colleagues. We need substance that will convince the legislature. Commissioners interested in being more involved with the task force should identify themselves to Tsutakawa or Tucker.

Janae Huber referred to the supplemental mailing insert after page 51 of the packet. She presented recommendations of the Deaccession Committee (Carlson, Jones, Leo-Gwin and Bruce). She explained the inventory process for the state art collection. WSAC relies on communication from partners where the art is sited. A recent change in the process has resulted in getting more information, and learning about some pieces that have long been missing or damaged. Another thing that will impact the collection is that many artworks were integrated into construction, which is now aging. Deaccession is a natural part of the care of the State Art Collection.

Commissioner Carlson moved to approve the recommendations of the Deaccession Committee. McCurdy seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Lisa Jaret reported on the Arts in Education (AIE) panels, whose recommendations were presented in charts in the supplemental mailing inserted at end of packet. Commissioner Sneed commented on the value of serving on a panel, to help understand WSAC and give strength to advocacy. Community Consortium Grants: Jaret explained that the six lowest scored applications may have strong programs, but were not in alignment with the objectives of the grant category. First Step Grants: The title of the grant itself lends to discussion and brings up questions. Commissioner Bridges said this category demonstrates the struggles in communities with establishing partnerships in schools. There is great variance in approaches or applications -- some focus on artists, some are school-driven, some didn’t include experience for students.
Commissioner McMullin moved that the Commission approve FY08 funding recommendations from the AIE grant panels. Woods seconded. Jones, Bridges, Curtiss, and Moore declared conflict of interest. The motion carried unanimously.

Willie Smyth referred to the last two pages of the packet, presenting the recommendations for Folk Arts Apprenticeship and Fellowship awards. The Folk Arts program has existed for 15 years and awarded about 175 grants. Commissioner Mandeberg served on the panel, along with specialists in the field of folk arts. There were a wide variety of applications and art forms, and the decisions of the panel were difficult. Funding comes through the National Endowment for the Arts and strictly ties to the NEA folk arts criteria, which generally includes very close contact with the community through which the art form is learned and presented. The awards for Apprenticeship and Fellowship have different criteria, and although the panel members are the same, the applications are considered in two different processes.

Commissioner Moore moved that the panel’s recommendations for FY08 funding for Folk Arts grants be approved. Woods seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Bitsy Bidwell reported on the May 2 workshop for artists with disabilities, funded by the National Arts and Disabilities Center and the NEA. It was called “Catch Your Audience: Practical Tools for Building Arts Careers and Markets.” There were 34 attendees, and four presenting artists. One of the services provided was CART (Communication Access Real-Time Translation), which involved immediate transcription with captions displayed on a screen, another tool for making things accessible.

Gretchen Johnston, outgoing director of WA State Arts Alliance (WSAA), reflected on her 10+ years of service, beginning with news that the Governor had just signed the hotel-motel tax bill (SSB 5647) with no changes. She commented on growth in WSAC and the positive difference Tucker’s leadership has made. She noted that ArtsEd Washington has become a very viable organization, successfully partnering with WSAA and WSAC. Arts education is important for the future, not just the future of the arts. The Cultural Congress was started by another organization that dissolved five years ago. WSAA took on the program, and strengthened it by working with WSAC, the Seattle Arts Commission, and 4Culture. This year there were 191 participants, the highest attendance ever.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.
Minutes

JULY 31- AUGUST 1, 2007 ARTS COMMISSION MEETING

CENTRUM, FORT WORDEN – PORT TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT
Jean Mandeberg, Chair
Leann Johnson, First Vice Chair
Steve Sneed, Second Vice Chair
Monte Bridges
Chris Bruce
Kent Carlson
Charlene Curtiss
Cindy Hill Finnie
Maureen Greeley
Kate Jones
Rep. Lynn Kessler
Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles
Mary Ann McCurdy
Bill McKay
Lanie McMullin
Ben Moore
Joan Penney
Rosita Romero
Rep. Mary Skinner
Shauna Woods

STAFF PRESENT
Kris Tucker, Executive Director
Kristine Bartruff
Bitsy Bidwell
Mark Gerth
Janae Huber
Lisa Jaret
Willie Smyth
Michael Sweney
Alice Taylor
Mayumi Tsutakawa

GUESTS
Thatcher Bailey, Centrum
Peter McCracken, Centrum
Martha Worthley, Centrum
Kate Burke, Fort Worden State Park
Manuel Cawaling, WSAA/F Board; L. Hughes PAC
Steve Lerian, WSAA Board
Fidelma McGinn, Artist Trust; WSAA Board
Elise Roberts, WSAA Staff
Frances Chapin, WSAA Chair
Karen Hanan, ArtsNW; WSAA Board
Una McAlinden, ArtsEd Washington
Denene McCloud, WSAA/F Board; Central District Forum
Mark Hugh, WSAA/F Chair
Tim Close, WSAA Board; Museum of Glass
Barbara Jirsa, WSAA Board

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT
David Brown
Sen. Jim Honeyford

TVW CREW
Rob Demko
Patrick Maxwell
CALL TO ORDER
Chair Mandeberg called the meeting to order on July 31, 2007 at 12:34 p.m. at the USO Building, Fort Worden.

WELCOME
Thatcher Bailey, Centrum Executive Director, welcomed the Commission and commented that Centrum was “made by WSAC” in 1973. Peter McCracken, Centrum’s Program Manager, described the country blues week activities, and invited everyone to wander through the buildings to experience the jam sessions.

APPROVE AGENDA
A MOTION to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Shauna Woods. It was seconded by Bridges and passed unanimously.

CHAIR’S REPORT
Mandeberg noted that the meeting packets have a new look, and changes in the meeting structure will allow for better focus on planning and advocacy efforts. Commissioner Leann Johnson will chair the Accessibility Committee. Other members are Brom Wikstrom and Mary Ann McCurdy, with Bitsy Bidwell as staff representative. The Nominating Committee was chaired by Commissioner Steve Sneed, and assisted by Leann Johnson and Shauna Woods. The Interim Committee, which meets with the director between the quarterly meetings of the full commission, consists of the commission’s chair, Jean Mandeberg; first-vice chair Leann Johnson; second vice-chair Steve Sneed; and at-large member Monte Bridges. Commissioners Ben Moore and Joan Penney have concluded service on the Interim Committee, and Mandeberg will appoint additional at-large members.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Tucker expressed appreciation for Centrum’s hospitality, and encouraged commissioners to listen for stories about how WSAC has made a difference there over time. The new structure for WSAC meetings will mean fewer but deeper staff presentations, budget reports included in the packets but not presented at the meeting, and more time for planning and advocacy. Staff is working to clarify the WSAC’s vision. US Congressman Norm Dicks has been a strong leader for the arts in working for increased funding to the NEA, and Tucker has met with his staff. To update on international activity, Tucker reported that former commissioner Cheryl Leo-Gwin is working on a conference of fire arts in Beijing. Staff will be actively developing a list of nominees for the Governor’s Arts and Heritage Awards (GAHA) described on page 5 of the supplemental mailing. Tucker referred to the Accessibility Report, pages 1-2 of the supplemental mailing; the procedure for accessibility complaints will be presented at the November 2007 meeting.
Commissioner Leann Johnson reported on her attendance at The Association of American Cultures (TAAC) conference in Denver in July. She described it as overwhelming and energizing. It was a gathering of international and national arts leaders considering cultural democracy and global connections, what that means to the arts, and what the arts means to that. The overwhelming part was the realization that when we talk about issues of cultural preservation, cultural integrity, arts, and race relations, those topics are huge. They extend far beyond the arts world. The energizing piece was the fact that the arts and people in the arts have a very specific and distinct role in terms of preservation and expression of culture, and the opportunity to impact the larger social and political picture. Attending a session on the creative economy and creative class brought more shape to those concepts, and applications to the work of the commission and within local communities.

Tucker provided a handout, WSAC Conflict of Interest Policies. Questions at the May meeting led to consultation with the Attorney General’s staff to learn more about conflicts of interest, known and perceived. WSAC policies must apply to commission meetings as well as panels and juries. The document presented is suggested as a temporary policy (July 2007 to February 2008) until a final policy, including examples, can be approved at the February meeting. prior to the spring 2008 calendar of grant panels and public art juries. It is the recommendation of the Attorney General that if commissioners would benefit from an item under consideration, they should recuse themselves by leaving the room before the vote. The recusal would be recorded in the minutes.

A MOTION to approve the temporary Conflict of Interest Policy was made by Rep. Kessler. It was seconded by Carlson and carried unanimously.

2008 MEETING SCHEDULE

A draft WSAC meeting schedule for 2008 (page 7 of the packet) was considered. The dates are yet to be confirmed. Commissioner Kate Jones will host the summer meeting at Methow Valley. Everett, home of Commissioner Lanie McMullin, is being considered for the May meeting and Commissioner Leann Johnson’s city of Vancouver is proposed for November. The February meeting will be held in Olympia during the legislative session in conjunction with Arts Day. The legislative calendar and scheduling of Arts Day will determine the specific date. Commissioners are encouraged to notify staff if they would like to host a future commission meeting in their community or have suggestions for specific meeting sites.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Mandeberg asked for Commissioners to identify conflict of interest with items on the Consent Agenda; see below. There were five items listed under the Consent Agenda for which no commissioners needed to recuse themselves under the conflict of interest policy. These were: Minutes of May 15 WSAC meeting; Professional Development Assistance Program (PDAP) grants; Community Project Funding for Folk Arts Projects FY08; Artwork Deaccession; and Arts in Education Professional Development Support grants.
A MOTION to approve these five items was made by Commissioner McMullin. It was seconded by Sneed and carried unanimously.

For consideration of Project Support program Grants FY08 – Round One, Commissioner Bruce declared a conflict of interest and recused himself.
A MOTION to approve was made by Commissioner Sneed. It was seconded by Woods and carried unanimously.

For consideration of Arts Participation Initiative Grants FY08, Commissioners Jones and Moxley declared conflicts of interest and recused themselves.
A MOTION to approve was made by Commissioner Bridges. It was seconded by McMullin and carried unanimously.

For consideration of Institutional Support Program Grants FY08, Commissioners Carlson, Woods and Skinner declared conflicts of interest and recused themselves.
A MOTION to approve was made by Commissioner Romero. It was seconded by Sneed and carried unanimously.

A commissioner asked if it is necessary to recuse if there is no discussion. Clarification will be sought from the Attorney General’s office.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Report on Survey of Commissioners: Commissioner Leann Johnson referred to page 7-10 of the supplemental mailing, and reported on the results of the survey of commissioners conducted by the Nominating Committee (Sneed, Woods and herself). The report in the packet is a summary. The Interim Committee will study the more detailed responses. The committee tried to find themes, areas of consensus, new ideas. Common responses included:
- Wish for more time to interact with each other, staff, artists, communities (relationships)
- Support for advocacy; need for more assistance
- Desire to find WSAC’s niche and do well
- Confusion about other arts organizations; need for better understanding of Prosperity Partnership, 4Culture, etc.

Election of Officers: Commissioner Shauna Woods presented the Nominating Committee’s recommendation that the current officers (Jean Mandeberg, chair; Leann Johnson, first vice-chair; Steve Sneed, second vice-chair) all serve a second year.
A MOTION to accept the committee’s recommendation was made by Commissioner McCurdy. It was seconded by Kessler and carried unanimously.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

WSAC’s strategic plan for the 2009-11 biennium is due to the Governor in June 2008. To begin discussion, Tucker gave a powerpoint presentation, also provided as a handout. Tucker said planning is about process as well as producing a document. The presentation covered WSAC’s
history with strategic planning, and described the timeline for developing the next plan. The budget request identifies resources needed to implement the plan. Strategic planning involves looking at WSAC’s mission and current realities. Advocacy will be integrated throughout the strategic plan. Considering the potential for growing the grants budget and new ways to advance WSAC’s mission are not contradictory, but complementary. Strategic opportunities abound. The planning process will be facilitated, and the Interim Committee will help design it. The next four commission meetings will include dedicated time for strategic planning. The plan must be approved by the Commission in May, and the budget request in August 2008.

Commissioner Bruce asked if WSAC’s four goals will remain the same; Tucker responded that she expects there will be some change, but she expects central commitments will remain much the same. Commissioner Romero stated that arts education is important for all, not just for students. Commissioner Skinner noted the work of the Gates Foundation in early learning. Commissioner Carlson asked if staff tracks total support of arts education, including through grants to organizations and public art. Tucker responded that this information is not now collected and may be difficult to track specifically. Carlson said that such information could be useful in advocacy and in considering future investments. Kessler said the Prosperity Partnership might give WSAC an opportunity to look at “business as unusual”: education is the state’s paramount duty, and a related request might be well-received by the Legislature. She said a request for a 50% increase for grants won’t be successful without a targeted outcome. Commissioner Finnie said WSAC is at a crossroads: 15 years of flat funding shows that the agency is in trouble; we now have an opportunity to say what is important and to push for that. Commissioner Woods said WSAC needs to determine what we need to do and support; she said artists are at the core of what we do, but aren’t supported outside of Artist Trust. Commissioner McMullin said she had recently served as a panelist for WSAC’s Organization Support Program, and she was appalled by WSAC’s limited ability to fund applications. She said WSAC is not part of key issues, such as the Prosperity Partnership. She observed that a broader role often means an organization is less effective. She said WSAC must focus on what can make the most difference. What’s the best way to use WSAC’s money? Commissioner Sneed noted that arts organizations receiving WSAC operating support grants also provide arts education; how can WSAC support enable them to do their other work also, when organizations can only do so much? Commissioner Carlson said he understands the Prosperity Partnership is focused on larger organizations. The importance of early education, creative education, creative economy point to the importance of arts. Commissioner Penney said a key question is how WSAC can position itself so it matters. She said these are the same discussions we have had for years, and this is an opportunity to shake things up so WSAC has more significance.

Chair Mandeberg said she and Tucker had recently met with Senator Kohl-Welles, who noted that many legislators don’t know what WSAC does. Mandeberg said a Thurston County recipient of an Artist Trust Fellowship had recently told her that he sees that WSAC is looking out for the arts all over the state; she said Commissioners should see our role in that way, and help others see what we do. Commissioner Bruce suggested not doing some things in order to focus on some things well, perhaps linking efforts together (such as arts education and public
art). He suggested OSP could be ended and those funds instead be distributed as Project Support. Mandeberg said she recently had learned of similar changes in other states. Commissioner McMullin noted that the Prosperity Partnership reaches only four communities, and gives WSAC opportunity to think about distribution of funding in that region and in the rest of the state, or thinking of initiatives, but being more focused and significant. Commissioner Carlson suggested funding specific programs. Commissioner Moxley said her organization needs general operating support, not to invent a new project. She said United Way has become more need-based in their funding distribution.

Chair Mandeberg noted the Commissioners’ role in advocacy has grown significantly since Penney was chair. Commissioner Woods suggested WSAC look at directly funding the public education system. Commissioner Skinner said Legislators want to be educated; she suggested meeting with Legislators while driving them to appointments or meetings, she suggested arranging for Legislators to meet with well-known artists; she also suggested Rotary Club programs. She said she will keep her caucus informed about her arts commitment and have the arts in her office. Chair Mandeberg noted the Commission now has four legislative members.

Commissioner Penney asked how this conversation will evolve with the planning process. Mandeberg said the Interim Committee will proceed with planning and will be involved in hiring a facilitator. Carlson suggested using email between meetings. Romero noted that the open meeting laws can apply to Commission business conducted by email. Mandeberg clarified that email would be used to distribute information. Tucker said the minutes from this meeting will include a summary of this discussion. She also noted that strategic planning will be part of the Commission’s November agenda.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH CONSTITUENTS

Visitors from Washington State Arts Alliance (WSAA) and the WSAA Foundation joined arts commissioners at the table for discussion. A handout depicted a chart comparison of WSAC, WSAA, and WSAF, showing the biggest distinctions being that WSAA’s role is grassroots lobbying, and WSAA is a membership organization. Mark Hugh reported on the search for a new director, hoping the vacancy will be filled by the end of September. Steve Lerian reported on successful legislative issues in 2007 and potential 2008 issues, and provided a handout listing them.

Commissioner McMullin said that a well-informed city employee had confused the Prosperity Partnership request with WSAC’s request. Lerian said the proposed Prosperity Partnership legislation is drafted to enable formation of taxing districts in other areas of the state, and that it must be pursued as a coordinated effort. Further discussion focused on the intent of this effort and how it will be pursued. Lerian noted that the members of the Prosperity Partnership steering committee are effective arts managers. Fidelma McGinn, Executive Director of Artist Trust, expressed concern that individual artists should be supported in the taxing district. Lerian encouraged WSAC to see the Prosperity Partnership as a multi-year effort that should not distract from other WSAC efforts.
Mandeberg said WSAC looks forward to working with WSAA on Arts Day. Penney thanked WSAA for their annual meeting, and recognized the work of Gretchen Johnston. Lerian encouraged Commissioners to participate in the annual Washington Cultural Congress.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm for the Centrum Blues Festival Back Porch Jam.

CALL TO ORDER AUG 1
Chair Mandeberg reconvened the meeting at 9:00 am on August 1, 2008.

FORT WORDEN AND CENTRUM PARTNERSHIP
Thatcher Bailey, Executive Director of Centrum, and Kate Burke, manager of Fort Worden State Park, talked about their current long-range planning process. They provided a handout, “Fort Worden Vision and Values.” Fort Worden is defined as a life-long learning center, and the development of the mission is a very public process, with other learning partners involved.

ADVOCACY
Commissioner Greeley provided a handout, “Meetings with Washington Legislators – Fall 2007,” and outlined four goals to legislative meetings before the end of December: 1) raise the visibility of WSAC, 2) inform legislators about WSAC programs using stories to show how arts have made a difference to constituents, 3) develop support for arts statewide, 4) build relationships. Commissioner Jones told of inviting her state senator into her community to meet with local arts leaders.

Mandeberg announced the formation of an Advocacy Committee consisting of Commissioners Greeley (chair), Carlson, McMullin and Skinner.

Tucker provided a handout (Fall 2007 Legislative Meetings), a table identifying legislators to be visited by specific commissioners. She encouraged commissioners to take stories to their legislators. Stories can be found in WSAC’s eNews, these two days at Fort Worden, and from grantees from the legislator’s district. Staff will create a story about each legislative district; Mark Gerth will be the point person. Commissioners may email stories to kristineb@arts.wa.gov. Meeting in the home district of the legislator is encouraged.

Two booklets (Pictorial Guide to the Legislature and Committee Assignments) were provided. Representative Kessler advised commissioners to learn what committees legislators serve on to get a feel for where they are coming from; tell a story that relates to their interest, how arts impact population they care about. She suggested asking other community arts leaders and former arts commissioners to help expand advocacy. Rep. Skinner said when approaching legislators, remember they work for you. She suggested connecting frequently with legislators, at their home and by phone and email.
POLICY ACTIONS AND PROGRAMS

Commissioner McKay brought an AIPP story, showing slides of a Yakima Valley Community College classroom building entrance with Steve Gardner’s glazed terra cotta artworks. Alice Taylor commented that this was a very successful integration into the architecture; it shows what can happen when you start early in the planning process.

Mayumi Tsutakawa reported that there were over 100 applications for Organizational Support Program (OSP) grants. The amount requested was three times the amount available to grant. The two highest rated applicants were Cinema Seattle and Living Voices. Also notable were Olympia Music Festival, Maryhill Museum (worked hard with Native American and Latino populations), and Rock School (bringing music theory to young artists).

For consideration of the panel recommendations for OSP grants, Commissioners Sneed, Jones, Moxley, and Bruce declared a conflict of interest and recused themselves. A MOTION to approve the recommendations was made by Commissioner Greeley. It was seconded by McCurdy and passed unanimously.

Tsutakawa presented a Grants to Organizations budget adjustment, asking for ISP funds to be transferred to PSP and OSP because an ISP organization, Empty Space Theatre, closed. Discussion followed. Commissioner McMullin asked if another group could be moved to ISP, to recognize the evolution of new groups. Tsutakawa said that would require a change in the guidelines. ISP has 29 organizations funded by a formula based on their total annual income. Tucker added that ISP is defined as a closed category; if changed, WSAC would have to be open to other applications. There are many eligibility criteria (budget, staffing levels, management, number of years in business, payment of professional salary levels, and impact beyond the local community) that must be compared with other applicants. It is more complicated than it would seem.

A MOTION to approve the requested budget adjustment was made by Commissioner Moxley. It was seconded by Johnson and passed unanimously.

Tsutakawa gave a brief update on the Grants to Organizations Program, thanking Commissioners Sneed and Jones for participating in a meeting to learn of OSP structure, rules other State Arts Agencies use, and many considerations. There will be future discussions regarding the structure of OSP/ISP. McMullin noted this would be wrapped up with strategic planning. Tsutakawa told commissioners the TAAC conference was a success, and the next Arts Participation Initiative (API) gathering will be in Yakima the first week in November.

Lisa Jaret referred to page 43, recommending FY08 funding for ArtsEd Washington as a cooperative partner. ArtsEd Washington advances Arts education around the state and will be contracted for three key services: 1) Principals’ Arts Leadership Initiative; 2) development of a curriculum bank with online access and aligned with state standards; 3) develop regional
partnerships and help with networking. Commissioner Bridges said this is a very strategic approach.

A MOTION to approve ArtsEd Washington as a WSAC Cooperative Partner was made by Commissioner Bruce. It was seconded by Johnson and passed unanimously.

Jaret referred to pages 40-42, the Roster of Teaching Artists. By definition, this roster identifies artists with teaching skills, plus a willingness to make the connections with state-defined essential learnings. Jaret presented slides citing quotes from the applications interspersed with images of artists’ work samples, noting the level of quality, amount of passion, and standards brought to the classroom. New web pages will be developed for each artist on the roster. Jaret explained that while anyone can use the roster, WSAC encourages all grantees to use it. A rostered artist may be hired by a school, a district, a PTA, or a community group. The artists work as independent contractors and can design programs for a specific situation. Discussion followed, focusing on the relationship of the roster to grants, geographic distribution of applicants, method of notification and assistance for applicants not selected, mentorship, annual update requirements, and development of emerging artists.

A MOTION to approve the recommendations of the Roster of Teaching Artists panel was made by Representative Kessler. It was seconded by Romero and passed unanimously.

Tucker referred to page 44-45 in the packet, Poet Laureate Selection Process. The proposed implementation process will set the standard for selecting a Poet Laureate every two years. A timeline is outlined. The proposed term of service will allow for announcement by the Governor when legislature is in session. Discussion followed, addressing a Washington state residency requirement, selection committee membership, publicizing the application process to poets, allowing the selected Poet Laureate to perform duties in ways best suited to strengths, oversight by WSAC executive director, and need to address concerns of those who opposed having a state Poet Laureate.

A MOTION to approve the Poet Laureate selection process was made by Commissioner Skinner. It was second by McMullin and passed unanimously.

Bidwell announced a new grant program, American Masterpieces Performance Initiative, for communities of less than 10,000 that have not received any WSAC grants since 2004. It offers the opportunity to have a performance, develop skills and learn about arts presenting at the Arts Northwest booking conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

A tour of Copper Canyon Press followed, which many commissioners and staff enjoyed.
Minutes

NOVEMBER 1, 2007 ARTS COMMISSION MEETING

MOUNT BAKER THEATRE - BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT
Jean Mandeberg, Chair
Leann Johnson, First Vice Chair
Monte Bridges
David Brown
Kent Carlson (via phone)
Cindy Hill Finnie
Maureen Greeley
Sen. Jim Honeyford
Kate Jones
Rep. Lynn Kessler
Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles
Mary Ann McCurdy
Bill McKay
Lanie McMullin
Joan Penney
Rosita Romero
Brom Wikstrom
Shauna Woods

STAFF PRESENT
Kris Tucker, Executive Director
Kristine Bartruff
Bitsy Bidwell
Mark Gerth
Lisa Jaret
Willie Smyth
Alice Taylor
Mayumi Tsutakawa

GUESTS
Steve Lerian, Prosperity Partnership
Jim Kelly, 4Culture
Brad Burdick, Mount Baker Theatre
Mary Langholz, WSAA
Jerri Honeyford, Maryhill Museum
Rebecca Hutchins, Allied Arts of Whatcom Co.
Amy Schilder, Allied Arts of Whatcom Co.
Chris Brewer, Allied Arts Education Project
Jennifer Love, WWU
Carey Morris, Hughes & Associates
Andrea Peterson, Teacher of the Year
Kjristine Lund, Lund Consulting

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT
Chris Bruce
Noël Moxley
Rep. Mary Skinner
Steve Sneed

Dennis Sellin, Lund Consulting
CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mandeberg called the meeting to order on November 1, 2007 at 9:02 am at the Encore Room of the Mount Baker Theatre in Bellingham.

WELCOME

Brad Burdick, Executive Director of the Mount Baker Theatre, welcomed the commission. He said the Mount Baker is part of a major joint redevelopment project to create an arts district in downtown Bellingham. Mandeberg welcomed two new commissioners, Senator Jim Honeyford of the 15th District (Sunnyside), and D. David Brown, Executive Director of Pacific Northwest Ballet (Seattle). She also welcomed the new director of Washington State Arts Alliance, Mary Langholz, and staff from Allied Arts of Whatcom County.

APPROVE AGENDA

A MOTION to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Leann Johnson. It was seconded by Kessler and passed unanimously.

ARTS EDUCATION – GUEST SPEAKER

Lisa Jaret, WSAC Arts Education Program Manager, gave a brief overview of WSAC’s Community Consortia grants as supporting sustainable, long-term arts education partnerships of schools and community groups. Jaret introduced Andrea Peterson, an elementary music teacher from Granite Falls, WA who was named national Teacher of the Year. Peterson spoke of the power of the arts, its ability to develop 21st Century skills (like cooperation, teamwork and creativity), and the need for community involvement in education. Commissioner Penney asked if Washington’s mandate for arts testing is a valid tool, if it is enough, or if there is something else WSAC should seek statewide. Peterson said WASL testing in the arts is on the right track, and yes, a mandate is needed because without it there are some teachers who would not teach the arts.

CHAIR’S REPORT

Mandeberg reported that the Interim Committee met by conference call on September 19, and in person on October 12. She updated the commission on her work, her regular meetings with Kris Tucker, and the updated Commissioner Toolkit information.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Tucker thanked the commissioners who participated in the Creativity Matters summit in Tacoma, focusing on the need for a statewide commitment to teaching creativity in schools. She reported that applications have been received from fourteen poets interested in being named the State’s Poet Laureate. An eight-member committee will review the applications and make a recommendation. There will also be a panel review of nominations for the Governor’s Arts and Heritage Awards (GAHA). The Governor’s announcement for both will occur before the next regular WSAC meeting; therefore, it will be necessary to convene a Special Meeting, a telephone conference call, for the limited purpose of considering the GAHA and Poet Laureate recommen-
Tucker mentioned there would be two presentations later in the meeting, one on 4Culture’s request before the 2008 legislature to expand their designation to receive hotel-motel tax funds, followed by an update on the cultural taxing district proposal which will not go before the legislature until 2009. WESTAF (Western Arts Federation) and WSAC will convene a regional forum to explore the impact of cultural taxing districts. The forum will bring together people who have studied cultural taxing districts, studied tax policy and who have experience in working with cultural taxing districts. This will help us better understand how they benefit the state as a whole, and also to inform state arts agencies about how these can relate to our work in the state more broadly.

Tucker referred to the temporary Conflict of Interest policy that was approved by the Commission in August. The February meeting will include a briefing by our Assistant Attorney General to discuss what this means for our meeting structure.

Two budget reports were sent to commissioners last week: 2005-2007 Final Report, and FY2008 First Quarter Report. Since the commissioners’ responsibility is to approve the annual budget of the commission, these reports are informational and helpful for understanding the work of the commission. Commissioners asked for a line item that identifies the amount in Savings Incentive Funds. The First Quarter Report shows new lines for funding for Cooperative Partnership with ArtsEd WA, Folk Arts Infrastructure, Accessibility, and Poet Laureate. A correction will be made on the line for expenses for Agency Administration. The legislature provided $30,000 for the biennium for Poet Laureate; $16,500 for the first year allows extra for the selection process. The poet will be paid $10,000 per year and other funds will support program costs and travel. In May WSAC approves the budget for the next fiscal year.

Tucker referred to a handout, WSAC’s Current Strategic Plan, which gives a summary of activity to date on the current strategic plan, and will be part of the facilitated discussion in the afternoon the begins developing a new strategic plan. The year 2011 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Arts Commission’s establishment by Governor Rosellini, and Tucker challenged commissioners to think ambitiously about the kind of agency we want to be after fifty years. Tucker shared an email describing the value of participating in a workshop of community museums in Oaxaca, Mexico with some funding support from WSAC.

**2008 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Mandeberg announced the anticipated schedule of WSAC meetings for 2008 as follows:
Wednesday, February 20, 9:00-5:00, in Olympia (Arts Day at the legislature is February 19)
Tuesday, May 13, 9:00-5:00, in Vancouver
Tuesday, August 5, Noon to Wednesday, August 6, 12:30, in Twisp
Thursday, November 6, 9:00-5:00, in Everett

**APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

Mandeberg asked for Commissioners to identify conflict of interest with items on the Consent Agenda. None were identified. Consent Agenda items are: minutes of July/August meeting;
Professional Development Assistance Program (PDAP) grants; and American Masterpieces Performance Initiative grants.

A MOTION to approve the entire Consent Agenda was made by Commissioner Woods. It was seconded by Bridges and carried unanimously.

PDAP grants are relatively small and the application process is much simpler than those in the Grants to Organizations Program. It was noted that all PDAP funds for this fiscal year have been expended, except those designated for Cultural Congress registrations in April. A spelling correction on page 23 was identified; the Sequim organization is Olympic Theatre Arts.

PRESENTATION ON KING COUNTY HOTEL-MOTEL TAX EXTENSION PROPOSAL
Jim Kelly, Executive Director of 4Culture, King County’s cultural services agency, reported that their lodging tax funding is scheduled to cease in 2012. This is the largest source of revenue for programs in Arts, Heritage, Preservation and Public Art. King County will be seeking legislation in the 2008 session to restore hotel-motel tax funds to 4Culture in 2020, when bonds for Qwest Field are paid. 4Culture also will request a change in law to allow use of its endowment fund as a bridge fund to continue program support for the years 2013-2020. Kessler expressed concern about spending the endowment fund. Commissioners discussed perceived conflicts or confusion between this proposal and that of Prosperity Partnership, and asked for help understanding their role in discussing the issues with legislators, and suggested coordinating messages for the two proposals.

PRESENTATION ON CULTURAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT/CULTURAL ACCESS FUND PROPOSAL
Steve Lerian, represented the Prosperity Partnership’s cultural task force. He explained the Prosperity Partnership is a coalition of 240 business, government and community organizations in King, Pierce, Kitsap and Snohomish counties. It is seeking to authorize the formation of districts to provide dedicated funding through a voter-approved state sales tax increase. The effort is now called “Cultural Access Fund – Arts to Zoos.” The year 2008 will be used to develop the proposal and build support, with a planned request for the 2009 legislative session.

Woods asked about the administrative burden on small organizations. Commissioners expressed concern about the public appetite for increasing sales tax. Brown said the funding provided through the proposed fund would allow organizations like Pacific Northwest Ballet to increase access and outreach.

ADVOCACY
Commissioner Maureen Greeley provided a handout summarizing the work of the Advocacy committee, which consists of herself, Kent Carlson, Mary Skinner, and Lanie McMullin. She said WSAC is still defining advocacy roles, and commissioners must be knowledgeable about our strategic plan and other arts initiatives. Greeley noted successes in the 2007 legislative session even though the budget request for increased grants funds was not approved.
Tucker updated the commission about the Arts Education Lottery Bill, an effort that began a year ago and has continued to gain momentum. Senator McAuliffe, chair of the Education Committee, plans to introduce legislation in 2008 to redirect lottery funds to arts education once the sports stadiums are paid off. The legislation would form a project account to be distributed by WSAC and OSPI statewide K-12 initiatives.

Greeley said the Advocacy Committee will have regular in-person or telephone meetings to improve communication with commissioners and staff between the quarterly WSAC meetings. She noted that there is a legislative commissioner on each team to provide insight and expertise as commissioners prepare to meet their own legislators. Also, as the Arts Alliance prepares for Arts Day on February 19, there will be communication with or representation by someone from the WSAC Advocacy Committee. The Advocacy Committee now has a better structure to be more effective.

Mandeberg summarized that there are two immediate issues: 1) before December 1, commissioners should have the meetings with legislators assigned at the summer meeting, and 2) team leaders will provide updates about Arts Day participation.

Discussion followed. Senator Kohl-Welles suggested that prior to each WSAC meeting, local legislators from that district might be notified and invited to come. A commissioner asked if there would be support materials provided to leave during legislator visits. Tucker noted a folder provided at the August meeting with a sampling of materials from which to choose the best for a particular visit. Senator Honeyford advised to leave only a single page with bullet points, otherwise the chance of it being read is minimal. Tucker also referred to the stories enclosed in the folders, and the value of relating a story of the legislator’s own district or an issue of interest. Posters from arts organizations or art on loan can decorate a legislator’s office. Greeley suggested inviting legislators to attend an arts event, and said the Advocacy Committee will try to provide information about opportunities.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Kjristine Lund and Dennis Sellin of Lund Consulting, distributed a flyer identifying five phases of WSAC’s strategic planning:

Phase One, Oct 15-Nov 15, 2007: Identify goals, determine research needs
Phase Two, Nov. 16, 2007-Jan. 30, 2008: Conduct research and write report
Phase Three, Jan 31-Feb. 20, 2008: Findings and principles for recommendations
Phase Four, Feb. 21-April 22, 2008: Recommendations
Phase Five, April 23-May 13, 2008: Write final report and communications tools

Tucker provided a handout on “WSAC’s Current Strategic Plan, Update on WSAC’s Four Goals,” to explain the status of implementing the strategic plan that was submitted to the Governor in June 2006. The Commission is now preparing the plan that will be submitted to the Governor in June 2008. She added that the Interim Committee has discussed advocacy as a
thread through the entire plan that we are developing now. What are the advocacy needs for any of the work that we do, and how do we best articulate the needs of the state and then pursue those in terms of an advocacy agenda?

Lund noted that the current plan was just implemented since July 1, 2007, so there is not a lot of experience yet to determine if the plan is getting us where we want to go. She then made group assignments and defined the two mini-sessions for discussions by the three groups. A commissioner in each group recorded discussion points and made a summary report to the entire group. Each group discussed the three questions listed on the fold-out: 1) relevance of what you do, 2) how you define success (assuming unrestricted funding), and 3) data/research needed.

See Work Session Notes attached as part of the official minutes.

Mandeberg reminded the Commission of the November 26, 2007 special meeting, Arts Day on February 19, 2008 and the next Commission meeting on February 20, 2008 in Olympia.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.