



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: May 4, 2016

2016 Legislature

The 2016 Legislative Session was convened on Monday, January 11 and concluded on March 29, halfway through a special session. We participated in weekly Heritage Caucus meetings every Wednesday at 7 am in the Cherberg Building, Rooms A-B-C.

The session offered a mix of modest successes and some failures. **House Bill 2583** was 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. Sponsors included Representatives McBride, Haler, Zeiger, Stambaugh, Moscoso, Bergquist, Fitzgibbon, Peterson, Van De Wege, Springer, Santos, Goodman, Hickel, and Tharinger. The bill passed the House with a vote of 90 to 8. It then went to the Senate Committee on Trade & Economic Development, chaired by Senator Sharon Brown. Quite a lot of Chair Brown's Tri-Cities constituents and organizations emailed and called her in support of the bill, including the Port of Kennewick, the Arts Foundation of the Mid-Columbia, the Mid-Columbia Master Singers and the Arts Center Task Force. The committee passed the bill unanimously and referred it to Ways and Means where it stalled. It did not emerge from the final budget negotiations. Disappointing as this was, the positive response it received in general, from both sides of the aisle and from so many legislators, was encouraging. The plan is to submit it for inclusion as part of the Governor's proposed budget later this year, and to attempt successful passage of the legislation in the 2017 session.

The other bill of particular interest to the Arts Commission was **Senate Bill 6409**. This bill was put forward by the "Council of Presidents," but supported strongly by us. The first section authorized universities to make use of up to 10 percent of the ½ of 1 percent for art funding during the design phase of a project. Currently, the AIPP team is not allowed to start projects until the building phase begins, a distinct disadvantage in terms of smoothly incorporating the art into the design and structure of the building. Though there was strong legislative support for this section of 6409, other components that had nothing to do with the Arts Commission proved to be stumbling blocks. Ultimately, the bill died. It was, however, exciting to see that the legislative response was very supportive of the idea of allowing the art component to commence during the design phase.

Administration. We are growing!

Anna Marie Ortiz joined the staff of ArtsWA on March 16, bringing many years of experience and a diverse skillset to the position. She came to us following almost 10 years with the Emergency Management Division of the State of Washington's Military Department. Prior to that, she was Director of Ticketing at the Mount Baker Theatre in Bellingham. Her combined experience in management, administration and support and customer services make her well qualified for her new position with ArtsWA. Anna Marie told us that she is truly excited at the prospect of returning to the arts and says, "I am looking forward to getting back to my "roots," and to working with people who have backgrounds in the arts and a passion for it."

Executive Directors Report: May 4, 2016

Valerie Peterman joined the staff of ArtsWA on April 1 as the **Web Portal Writer-Researcher**. As an administrator with more than four years' experience in a diverse array of institutions, Valerie comments that she has pursued a career in the arts with dedicated passion and a creative work ethic. Upon completion of an M.A in Philosophy and the Arts, she worked as a client services officer for Mana Fine Arts, where she managed the shipping, storage and installation of clients' artworks. As a curatorial intern at the Henry Art Gallery, she independently reviewed artist submissions, after which she headed a presentation for the curatorial and collections departments to consider new artists for exhibition. In her final project with the Henry, she worked closely with Deputy Director Luis Croquer conducting conceptual research on the intersection of assemblage and collage in the work of Kurt Schwitters, Robert Rauschenberg and Llyn Foulkes. Most recently employed at Gemini G.E.L in Los Angeles and acting as the primary sales associate, Valerie oversaw publications, communications and customer relations. While this experience focused her on art administration within a private institution, Valerie is pleased that in joining the ArtsWA team, she will expand her work experience in the public sector.

Jennifer Myers started on April 18 as the Web Portal's Art Inventory and Field Worker. Jennifer has an M.A. from the University of Washington in Museology, as well as a B.F.A. in Studio Fine Art, with an emphasis on painting. While working full time at Seattle's Central Co-op for the past five years, Jennifer has simultaneously kept a laser focus on the field she loves and intends as her long-term career. Since 2014, she has interned at the Seattle Art Museum (SAM), working with Chief Conservator, Nicholas Dorman. Her experience at SAM has been focused on collections care of objects, prints, sculpture, and paintings, as well as the treatment of paintings, including oil and acrylic. She also worked with Lisa Duncan Goedecke, focusing on photographs, paper, posters, drawings, prints, and paintings of watercolor and tempera.

Stacy Hicks left the Agency on April 21 to accept a new position as volunteer coordinator with the Olympia United Way. The search is currently underway for her replacement. The decision was made to change the job description to reflect greater emphasis on fiscal duties, as well as administrative responsibilities. This position will offer fiscal, technical and administrative support to the Deputy Director, the Executive Assistant, the Communications Manager and occasionally, other staff as needed.

Agency Budget / Finances

A **supplemental budget** request was submitted to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) in October 2015. In March we received word that our requests were funded. These included a contracted lease rate increase, which starts in FY 2017, and some funding to help pay for Mayumi Tsutakawa's leave buyout, as a result of her retirement. Total allocated to us through the Supplemental Budget was \$23,000.

In early April we received notice from the **National Endowment for the Arts** that our FY 2016 State Partnership Agreement award will be \$808,500, (\$18,500 more than 2015). This is for the period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. It is allocated as follows:

- \$615,100 for State Arts Plan, which includes \$20,000 for Poetry out Loud
- \$56,600 for Arts Education
- \$136,800 for Underserved Communities

Executive Directors Report: May 4, 2016

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

This was a very successful two days with a packed but far reaching agenda. The tour was designed to allow Chair Jane Chu to experience a wide range of programs, particularly those supported by the NEA (and also ArtsWA in many cases). Congressman Derek Kilmer was integrally involved in day one, which began in Tacoma and ended in Bainbridge Island. Activities that day included a Breakfast and Meet and Greet with Community Leaders at the Pantages Theatre in Tacoma, a Museum of Glass/Hot Shop Heroes site visit, a stop at Centrum in Port Townsend for a campus tour, a visit to Copper Canyon Press, and a luncheon and finally, a reception at the Bainbridge Island Museum of Arts.

Day Two was in Seattle exclusively and included a site visit to 12th Avenue Arts with a tour of the theaters, followed by a discussion with members from the Capitol Hill Housing Project, the Cultural Districts program, and representatives from some of the neighborhood organizations involved in the program. Then on to a 4Culture luncheon with a presentation by the "Creative Justice" program, followed by a visit to Franklin High School's NEA sponsored "Songwriting Challenge" site program and a final stop at the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience for a guided visit, and a closing Town Hall event attended by the Mayor of Seattle, arts leaders, and community members.

An update on the Washington State Teaching Artist Training Lab (TAT Lab) – A professional development program for teaching artists working in all artistic disciplines

Recently, Arts in Education (AIE) Program Manager Lisa Jaret received a letter from Tracy Thompson, who was a member of the 2014-2015 TAT Lab cohort, to say thank you for what she got out of TAT Lab. Tracy lives and works in Walla Walla, where she is the Program Director for the Carnegie Picture Lab, an organization that supports visual arts education for elementary school children in the Walla Walla Valley. She wrote about how the approaches she learned in TAT Lab are supporting her current work – developing lessons using TAT Lab templates, accessing standards based on information learned at TAT Lab, and using the TAT Lab tuning protocol to focus on “the what and how of our instruction.” While we are not funding Carnegie Picture Lab, we have supported improvements in arts teaching and learning for hundreds of students in Walla Walla. This is one example of the powerful ripple effect our work can have, and the not-always-easy-to-measure but important impact of sustained professional development. In related news, TAT Lab will be funded for the 6th year in a row by the National Endowment for the Arts, via a grant that goes to OSPI, and has also received a new grant from the McMillan Foundation, which will specifically support efforts to increase our applicant pool from outside King County, among other things.

Washington Center for Cultural Traditions

Background: Humanities Washington (HW), the Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA), and Northwest Heritage Resources (NWHR) have joined as key partners to establish the Washington Center for Cultural Traditions. The purpose of the Center will be to document, explore, and promote the history, art, and traditions of Washington's cultural communities, carrying on the good work previously conducted by ArtsWA and NWHR. By capitalizing on the strengths of each partner, we believe that this collaborative effort will create a strong foundation and leadership for a statewide movement in support of the folk and traditional arts. The first priority is the hiring of a folklife specialist to lead the Center's work. We requested \$50,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts to establish the position, which will be housed at Humanities Washington, but will work on behalf of both Humanities Washington and ArtsWA, providing statewide coordination of programs and resources via the Washington Center for

Executive Directors Report: May 4, 2016

Cultural Traditions. We received notice in early April from the NEA that they are awarding us \$42,000 for FY 2016 in support of this project.

The process is now underway to review resumes of potential candidates. We had more than a dozen applicants. Interviews will be conducted in May with an anticipated start date for the successful applicant of July 1, 2016. Advisory committee members for the Center include ArtsWA staff Karen Hanan and Miguel Guillen; ArtsWA Commissioner and Seattle University professor Gabriella Gutiérrez y Muhs; Julie Ziegler, Humanities Washington; Jill Linzee, Northwest Heritage Resources; Debbie Fant, Folklorist with State Parks and Recreation Commission; and several others. Karen will also sit on the hiring committee.

Arts and Heritage Day 2017

Working with Senator Jim Honeyford's office, we have confirmed the 2017 Arts and Heritage Day as Wednesday, February 8, 2017 in the Washington Room in the Pritchard Building on the Capitol Campus. These are Senate controlled meeting rooms, so out of reach for the general public unless a Senator steps in to help. Please thank Senator Honeyford and his Legislative Aide Penny McWain, as and when you have an opportunity. This much earlier than usual confirmation of the date allows us to also confirm the date for the February Arts Commission meeting in Olympia as February 7, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KH', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen Hanan, Executive Director
May 4, 2016