

WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION— BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 4, 2020 / ArtsWA Office Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room,
711 Capitol Way South, Olympia, WA 98504

Commissioners Present

Robin Avni
Andre Bouchard
Ginger Ewing
Linley Logan
Mariella Luz
Diane Martindale, Chair
Joan McBride
Monica Miller
Justin Raffa, First Vice Chair
Charlie Robin
Anna-Maria Shannon
Rosanna Sharpe, Second Vice Chair
Sheree Wen

Commissioners Absent

Francene Blythe
Representative Carolyn Eslick
Wesley Jessup
Jolyn GC
Faaluaina Pritchard
Rebecca Redshaw
Judy Tuohy
Senator Lisa Wellman
Representative Sharon Wylie

ArtsWA Staff Present

Karen Hanan, Executive Director
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares, Project Manager, My Public Art Portal
Miguel Guillén, Program Manager, Grants to Organizations
Janae Huber, Collections Manager, Art in Public Places
Marissa Laubscher, Project Manager, Art in Public Places
Tamar Krames, Program Manager, Arts in Education
Jared Moore, Collections Technician, Art in Public Places
Leslie Pope, Executive Assistant
Annette Roth, Program Manager, Creative Districts
Alexis Sarah, Project Manager, Arts Integration
Patricia Schmidt, Office Assistant 1
Deane Shellman, Program Coordinator, Art in Public Places
Mike Sweney, Program Manager, Art in Public Places
Terry West, Deputy Director

Guests & Speakers

David Foster, Foster Government Relations
Glenda Breiler, Managing Director, Evergreen Longhouse
Doug Levy, Outcomes by Levy
Emily Nelson, Outreach Coordinator, Methow Arts Alliance
Deane Shellman, Art in Public Places Program Coordinator

Call to Order

Martindale, ArtsWA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. She conducted roll call, and verified that a quorum was present.

Martindale asked for a MOTION to approve the agenda; the motion was made by Wen, seconded by Bouchard, and passed unanimously.

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Glenda Breiler (Colville), Managing Director, Evergreen Longhouse welcomed the Board to Olympia. She acknowledged that we are on the ceded territory of the Medicine Creek Treaty Nations that include Squaxin, Chehalis, Puyallup, and Nisqually. This land is also an historic location on the sea of trade. Glenda invited Board members to become involved with their indigenous communities and to visit the new carving studio at the Evergreen Longhouse.

Meeting Warm Up

Deane Shellman, Art in Public Places Program Coordinator, led Board and staff members through a warmup exercise based on a classic theater game called “*Zip, Zap, Zop*” that builds focus and engagement between group members.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included:

- Minutes of November 7, 2019 Board Meeting (*packet pp. 11-19*)
- Ratify Snap Grants for Small Community Groups and Organizations—FY 2020 (*handout*)

A MOTION to accept the Consent Agenda was made by Raffa and seconded by Robin. It passed unanimously with no changes to the meeting minutes and no conflicts of interest, abstentions or recusals.

Board Chair’s Report

Martindale reviewed her report (*packet pp. 1*). She called attention to the important dates listed at the end of the agenda, provided for Commissioners’ use and to inform their constituents of various events and grant opportunities.

Martindale welcomed new staff member Alexis Sarah, Project Manager for the Creative Start program for arts early learning integration. Hanan nominated Governor Inslee for the National Award for State Arts Leadership from Americans for the Arts (AFTA). While he was unable to receive the award in person, he filmed a short video for his acceptance speech and the link will be sent to the Board.

Poetry Out Loud finals are scheduled for March 7 at the Tacoma Museum of Glass. Everyone is welcome to attend. Robin mentioned that when he attended the Yakima regional competition, ArtsWA was not mentioned as a supporter of the event. Miller had similar feedback after attending the Ellensburg regional competition. Hanan noted there might be a need for more education about the fact that ArtsWA funds the Poetry Out Loud program through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Executive Director’s Report

Hanan reviewed her report (*packet pp. 24*). Hanan shared “*One River, A Thousand Voices*,” an NEA funded project recently completed by Washington State’s Poet Laureate, Claudia Castro Luna. This beautiful poem is bound with special fabric and created by letter press.

Hanan said this session appears to be the busiest she’s ever experienced, with over 1,400 bills, which is a lot to process in 60 days. She has spent a great deal of time at the Legislature. The Ways & Means Committee Chair, Senator Rolfes, made it clear early on that the supplemental budget would only address emergency issues and corrections. At the recommendation of several leadership legislators, including Senator Marko Liias, it was suggested that ArtsWA pivot its requests to the capital budget. The Creative Districts is now requesting funding in the capital budget for grants to districts for significant improvements, like awnings, roads and signage. ArtsWA is pursuing funding for the Collections team to evaluate the “*Circle of Light*” at the Yakima SunDome, the largest artwork in the State Art Collection. Over the years, many of the reflectors have fallen off, and the artwork has significant repair needs including how best to access the artwork, and repair and replace the reflectors for longevity.

ArtsWA is supporting change to the language of state level legislation on the Cultural Access Washington bill, to streamline King County’s participation to match the same as the rest of the State. ArtsWA is also supporting a bill on the Building for the Arts program to increase the cap from \$12 million to \$18 million for

the biennium, and to reduce the required match. Currently, the match is 4:1 and the proposal is 2:1, the same as heritage and other granting programs.

Hanan said there is a proposed increase of \$7.25 million for the NEA in the federal budget. We will need to watch what happens with the President's budget and negotiations going forward.

Alexis Sarah is ArtsWA's new arts integration specialist, working on a new program called Creative Start, which will be discussed during the Round Robin portion of the meeting.

The Washington State Poet Laureate read a poem to open the Senate for this year's legislative session. It is a tribute to the growth of that position and to Castro Luna. She has traveled throughout the State as much as possible, which is appreciated considering that the stipend is \$10,000 per year. ArtsWA and Humanities WA will undertake review of this program, beginning with surveys of past laureates, panelists, and a wider constituent pool, to determine how to improve the program. Currently, no state funding supports this position; funding is found within the already limited ArtsWA and Humanities WA budgets. Hanan plans to develop a budget request for the next biennium. McBride said she asked Elizabeth Austen, a former Poet Laureate, about the position. Austen said the stipend tends to limit the application pool to poets who have the means to support themselves and pay for travel to accomplish the goals of the position. Another former Poet Laureate, Todd Marshall, was supported by the college where he worked, and a number of poets have been supported by a foundation. Hanan confirmed this is an equity issue. McBride wants to help with the review process.

FY 2020-21 Biennium—2nd Quarter Budget Report

This report (*packet pp. 5-10*) is for information only; it does not require a motion. The budget is on track and the narrative provides detail on expenditures by program. Everything is roughly half spent. Some programs have cyclical expenditures. The Art in Public Places program operates by reimbursements, which make the program appear at times to be under or over spent, but the expenditure of this program will even out during the course of the year.

McBride asked what happens to the Creative Districts pilot project after the first year, if it gets funded through the capital budget. Foster said the hope is to turn this into a full-fledged program that would continue to support new districts as they are certified. The current request would provide \$75,000 for each of the three certified districts to date: Edmonds, Chewelah, and Olympia, and the five additional districts anticipated to be certified by the end of this fiscal year. Hanan said each certified or potential budget has proposals for façade upgrades, lighting, and other small projects that would make a big impact.

Ewing said that grant funding for administrative support to develop the creative district process would be helpful. In Spokane there is interest, but very little time or funding for someone to lead the work of coordinating community stakeholders through the process. Hanan said most communities that have been certified, or will be soon, have figured out the administrative process. While capital budget funding cannot be used to pay for administrative or planning support, perhaps a stipend for administrative process could be considered in the future, if other funding is found.

Advocacy: Arts, Heritage and Science Day Preview

Monica Miller and Justin Raffa, Advocacy Committee Co-Chairs, conducted the advocacy portion of the meeting. They introduced Doug Levy, Outcomes by Levy, LLC and David Foster, Foster Government Relations.

State of the State Report

Foster provided a broad overview of the legislative session. This is a supplemental budget year, and a short session, and no one is requesting significant funding. Washington is in good shape financially. The session is moving quickly and legislators are on a tight timeline. Be hyper focused when speaking with legislators.

Miller asked for an overview of the capital budget. Foster explained the capital budget is funded through bonds, which raise money up front to pay for capital projects around the State. These bonds are repaid over 30 years, similar to a credit card. There is a \$75 million cap in the operating budget that dictates how much money can be paid on the capital budget this year. Chairs in both caucuses have had a difficult time getting votes to pass a bond bill with such a small budget.

Wen asked what impact the car tab reduction will have on the budget. Foster said most of the impact will be on the transportation budget, with little or no direct impact on the capital or operating budgets.

Raffa requested specific talking points on the two capital budget requests. Levy said the one-page document contains talking points. The Creative Districts program is attractive because it is a project with a high degree of readiness and will get underway quickly, to be completed in a timely manner. There is an economic and tourism component that legislators appreciate. This program also impacts areas around the entire state, including urban and rural, larger and smaller cities.

The “*Circle of Light*” (SunDome) is the most iconic piece in the State Art Collection. It was built in 1992, has stood for almost 30 years, and simply needs to be fixed and repaired. This project is timely, because Yakima County is already planning to clean and maintain the roof, so it makes good sense to assess how to repair the artwork while equipment is in place for cleaning and maintenance.

Foster added that changing the language of the Building for the Arts legislation will make the program more accessible to organizations outside of the Puget Sound region and the I-5 corridor. Communities gain easier access to this funding because of the reduced match requirements, and this change is expected to have a positive reaction within a short time frame after the bill is approved.

Levy said legislators notice who signs in at the electronic terminals, in support and opposition of each bill. At the terminal, click on the hearings list and on the applicable bill, and let the screen walk you through the sign-in. This must be done on the capitol campus.

Overview and Packets

Hanan reviewed contents of the Arts, Heritage & Science Day packets including scheduled legislative meetings, a campus map, key acronyms for Capitol Campus buildings, and supporting materials.

Funding Priorities

Hanan reviewed funding priorities (*handouts*), which include:

- Certified Creative Districts – Economic Development through Arts & Culture—(*handout*)
- State Public Art Collection – Protecting \$40 Million in State Art Assets—(*handout*)

Exercise/Worksheet–Preparation for Legislative Meetings

Miller, Advocacy Committee Co-Chair, reviewed the Board Worksheet (*packet p. 20-21*) designed to help Commissioners create and articulate messaging for legislative meetings. The worksheet helps discover the interests of legislators, focuses on arts accomplishments and events within their districts, and ties the interests of legislators to the projects and goals of ArtsWA. Miller asked Commissioners to prepare for each legislative meeting by completing a sheet for each legislator.

ArtsWA Programs Round Robin

Commissioners went to the ArtsWA office to receive brief updates on key agency programs:

- Creative Districts—Annette Roth, Program Manager
- Art in Public Places: Acquisitions—Mike Sweney, Program Manager
- Art in Public Places: Collections—Janae Huber, Manager
- Arts in Education: Tamar Krames, Program Manager
- Grants to Organizations—Miguel Guillén, Program Manager

Commissioners reflected on their experience during these presentations. It was helpful to hear about projects and meet staff. Understanding how programs have grown in relation to increased funding by the state is uplifting. Staff have great enthusiasm for their projects, and every sector had something new in their program, which reflects the growth the Board has helped to secure through advocacy efforts. Hanan confirmed that staff have increased from 14 to 21, state funding has grown, and it is an exciting time to begin working on a new strategic plan for the next four years. The Board will be involved in that process, which takes about a year to gather information, form language, and finalize a new plan. Robin said he would like to be useful in panels and other work for the agency and asked what is the best approach to get involved. Hanan said it is important for Board members to let Martindale or her know of their interest.

Center for Washington Cultural Traditions Update

Dr. Langston Wilkins, Director of The Center for Washington Cultural Traditions, reviewed recent achievements within this program and future plans.

Dr. Wilkins became director at the beginning of 2019, to continue programs already in process and learn the cultural landscape to plan for the future. The signature program for the Center is the Heritage Arts Apprenticeship Program (HAAP), which preserves traditions that are rare, unique or endangered in Washington state, by pairing a master artist with an apprentice for one year to pass along those traditions through intensive training. Each artist pair presents a field report at the end of the program year. A business skills workshop is included in the program for artists to learn how to market their work and develop a wide variety of skills to sell their work, if they choose to do so.

In July, 2019, Dr. Wilkins welcomed a second cohort of HAAP artist pairs. Funding allowed him to increase the number of teams to 15, and attract an increasingly wide number of traditions including foraging for wild plants, multiple West African dance and drumming traditions, fiber arts, tribal weaving, tribal carving, and more urban or contemporary based forms like spoken word and Hip Hop. He thanked the ArtsWA Board for their successful advocacy work that resulted in a funding increase. Master artists now get \$4,000 for the year, up from \$3,000; apprentice artists receive \$1,000, an increase from \$500; and the team can get funding for materials. While this increase does not support full-time work in their craft, it helps a great deal. Ideally the teams are one-on-one, but there are some traditions that do not fit that structure, so Dr. Wilkins is working on a plan to include larger teams as the need arises.

The second cohort also participated in leadership skills training developed and led by ArtsWA staff. Dr. Wilkins spoke with an apprentice that said his participation in that workshop was life changing. With the increase in team size and funding, Washington State is becoming a national leader in compensation for programs of this type. The State is making waves within the larger landscape of traditional arts and culture.

Another traditional program is the cultural traditions survey. Dr. Wilkins selects one part of the state and spends a year of deep field research to identify traditional artforms and practices in that region, and a second year conducting programming in that area based on the research findings.

Yakima completed its second year of the survey in 2019. Programming was in the form of “cultural conversations” or town halls, engaging in discussions of Filipino traditions, and Dia de los Muertos in Tieton. A Think & Drink event, hosting conversations that happen at bars and pubs, also helped to inform the process and resulted in a rich discussion on preserving tribal and indigenous traditional cultures and art forms using various forms of technology. Another event centered on Hip Hop heritage with an exchange between Yakima regional groups and Seattle artists. Artists talked about how Hip Hop helped them heal from episodes of poverty, violence, and incarceration. Yakima Pride was a discussion focused on artists who identify as queer and traditions being created in the area to serve queer communities. Strong partnerships helped to accomplish this work in Yakima and to serve a wide variety of diverse communities including persons with disabilities, the formally incarcerated, and LGBTQ.

Dr. Wilkins hired a contract field worker to conduct a cultural traditions survey in the Twin Harbors region (Pacific and Grays Harbor Counties). Ten documentaries are planned. Multiple discussions on how arts and heritage impact the health of the harbor are underway. An NEA grant will help Dr. Wilkins continue in this region by developing a cultural documentation field school to train local participants in the skills necessary to document traditional cultures.

In 2020, Dr. Wilkins plans to expand the Center by adding to this core base of initiatives in ways that will cultivate a stronger landscape around the state, and allow more constituents to access the program. The Center’s reach will be extended through an associate field worker program in three regions. Field workers will be paid \$6,000 over six months, and engage in center initiatives.

Robin asked how a craftsman or artist interested in participating would offer their services for the program. Dr. Wilkins said the best way is to contact him directly, or apply for an existing program by completing an application online.

Inspire Washington Update

Manny Cawaling, Executive Director, Inspire Washington said the organization is focused on increasing public access to the arts, heritage and science. In 2019, Cultural Access Washington and the Washington State Arts Alliance were legally merged to create Inspire Washington. Cawaling worked with a team to develop messaging and an identity framework.

Inspire Washington looks for federal level opportunities that can benefit the State and will take a delegation to Washington DC. The overlay of arts integration with education legislation is a challenging priority. Supporting individual artists is also important. Inspire Washington has a long-term goal of increasing arts funding to \$1 per capita.

Cultural Congress 2019, held in Ellensburg, resulted in productive conversations to inform Inspire Washington on its goals and focus. The next Cultural Congress will be held at the Yakima Convention Center in August 2020. Cawaling thanked Logan for his help in expanding the organization’s connection with the tribes. Cawaling is also working with Latinx in Yakima. Cawaling will attend the Association for Washington Cities conference in Richland in June, as part of his work to build relationships with city leaders.

Cawaling reviewed the Cultural Access Washington legislation amendment to align King County with the rest of the state. Spokane hired a consultant to conduct a study to learn what it would take to get this initiative on the ballot in 2022. Inspire San Juan County has formed a task force.

For Arts, Heritage and Science Day, approximately 100 attendees will have packets that include the two capital budget requests for ArtsWA. There may be additional initiatives pursued by specific groups. The day

begins with Heritage Caucus at 7 a.m. There is an 8 a.m. hearing on Cultural Access Washington, followed by scheduled legislative meetings.

Advocacy: 2020 Legislative Session

Miller and Raffa asked Commissioners to use the meeting preparation worksheet as a guide for paired role-playing discussions. Each Commissioner took turns being the legislator during this practice.

Raffa provided basic pointers for legislative meetings. Be comfortable and relaxed; it helps create successful and effective interaction. Remember to email the two one-page documents to legislators and follow up with a thank you card to the legislator and his or her legislative assistant. Send the meeting recap form to ArtsWA.

Announcements

The next in-person Board meeting will be held May 5, 2020 at the Squaxin Island Museum Library & Research Center in Kamilche.

Martindale adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.