

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020 / VIRTUAL ON-LINE MEETING

Commissioners Present

Robin Avni
Francene Blythe
Andre Bouchard
Representative Carolyn Eslick
Ginger Ewing
Jolyn GC
Wesley Jessup
Linley Logan
Mariella Luz
Diane Martindale, Chair
Joan McBride
Monica Miller
Justin Raffa, First Vice Chair
Rebecca Redshaw
Charlie Robin
Anna-Maria Shannon
Rosanna Sharpe, Second Vice Chair
Judy Tuohy
Senator Lisa Wellman
Sheree Wen
Representative Sharon Wylie
Senator Hans Zeiger

Commissioners Absent

Faaluaina Pritchard

ArtsWA Staff Present

Karen Hanan, Executive Director
Miguel Guillén, Program Manager, Grants to
Organizations
Tamar Krames, Program Manager, Arts in Education
Leslie Pope, Executive Assistant
Annette Roth, Program Manager, Creative Districts
Mike Sweney, Program Manager, Art in Public Places

Guests & Speakers

Nate Shaw, TVW

Call to Order

Diane Martindale, ArtsWA Board Chair, experienced technical difficulties. Rosanna Sharpe, Second Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Andre Bouchard, who has tribal ancestry from the northeastern corner of Washington State, gave a land acknowledgement. It is an important tool for acknowledging and reversing invisibility that has been a problem for native people, not just in the U.S. but around the world. Every community owes its existence and vitality to generations from around the world who contributed their hopes and dreams and energy to making the history that has led to this moment. Some were brought here against their will, some were drawn to leave their distant homes in hope of a better life, and some have lived on this land for more generations than can be counted. Truth and acknowledgement are critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and difference. We are uninvited guests of many peoples in what is now the state of Washington: The tribes of Chehalis, Colville, Cowlitz, Hoh, Jamestown S’Klallam, Kalispel, Lower Elwha Klallam, Lummi, the Makah

Nation, Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Nooksack, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Puyallup, Quileute, Quinault, Samish, Sauk-Suiattle, Shoalwater Bay, Skokomish, Snoqualmie, Spokane, Squaxin Island, Stillaguamish, Suquamish, Swinomish, Tulalip, Upper Skagit, and the Yakama Nation. He also recognized the Duwamish, Wanapum, and Chinook Nation, who fought for decades for federal recognition and have been a part of this land for time immemorial. He acknowledged the people of the land and paid his respects to the elders of past and present. He asked that the Board take a moment to reflect on the many legacies that have brought us all together.

Sharpe thanked Bouchard for grounding the Board through the land acknowledgement, helping to remain focused on those we serve and the stories we strive to tell, that they always honor our first nations.

Roll call was conducted, which verified that a quorum was present.

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

Chairs Report

Martindale said her report can be read in the packet (*packet p. 1*). She acknowledged the hard work of ArtsWA staff doing its extraordinary extra work during the covid-19 pandemic. If there ever was a time the Commissioners would ever make a difference in the state, we are at that moment. She thanked the Board for their help.

Carino led the Board through the proclamations. May is historically the month we celebrate arts education in K-12 schools. Even though schools are on-line now, it is important to recognize the importance of creativity to both the students and their parents. Governor Inslee's Proclamation of May as Arts Education Month (*handout*) is followed by Board Resolution 2020-001 Arts Education Month (*packet p. 2*), which requires ratification.

Martindale asked for comments before voting. None were forthcoming. A MOTION to ratify the resolution was made by Senator Wellman, who is especially gratified as the chair of the Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee. Representative Wylie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Carino reviewed the Board Resolution 2020-002 Stand Together As One (*packet p. 3*). This resolution came about because Commissioner Wen was concerned about fall out and racism that was beginning to occur as part of the covid-19 crisis. Other organizations such as the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs was developing a statement. This draft resolution was prepared for consideration by the Board before ratification.

Martindale asked for comments. McBride asked whether ArtsWA has any other resolutions that call out a specific group. Her concern is that there are other groups also being targeted in horrible ways. She worried that a singular focus would not address all the racist actions happening currently, and wondered if the resolution could be expanded to include everyone. Anvi agreed. Senator Wellman said there are many incidents occurring during this pandemic and period of fear to express themselves and gain power. Senator Wellman suggested that during this time, it is support for all humans, for each other, that is important.

Diane asked Carino if she could modify the resolution during the Board meeting, and Carino agreed that she could. Martindale asked Commissioners to indicate if they agreed to that approach, and the majority of Board members agreed.

Director's Report

Hanan reviewed her report (*packet pp. 4-6*). She gave kudos to ArtsWA staff for keeping the work of the agency going. It was amazing how quickly they moved to remote work in a way that most constituents would not have noticed a change in the level of service beyond conducting meetings online. The focus of our work remains on our constituents, and serving them in as meaningful a way as possible during this crisis. The impact on the arts has been enormous. There are several opportunities to be supportive.

At the state level, ArtsWA is working to grant National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funds to arts constituents. Within a matter of days, the community investments team had a grant program launched. This was done in cooperation with colleagues in Humanities WA, which received a similar grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Both ArtsWA and Humanities WA are working together to ensure any organization that applies to both grants, and directly to the NEA, will receive just one grant – whichever amount is higher – so that funds get fairly distributed. The NEA will be giving grants of \$50,000 to be announced in June. The NEA moved incredibly quickly, and may have been the first federal agency to bring financial support to their constituents. They are allowing grants to be applied to operational expenses, and do not require a match. The need is much bigger than .

Planning for the Biennial budget is coming up. As legislative commission members can attest, we are looking at a trial by fire. In June, there will be an economic and revenue forecast that will provide valuable information for the state to know where it stands economically. For the moment, ArtsWA is pursuing advocacy for more funding for the Creative Districts program, and for care and conservation of the State Art Collection. The packet contains several one-page information sheets for reference during the advocacy portion of this meeting. Hanan will keep commissioners updated on budget issues, as information is known.

ArtsWA conducted a survey of the arts landscape in Washington State, which will close tomorrow. The idea was to capture a clear understanding of picture of what is happening to the arts in King County, and around the state. More will be known when the results are analyzed. ArtsWA worked with several partners on this important survey.

The Governor's Arts & Heritage Awards (GAHA) application was included in the packet (*pp. 24-30*). Both GAHA and the November Board meeting were moved to the Museum of Glass. Part of this is at the request of Commissioners to combine the two events, where possible. Hanan asked Commissioners to share this opportunity with individuals and organizations, and find ways to get them nominated for this worthy award.

Review of the Poet laureate program is ongoing. An extensive survey was conducted, and many conversations held, including a forum. Krames facilitated the forum, and Audrey Molloy, ArtsWA Program Coordinator, kept the technical side of the meeting working smoothly. Twenty people attended. Hanan thanked McBride who attended as an ArtsWA ambassador. A robust discussion on

the program provided useful information. The next step will be to have in-depth conversations with past poet laureates. A small group, including Hanan and Julie Ziegler, Humanities WA Director, will examine the information gained from these efforts, to incorporate what was learned and decide what steps to take next.

FY 2020-21 Biennium—3rd Quarter Budget Report

This report (*packet pp. 9-13*) is for information only; it does not require a motion. The budget is on track and the narrative provides detail on expenditures by program. The report is divided into the different programs and operations of the agency.

The Art in Public Places (AIPP) program is a reimbursement program. ArtsWA incurs expenses, submits for reimbursement, and eventually the budget will balance out to zero. Expenses are currently shown in red mean that reimbursements have not yet been received.

Conservation of the State Art Collection is funded from the operating budget, with an additional \$200,000 per biennium from the capital budget funds for AIPP. The capital budget funds follow the same reimbursement process, so there will be amounts in red that are awaiting interagency reimbursement.

The Community Investments section includes Grants to Organizations and Arts in Education. These programs grant funds to organizations, which are typically paid toward the end of the fiscal year. While these budget line items may appear to be underspent, it is anticipated that funds will be fully spent by the end of the fourth quarter. Every penny we can hand out in grants will be awarded.

Senator Wellman requested discussion on arts in education funding, and what we might do differently than what we planned to do, because of the crisis and impact on our schools and education. Hanan said Krames will present on arts education later in the meeting, with some exciting developments.

Hanan said that My Public Art Portal funding is on track. This program supports a part time staff member who has been doing amazing work on various social media platforms, with different web exhibitions carefully curated to be appropriate to the covid-19 crisis. Hanan invited Commissioners to create an exhibition with help from ArtsWA.

The Creative Districts program is on track and Roth will give an update on the program later in this meeting.

Folk and Traditional Arts is funded with \$25,000 from the NEA, with additional state funds that support the Heritage Arts Apprenticeship Program, in partnership with Humanities WA. The apprenticeship program is growing and there is enormous interest.

ArtsWA Budget Updates

Hanan (*packet pp. 14-16*) reviewed ArtsWA's supplemental budget requests that were successful in the 2020 Legislative Session, before covid-19. Both the Creative Districts and Collection Care requests were pivoted to the capital budget.

What we asked for and received in supplemental budget. Pivoted largely to capitol budget and had some success there. There have been budget updates since the session ended. ArtsWA applied to the Laird Norton Foundation for \$20,000 for its Creative Start program, knowing that the foundation supports early learning. A preliminary grant for \$20,000 was awarded, with the potential for long-term funding depending on how this program – creative start applied for \$20K for early learning on Laird Norton foundation and they came through with a preliminary grant for \$20K and interested in funding long term depending on the impact of this program.

Federal funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act were granted through the NEA to state arts agencies, dedicated to supporting arts organizations impacted by the pandemic. ArtsWA also received a \$47,000 increase in its State Partnership grant, as a result of increased federal support for the NEA. Some of the funds are dedicated to specific programs, such as Poetry Out Loud (\$20,000), Folk Arts and underserved communities. The large part of these funds are spent on grants to organizations and arts education.

Decision packages sent to the 2020 Legislative Session brought ArtsWA approximately \$45,000 for additional operating support for expanding the office space which is desperately needed, and a leave buy out for a departing staff member.

Hanan showed the one-page information sheet for Creative Districts (*packet p. 17*), which was updated and discusses where funders are needed in the future for the program. State Art Collection Highlights by District (Legislative Districts 3, 9, 27) (*packet pp. 18-23*) cover artworks in the districts where legislative leadership serve on key committees where discussion of the funding needs of this program are anticipated to be needed. These sheets highlight some of the spectacular artwork in the Collection to convey the need for maintaining these state assets. Information sheets for additional legislative districts can be created upon request.

Governor's Arts & Heritage Awards Sponsorship Application

Hanan discussed the sponsorship package for Governor's Arts & Heritage Awards 2020 (*packet pp. 24-30*). The current date of the event is Monday, November 9, although things could change due to covid-19. A sponsor helps to support the expenses of the event.

Senator Wellman said she expects to see recognition of the Creative District designation on the websites of communities that have received that designation. It is a part of their overall marketing, and in support of ArtsWA's efforts. It also helps Senator Wellman know who she can put forward among these communities as examples of this program, when she speaks with others about the program. Roth will address during the Creative Districts update.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included:

- Minutes of February 4, 2020 Board Meeting (*packet pp. 31-37*)
- Minutes of March 26, 2020 Special Board Meeting (*packet pp. 38-40*)

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

Creative Districts Update

Roth said Langley and Twisp are two recently certified creative districts. Port Townsend will be certified soon. She thanked Commissioners Raffa, Luz, Miller and Robin for participating in the last panel. Their feedback is appreciated and important to the process.

Applications from Tenino and Issaquah have been received. A selection panel to review these additional applications will be convened in the next few weeks, to ensure they are examined prior to end of this fiscal year.

Roth thanked Senator Wellman for her feedback regarding website acknowledgement. Each newly certified district receives a toolkit that includes information on creating a web page or website focused on their creative district. It is a requirement that a website acknowledgement be created within 45 days of their certification. She will ensure that is accomplished by each certified creative district.

In the pilot program funded by the supplemental FY 2021 Capital Budget, \$200,000 was allotted for capital projects for use by certified creative districts. Roth is working with the Department of Commerce to receive these funds, which will be distributed in equal portions to each certified creative district. Once the funds are received, each creative district can proceed with their planned improvements. Roth is crafting the parameters of this grant program.

Roth is working with Burien and Everett on their planning work. Each of these communities began their planning work about a month before the Stay Home Stay Safe order, so planning sessions and other meetings have been held online.

Roth is planning a Creative Districts Summit later this summer, to build a cohort of potential creative districts, connect them with their peers, and educate them on the program and process.

Robin asked whether Roth used consistent panelists or enlisted new ones for the selection panels. Roth does not have a preference either way. She welcomes new panelists because she appreciates different perspectives, such as rural or urban communities. Experienced panelists do help new panelists in the process. She welcomed commissioners to volunteer to serve on the selection panel if interested.

Roth performs a consulting role, helping groups convene, to understand parameters of the program, and provide guidance on how creative districts work. She provides guidance but does not do the work for the districts. The work to develop a community to the point of submitting an application, and making the creative district a reality happens within the groups themselves.

McBride asked if the economic support these creative districts give to the community and its artists, because things are very rough for arts organizations. She also wanted to know if Roth was working regionally with Bellevue, Kirkland, or other pop up organizations that are trying to address the economic downturn.

Roth said she will be talking more about the economic benefits of creative districts. She is working with the UW Evans School to create a dashboard that creative districts can use to input data points

to show how the creative district is positively impacting the economics of their communities. This will create hard data to support the economic impact of being a creative district.

Roth said creative districts are designed for smaller areas within a city vs. huge regions like multiple cities. She would be happy to get contact information from McBride and is happy to work with various cities.

Poetry Out Loud 2019-20

Krames explained reviewed her report (*packet pp. 41*). This year was Krames' first cycle with Poetry Out Loud (POL). It is a nation-wide program supported by the NEA and the Poetry Foundation. Each year, new schools from across the state are invited, to diversify outreach and include rural area schools.

Competitions begin at the classroom level, then to the regional level, which Robin and Miller attended in Central Washington.

The state finals were held at the Museum of Glass in Tacoma just before the Stay at Home order. Attendees learned about social distancing and handwashing, and many hand sanitizing stations were made available. Teachers, students, and family members showed up to celebrate the 12 finalists from across the state. Everyone was careful and respectful. The finalist is Jordan Maddox from Spokane. Her performance was fabulous. Krames will send the link to what her recitation on YouTube. Krames gave special thanks to Sharpe for serving as a judge.

The National POL championship in Washington DC was cancelled, as were the final competitions in many states throughout the nation. As a result, the NEA decided that each state finalist will receive \$1,000. Krames is working on opportunities for Jordan Maddox to perform remotely.

Sharpe suggested that a good way to showcase younger talent would be to partner the Washington State Poet Laureate with the winner of the state POL competition to present together. Krames has many ideas to connect between arts education and literary arts, and welcomes suggestions.

Board Development and Nominating Committee Process

Martindale explained that between now and the August meeting volunteers are needed to work with Martindale, Sharpe and Raffa (board officers) to conduct short phone interviews of Commissioners. The interviews help to gather information on how to improve the Board, the Commission, and its meetings. Comments are gathered about what Commissioners feel is being done well, and what aspects of the process they enjoy the most. Volunteering to help conduct the surveys is a great way for new members to become better acquainted with the commissioners they are assigned to interview.

Grants to Organizations Update

Guillén provided an update on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (*CARES*) grants (*packet pp. 42*).

Community Investments (Grants to Organizations and Arts in Education program staff) have been working as a team. Guillén has been setting up the program, including grant guidelines development. Alexis Sarah (Arts in Early Learning Program Manager) is managing the application review process. Additional staff have been provided a wide variety of support. Working together allowed the

program to launch quickly, but course corrections are being made as needed to ensure everyone who applies receives the support they need.

The purpose of the CARES grant program is to provide funding to non-profit and fiscally sponsored arts groups and organizations that are facing financial hardship due to economic impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding, in the form of grants, is provided by the CARES Act via the NEA.

Grants will be funded up to \$5,000. A match by the organization is not required. An overwhelming number of applications have been received. A \$5,000 grant for each successful applicant might not be possible, since the need is outpacing the amount of funds available to award.

Applications are being reviewed by ArtsWA staff and Board commissioners to speed up the review process. Applications are evaluated based on the ease of identifying the articulation of need. Applications are notified within 10 business days that their application has been received, and whether it meets the minimum criteria to be reviewed. Due to the overwhelming number of applications, a committee will be appointed to review final panel scores and make decisions on grant award amounts.

Guillén thanked Board commissioners who have participated in the review process to date, and welcomed additional participants to complete the process. The main focus is to move through this process quickly, while ensuring thorough review and fair granting processes, because ArtsWA wants to get the funds into the hands of arts organizations as soon as possible, since so many organizations are currently struggling.

ArtsWA has \$431,600 in CARES funds to distribute. Currently, 216 applications have been received, with a total funding amount requested of over \$1 million. More applications are being received daily. A total of 29 out of 39 Washington State counties are presented by the applications received, meaning that arts organizations are getting the message about this grant opportunity.

Senator Wellman asked if the process would change. Guillén said in order for the process to change, more funding would need to be available. Initially, ArtsWA had considered funding in two rounds, but it appears all the funds are needed immediately in this round. Senator Wellman said the possibility exists that schools might not open this year. Based on the Governor's reopening steps, arts organizations might not be able to resume business. She asked if the applications are being reviewed in terms of long-term functionality of arts organizations through this crisis. Guillén said many organizations had spent money preparing for shows and projects that had to be cancelled; much of these funds are in support of helping arts organizations cover expenses for their normal year's programming, so they do not fail. Funds are also being requested to retain staffing and jobs, so that organizations can resume operations when normal operations might resume.

Hanan said ArtsWA has made requests to the Paul Allen Foundation and the State COVID-19 fund, hoping to supplement this process, since the demand is so high.

Arts in Education Update

Krames provided an update on Arts in Education (AIE) programs. The AIE Team consists of:

- Alexis Sarah, Arts in Early Learning Project Manager for the Creative Start program.
- Judy Cullen, Poetry Out Loud Coordinator
- Audrey Molloy and Hannah Dahlke as Administrative Assistants

AIE operates various complex programs that focus on equity and access across the state to quality, creative and culturally responsive teaching and learning. Among the programs that operate to achieve this focus are First Step and Community Consortium grants support this focus in K-12 schools. The Teaching Artist Training (TAT) Lab annually receives NEA funding, including this year. This year, the convening shifted to an online platform due to COVID-19, and 35 to 40 participants successfully participated in a 3-day training program. Poetry Out Loud did not have a national final this year due to the pandemic.

The Arts in Early Learning Program is called Creative Start, which is fully outlined on ArtsWA's website (www.arts.wa.gov).

When COVID-19 impacted the plans of First Step and Community Consortium grantees, ArtsWA pivoted grant funding to operational support because of unique challenges to respond to the Stay at Home order.

With the Creative Start Arts in Early Learning, a shift to remote support for educators and care providers was made by creating an opportunity for teaching artists. The Creative Start Mini-Lesson Project pays teaching artists to create short arts based educational lessons for students ages 3 through 8. These lessons support emotional and social learning.

Approve Creative Start Site Grants

In partnership with The Office of the Superintendent of Instruction (OSPI) and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), AIE developed two grants to distribute funds received by the Legislature dedicated to furthering early learning objectives in Washington (*packet p. 43*).

The first round of grants called "Site" grants were open to all early learning communities across the state, and tribal communities. Eight schools applied. Applications were reviewed by a diverse panel. Each school can receive up to \$8,000 and professional learning opportunities for cultural education.

The second round of grants called "Regional" grants are being offered now. Eligibility is any school district or consortium of school districts, any tribal government or consortium of tribal governments, and Educational Service Districts. This grant focuses on arts integration and early learning, with emphasis on social and emotional learning, especially because of the trauma caused by the pandemic.

Krames reviewed the Site grant panel recommendations. Schools will receive professional learning through a contract with Arts Impact focused on culturally responsive arts integration practices. Funding is for implementation of arts integration programming for the next school year. It is unknown what the next school year will look like due to the pandemic, but these schools will receive support in reaching out to their local artists, art teachers, elders and the community to develop ways to integrate the arts into their curriculum.

One main goal was to have schools in every region of Washington State. ArtsWA specifically contacted dual-language, multi-lingual, or tribal affiliations resulting in a great diversity of applicants who are excited to learn more and integrate culturally responsive arts learning into their schools.

A MOTION to approve the panel recommendations for the Creative Start Site Grants FY 2020-21 was made by Shannon and seconded by Ewing. Martindale asked the Board for questions.

Robin asked how the additional funds available will be allocated. Krames said most of the available funding was used for the Site grants. A few thousand dollars that remain will be added to the Regional grants program. Luz, who served on the panel, confirmed the panel was thoughtful in its assessment of funding successful applicants, and moving the remaining funds to the Regional grants program.

The MOTION passed unanimously with no conflicts of interest, abstentions or recusals.

Senator Wellman thanked Krames about the presentation. She is excited about these programs, which reflect a continuation of the thoughtful education of children, aligned with the goals of the Legislature in emphasizing cultural relevance. She is concerned about the increase in violence against women during the pandemic, that indicates there may well be an increase in violence against children. Children are not attending school where effects of violence would be noticed by teachers and professionals. With the successful use of art for healing in the military (Creative Forces program), she suggested ArtsWA may play a role in developing arts-focused programming within the educational system to address this trauma. If ArtsWA could acknowledge the role of art in dealing with trauma, and participate in providing some type of appropriate recommendation or guidance, it would be impactful and fulfill an important public role for ArtsWA.

Krames thanked Senator Wellman for her comments. Krames said ArtsWA is very aware that trauma informed arts practices could play a key role in supporting children, parents, care providers, and even grandparents in the coming year(s) as the State moves through the effects of this pandemic. In the teaching artist opportunities offered now, it is on the joyful emotional and social learning for youth. Tutorials for mini-arts exercise to provide joy and release are being made. Accessible mini-arts lessons are being created, with capacity and funding issues needing to be addressed, to possibly be disbursed with school lunches.

Art in Public Places

Huber, Collections Manager, described the accomplishments of the newly hired Collections Technician, Jared Moore. Funded in the 2019-2021 biennium, he was hired to focus on maintenance, repair, installation, and de-installation. In the months since he was hired, he has successfully installed 40 artworks around the state at 20 different facilities. He helped to get these artworks out of storage and back into the field. Now that COVID-19 has impacted staff movements, he has been working with school districts and colleges to find out if they have artworks impacted by the construction. He may be able to complete outdoor artwork maintenance during the summer.

Huber reiterated that deaccession is a technical name given to remove artwork from the Collection. It helps to maintain the health of the overall Collection and allows staff to focus on artworks that can be repaired and maintained. Deaccession is performed on an as-needed basis. The last deaccession recommendation was made in August 2018. Deaccession recommendations begin at the staff level, are brought to a panel for review, and then brought to the Board for approval. Panels are composed of arts managers, artists, public art collections managers, and Board members. Panelists often serve for a period of time, to build expertise. Bouchard and Luz served on this panel.

Artworks are deaccessioned for many reasons. Huber provided two examples of reasons for artwork deaccession (*packet pp. 44-49*). One of the artworks in this recommendation was missing because it was either lost or stolen, and despite several years of searching, was never found. The other artwork had damage that was beyond repair, and had become a safety hazard. Artworks may be large in scale or small, but when they become damaged, they need to be removed from public display.

Luz said she understands the need for the removal and deaccession of these artworks because Huber provided thorough research on their conditions and the reasons for removal. She has learned about the deaccession process during her years serving on the board and hearing from previous Commissioners who participated in these panels. It is a great learning experience to serve on the panel.

Bouchard said serving on the panel was much easier than completing coursework on deaccession during graduate school. Huber provided information to explain why the artworks needed to be removed, and the recommendation is a good outcome for the Collection.

A MOTION to approve the Deaccession Panel's recommendation to deaccession artwork from the State Art Collection as listed in the packet was made by Sharpe, seconded by Robin. It passed unanimously with no recusals or abstentions.

Advocacy: Updates, Training, and Future Activities

Miller and Raffa, Advocacy Co-Chairs led this portion of the meeting. Raffa referred to packet information (*packet pp. 50-53*) and a previously sent email for details. He asked the Board to refer to the information, and to focus on two important bullet points:

- From Advocacy to Ambassador: Help communicate ArtsWA's resources locally and funnel data back to ArtsWA.

It is important to point arts constituents to the resources that ArtsWA has made available. There is a plethora of information collected and posted on the ArtsWA website as COVID-19 resources. The CARES grant presentation today shows the incredible need in the arts community.

- Build your local coalition and stay connected with local elected officials—mayors, city councils and county commissioners.

Now is an important time to connect with district legislators by phone to let them know about the ArtsWA has been doing for the State. This will set us up to be more efficient and successful in the next biennium budget process. In the Fall the focus will be building the overall relationship with the Governor's Office and the staff who work on the budget. Much of this work is done by Hanan and ArtsWA staff, but there is an opportunity for members of the Board to engage as well. If you have specific relationships with the Governor, staff in the Governor's Office, the Office of Financial Management (OFM), to budget and policy writers, please let Hanan know. We are trying to work with the Governor in advance of his release of a budget.

Raffa welcomed Senator Zieger to the Board and asked for his insight. Senator Zieger said he is honored to be part of the Commission and invited Commissioners to reach out at any time through his legislative email.

Senator Zeiger said he comes from a great arts community, and his family members are great arts enthusiasts. He has some real enthusiasm for serving the arts. We are obviously heading into a new era. After several years of economic growth following the Great Recession, and focus on fully funding education, the 2018-19 years were the first opportunity other advocates could make strides in budget. Now the pandemic creates a different impact on the economy. It is important in this uncertain time to focus on building relationships with legislators. It is not going to be easy. There will be a new economic forecast to understand the situation better. There is a good chance there will be a special session this summer or fall. The importance of building relationships includes sharing your story of why you are passionate about being a commissioner for the arts, why it matters to each legislator's community, to real people in their home towns, and build on that. Engage legislators in a conversation about how and why they care about the arts too. Find out what connections you can make for them in their community. Share your story in addition to moving down an agenda list.

Justin thanked Senator Zeiger for his insights.

Carino posted an updated version of Board Resolution 2020-002 Stand Together As One in the chat for Commissioner review and emailed to the Board as well.

A MOTION to approve Board Resolution 2020-002 Stand Together As One was made by Shannon and seconded by Raffa. Avni asked that religion be inserted and that suggestion was approved. A quorum was still present (13). The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions or opposition.

Announcements

A quorum is needed for two online board meetings scheduled for June to approve grants: June 2 at 9:30 a.m. and June 23 at 10 a.m.

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

Martindale recognized the dedicated work and contributions of Jolyn GC and Mariella Luz, whose time on the Board is complete. Both GC and Luz have served on the Advocacy and Executive Committees. Martindale has appreciated their clear thinking and participation. Normally, we would give you hugs, but are unable to do so online. Hanan gave her heartfelt thanks for serving with both of them almost from the beginning of her appointment as ArtsWA Director. GC appreciated her opportunity to serve on the Board, and thanked all members helping her to grow professionally as an arts advocate. She thanked the staff for all the tremendous support she received. It was an honor to work alongside Hanan and appreciates her entrepreneurial spirit in the context of a non-profit agency. She hopes that the Board seeks to do outreach to Board members of color, and particularly African-American Board members, so when panels and Board meetings are held, there is important representation, which means a great deal. Luz thanked everyone. It has been amazing in the last six years to travel across the state and see the work ArtsWA does for the arts. It is great to see the increased diversity of the Board and meet people throughout the State. It was a huge learning opportunity that she appreciates. Other commissioners joined in sharing their appreciation for their work and dedication.

Martindale adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.