

WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION— BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 2, 2020 / Virtual On-line Meeting

Commissioners Present

Robin Avni
Francene Blythe
Andre Bouchard
Representative Carolyn Eslick
Ginger Ewing
Wesley Jessup
Mariella Luz
Diane Martindale, Chair
Monica Miller
Faaluaina Pritchard
Justin Raffa, First Vice Chair
Rebecca Redshaw
Charlie Robin
Rosanna Sharpe, Second Vice Chair
Senator Lisa Wellman
Sheree Wen
Representative Sharon Wylie
Senator Hans Zeiger

Commissioners Absent

Jolyn GC
Linley Logan
Joan McBride
Judy Tuohy

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

Daniel A. Mathews, Board Chair, Seattle Southside Chamber of Commerce

Call to Order

Martindale, ArtsWA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:32 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 Pritchard, seconded by Wen, and passed unanimously.

ArtsWA Update

Karen Hanan, Executive Director explained ArtsWA was asked to undertake a 15% budget cut exercise by the Governor's Office, along with all state agencies. The document was submitted to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) yesterday, along with a narrative explaining the deep impact to our agency's work. ArtsWA does not have duplications of roles to consider for cuts, no vacancies are carried, and the main impact of a 15% cut would be to crucial programs. Hanan convened a

group of small agency directors to discuss how budget cuts like this impact small agencies much more than larger agencies, and she is working with OFM to explain the impacts.

ArtsWA received CARES Act grant funds from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), to be funded to arts organizations in Washington State. As of May 26, ArtsWA has received 286 applications for a total request of \$1,400,859, which exceeds available grant funds of \$431,600 by \$969,259. The application process is open until May 31, so more applications are expected. Hanan has spoken with OFM regarding the shortfall. While the \$10 million request ArtsWA sent to the Governor in March is still under consideration, and the full amount is unlikely to be given to ArtsWA, there is still hope that some additional funds may be received from the state to supplement CARES Act funding to support arts organizations in the State.

Hanan is convening both the museums, galleries, and science centers sector, and the performing arts, theaters and festivals sector to develop reopening plans. Several ArtsWA Commissioners are participating in these sector meetings. Each sector's reopening plan will be submitted to the Governor for his approval to help the sectors to open in an orderly, coordinated fashion as soon as possible. Organizations can immediately open up following the sector plan, and will develop their own, unique detailed plan for their organizations. The Governor is expecting to see these plans. ArtsWA is playing an important role as convener and facilitator to develop these plans, and to ensure the plans get to the right people for consideration and approval.

A webinar on Creative Borrowing is planned for next week. This is a tri-state webinar for Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, and is open to arts organizations in these states. The webinar will also be streamed live by TWV. The webinar will provide vital information to help organizations find ways to keep their organizations funded through the pandemic. The link will be widely distributed, and Commissioners are asked to send this information out to their contacts.

ArtsWA is an active partner with a cohort of arts organizations in creating surveys of the state arts environment. The first survey gathered knowledge about the impacts of the covid-19 pandemic on the arts and culture sector. The current survey is about recovery and what arts and culture organizations anticipate their needs will be in order to resume full operations. Links for the surveys will be sent to Commissioners.

Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF) is distributing CARES Act grants for arts organizations. This will result in several grants for Washington organizations. WESTAF is also working with the other regional organizations for additional funding, which might result in funds for distribution by ArtsWA.

Two Board members, Francene Blythe and Anna-Maria Shannon, have resigned from the Board due to personal and work life changes. Hanan expressed gratitude for their work on the ArtsWA Board. They have made valuable contributions to the work of the Board.

Hanan asked the Board if they would like to craft a statement about where ArtsWA stands on recent national events in regard to racism. Martindale asked Commissioners to send their comments and statements to her for consideration with Hanan and the Executive Committee. Hanan said the chat function showed ample support from Commissioners for making a social justice statement.

Redshaw said this is a unique time that is troubling for all of us. She encouraged everyone on the commission to share their thoughts with Martindale in some form, so that everyone's voice can be blended into the statement. Redshaw will help to craft the statement.

Grants to Organizations

Miguel Guillén, Grants to Organizations Program Manager, reviewed the grants. These are new programs for ArtsWA.

The **Art Service Organizations (ASO)** grants support organizations that strengthen and grow Washington's creative economy by providing programming and services that support, increase, diversify, and raise the proficiency of, arts professionals in the field. It is divided into two categories:

- **Regional Art Service Organizations:** a new category and funding source designed to increase the number of small rural arts organizations. A minimum of 3 regions must be served by the organization; regions are defined by ArtsWA.
- **Statewide Art Service Organization:** for organizations whose primary programming is providing professional development opportunities, support, services and resources to arts professionals, within a minimum of 10 counties in Washington.

An ASO provides training, workshops, convenings, conferences, networking, technical assistance and other professional development services to established and emerging arts professionals.

Art Project Support (APS) grants support groups and organizations that contribute to local and statewide creative economies through the production of public, accessible, arts, culture and heritage events and professional development and educational opportunities. APS grants support arts, culture, and heritage projects produced as one-time, occasional, or annual events. Non-profit and fiscally supported organizations, local and tribal governments, community services and local arts agencies funded by designated government entities are eligible.

The majority of applications were received from King County, which is a typical response, because King County is a center for many arts organizations. Applications were received from seventeen additional counties, eleven of which will receive APS grant funding. Where King County typically receives about 65% of the funding, in this round 50% of the funded applicants were from King County. Robin asked for an explanation of this change. Guillén explained the focus of panelists to scrutinize the financial situation of organizations may be problematic. Small and immigrant arts organizations may suffer from that type of criteria when funding is determined. ArtsWA is striving to meet its crosscutting goal to support underserved communities, and he will examine results from this round to strengthen the success of applicants of small organizations in future grant cycles.

Avni asked what factors impact applications from counties outside King County. Guillén will examine whether there is a way to create continuous funding support for a larger aggregate amount of underserved organizations, to help them build a foundation of success, to strengthen small arts organizations that are bringing diverse voices into the arts landscape of the State.

Ratify Art Project Support Grants

A MOTION to ratify the decision of the Executive Director to approve the panel recommendations for FY 2021 Art Project Support grants totaling \$118,888 and the list of non-funded applications, as outlined in the packet (*bandout*) was made by Eslick, seconded by Jessup. There was one conflict of interest

declared: Bouchard (Indigenous Performance Productions). The motion passed with one recusal and no abstentions.

Ratify Art Service Organizations Grants

A MOTION to ratify the decision of the Executive Director to approve the panel recommendations for FY 2021 Art Service Organization Support grants and the list of non-funded applications, as outlined in the packet (*packet pp. 1-2*) was made by Raffa, and seconded by Robin. There was one conflict of interest declared: Pritchard. The motion passed with one recusal and no abstentions. Please note the award amounts listed in the packet documents are tentative. If the budget approved for the agency for FY 2021 is changed, amended amounts will be proportional to that change.

Daniel Mathews, Board Chair, Seattle Southside Chamber of Commerce, took a moment to thank ArtsWA and Annette Roth for their work on the Creative Districts program. He appreciates their hard work and efficiency as he works with the group that plans to submit a Creative Districts application for Burien.

Arts in Education

Tamar Krames, Arts in Education Program Manager, reviewed the First Step and Community Consortium grants program. Both grants are related.

First Step grants are on a one-year cycle. They focus on community partnerships and sustainability. Engaged partnerships between school communities and arts organizations share the goal of increasing state-wide, equitable access to quality arts education, with a specific focus on culturally responsive, equitably focused arts education. First step grants support smaller, newer partnerships with a shared goal of equity during the K-12 school day.

Community Consortium grants involve larger, deeper partnerships with focus on a sustainable plan to grow equitable arts programs. These grants are on a two-year cycle. They support broad-based community partnerships that deliver sustainable, standards-based arts education programs in K-12 public schools. The programs serve students during the school day as part of the equity focus, to provide students access to the arts as recognized by Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). The five categories of arts mediums include visual arts, media arts, music, theater and dance.

The First Step grant panel recommends 9 out of 11 applications to be funded. Panelists were listed in the packet. Community Consortium applicants were already approved for a two-year cycle; they revise and resubmit a proposal for the second year. Many aspects of their landscape have changed drastically as learning shifts to an on-line reality. The funding recommendations remain the same within this new reality.

Luz asked for clarification on one Community Consortium applicant whose funding appeared not to be based on their score. Krames explained the panel used the criteria, which focuses on partnerships and sustainability. As the scores were examined, there was in-depth discussion about one organization that falls within a region not typically represented, that may not have their own grant writer, that had strong scores in other areas, and was in the beginning stages of learning how to apply for grant funding. The panel decided to give them full support. Luz said she appreciated the panel using a social equity lens to support first-time organizations in underserved areas.

Ratify First Step and Community Consortium Grants

A MOTION to ratify the decision of the Executive Director to approve the panel recommendations for FY 2021 First Step and year two of the Community Consortia grants, and the list of non-funded applications, as outlined in the packet (*packet pp. 3-6*) was made by Pritchard, seconded by Bouchard, and passed with no recusals or abstentions.

Krames thanked Avni for serving on the panel; she was a wonderful addition to the panel discussion and process. Avni said this was the first time she has served on an ArtsWA panel. Krames did a great job on the logistics, and allowing the panel to have in-depth discussions. She appreciated that Krames allowed the panel to look beyond polished applications from groups that have grant writers, to provide more opportunity to worthy applicants that may be in the learning process.

Hanan thanked the Board for considering making a social justice statement, and she appreciate the Board convening during this difficult time. Board participation is critical at this time, for a quorum, and for being involved in the work of the agency.

Announcements

The next virtual Board meeting will be held June 23, 2020. A quorum is needed in order to approve grants, which are so critical right now, in the time of the covid-19 pandemic. Martindale said the Board appreciates ArtsWA staff for working so hard to get the CARES Act grants out to applicants quickly. She also asked that Commissioners send comments for a social justice statement to her.

Martindale adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.