

# WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION— BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 15, 2020 / Virtual On-line Meeting

## Commissioners Present

Robin Avni  
Dr. Kelvin Frank  
Wesley Jessup  
Linley Logan  
Lee Lyttle  
Jasmine Mahmoud  
Diane Martindale, Chair  
Monica Miller  
Catherine Nueva España  
Faaluaina Pritchard  
Justin Raffa, First Vice Chair  
Rebecca Redshaw  
Charlie Robin  
Rosanna Sharpe, Second Vice Chair  
Judy Tuohy  
Senator Lisa Wellman  
Sheree Wen  
Representative Sharon Wylie

## Commissioners Absent

Andre Bouchard  
Representative Carolyn Eslick  
Ginger Ewing  
Joan McBride  
Senator Hans Zeiger

## ArtsWA Staff Present

Glenda Carino, Communications Manager  
Miguel Guillén, Program Manager, Grants to  
Organizations  
Karen Hanan, Executive Director  
Valerie Peterman, Curated Projects Coordinator  
Leslie Pope, Executive Assistant  
Annette Roth, Program Manager, Creative Districts  
Mike Sweny, Art in Public Places Program Manager

## Guests & Speakers

No guests attended this meeting

## Call to Order

Martindale, ArtsWA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Martindale 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 Jessup, and passed unanimously.

Martindale introduced new Commissioner, Lee Lyttle. He believes this is an exciting time to be doing this work. While it is very stressful to be living and working during a pandemic, he believes it gives us an opportunity to look to the future. When things open up, there will be an amazing release of artistic energy waiting for the opportunity of expression. ArtsWA is in a great position to look to, and plan for, the future. He welcomes the opportunity to participate.

Martindale thanked Bouchard, Robin, Raffa, and Nueva España for working on the recent performing arts sector reopening plan with Hanan and various arts organization leaders.

## Rules for Public Comment

No members of the public were in attendance. The public is welcome to attend ArtsWA board meetings. Comments will only be accepted during the designated public comment period. Today, and on future agendas, there will be room for public comment at the end of the meeting. Public comment is limited to two minutes per guest and it is not a discussion period.

## Art in Public Places

### Update on K-3 Pooled Funds

Valerie Peterman, Curated Projects Coordinator, provided an overview on the Art in Public Places (AIPP) program and an update on the K-3 classroom size pooling project (*packet p. 1*).

The State Art Collection was established in 1974, with legislation that dictated that ½ of 1 percent of new state funded construction would be dedicated to the acquisition of public art works. Artworks acquired with that funding become part of the State Art Collection, which now has almost 5,000 artworks located at over 1,200 sites throughout Washington State. An incredible body of work is reflected in the State Art Collection. Artworks are selected from local art selection committee criteria to be site-responsive. Each committee is based on the site where the artwork will be located. ArtsWA has a unique approach to its State Art Collection, with artworks centrally managed by ArtsWA. Janae Huber, Adam Fah, Jared Moore, and Heide Fernandez-Llamazares comprise the collections team and oversee the care of the Collection.

A year ago, the team created a vision statement that Peterman reads before each committee meeting, and uses to frame each acquisition process.

#### **AIPP Vision Statement**

*Art in Public Places is uniquely positioned to advance and support art and artists across Washington. Our goal is to build and care for a dynamic contemporary art collection that is accessible and valued. We seek impactful and lasting artworks that reflect Washington's diverse communities.*

K-3 class size reduction grants are a discrete grant pool for school districts that benefitted from construction to reduce class size. Twenty districts were identified as qualified to receive artworks from these grants. AIPP rules dictate that artworks must be completed within six years. Since the process began many years ago, all artworks must be purchased and sited by June 30, 2021. ArtsWA was only able to begin the projects in November 2019, when the ArtsWA Board approved the first round of artworks, which included only 13 of the total 20 eligible districts. In Round II, four districts reached the point of being about to receive artworks.

The funding for all the artwork projects is pooled together and distributed equally. ArtsWA chose to run a non-competitive grant process, and asked eligible districts whether they wanted to opt into the process or opt out. Each district and school self-selected their capacity such as the amount of time their local art selection committees could dedicate to the process. This will guide the approach taken to acquire artworks, either through curated purchase, or resiting existing artworks, to meet the June 30, 2021 deadline.

Curated projects were done exclusively in Round 1. For this approach, an art selection committee is formed, the same as with a commissioned project, and the selection committee selects a curator from the Curator Roster. The Curator Roster consists of about 30 professionals with expertise to select

artworks based on the selection committee's criteria. This provides an opportunity to put together an inclusive and intentional body of art work that reflects diverse voices within the school's population, for a diverse collection of artwork.

Peterman mentioned that these projects support jobs for multiple vendors, such as curators, framers, structural engineers, photographers, and art installers. These employment opportunities are significant during this moment in the pandemic.

The shortest timeline is for resiting projects. There are over 300 portable artworks currently in storage, that need new homes. A committee is assembled to review a short list of available artworks available to be resited. The committee makes their selection from this pool of artworks and can create an intentional collection for their school. This approach lessens the storage burden on the Collections team. It is a priority of the Collections team to get those artworks back into public view. This approach also creates jobs for multiple vendors.

Round II K-3 pool response was great. Four school districts were eligible, but the Vancouver School District opted out due to a lack of capacity. For the three districts that opted in, 10 of the 11 eligible schools replied. Six will receive curated projects and four will receive resited projects. To achieve equitable distribution of the pooled funds for Round II, an approximate \$41,000 will be distributed to each school.

Round II projects are located in three of the four different geographic regions as defined by ArtsWA. Most projects are in central Washington, bringing art into areas that might not have access as citizens do along the I-5 corridor.

## Creative Districts

Roth, Program Manager, provided an overview of the program and reviewed panel recommendations for the Creative Districts Grants—FY 2021 (*packet pp. 2-4*).

The Creative Districts program is an economic development program, working with communities throughout Washington to use arts and culture as a way to provide economic opportunities, make their communities more livable, and plan for the future. ArtsWA was fortunate to bring this pilot project to existing certified creative districts. ArtsWA received \$200,000 in supplemental budget funding for FY 2021. This success was achieved through a board effort of legislators on both sides of the aisle, and support from certified creative districts groups.

The projects must be completed, and funds expended, by June 30, 2021. The certified creative districts are excited to move forward. There are currently 8 certified districts in Washington: Edmonds, Chewelah, Olympia, City of Tenino, Port Townsend, Twisp, Issaquah, and Langley. This was a pooled process, not a competitive process, to ensure that the funding is equitable across all districts. The funds are designed to support small-scale capital projects that will enhance the community. Most of the projects include information kiosks, lighting upgrades, and a long-term program to improve walkability with the district. Matching funds requirements were included at a 1:1 ratio, which is common in capital projects. To ensure equity, a sliding scale was enacted to help underserved and small communities to have a reduction in their match requirement.

Each district was able to request up to \$24,500, with a match required. One organization was unable to meet the match requirement at that amount, so they requested a smaller amount. The difference was

made available to the remaining districts who were interested and could meet the match requirements. Six organizations requested additional funds, and the money available was split between those organizations equally. Of the \$200,000 funds received by ArtsWA, \$4,000 was expended on administrative overhead, and \$196,000 is being awarded to the eight certified creative districts.

A MOTION to approve the funding recommendations for FY 2021 Creative Districts Capital Project Pilot grants totaling \$196,000, as shown in the packet, was made by Logan, seconded by Pritchard, and passed with no recusals, abstentions, or conflicts of interest.

Conflicts of interest arise when there is a familial or fiduciary connection between a commissioner and an entity applying for funding.

## Grants to Organizations

Guillén, Grants to Organizations Program Manager, reviewed the updated Art Project Support (APS) Grants—FY 2021 (*packet pp. 5-11*).

Guillén said this is a matter of procedure. The Grants to Organizations program provides funding to non-profit arts organizations throughout Washington. There are two types of grants, standard grants for operating support and project support. Grant opportunities open at the beginning of the calendar year and panels are held sometime in May or June. Applications are received, verified, and sent to a panel. The panel reviews and scores the applications, and makes a recommendation for funding that comes before the Board for ratification or approval, typically at the August Board meeting.

The Art Project Support grants were ratified at the August meeting. One grantee recently declined their grant, resulting in \$3,500 in additional funds to be disbursed. When additional funds are available, they are disbursed to the next organization(s) on the list, the first in line below where funding was cut off due to expenditure of all previous funds. The Jazz Project and The Williams Project will each receive a \$1,750 grant. The remainder of the funding list is unchanged. This action is to approve this amendment as highlighted in the packet.

Redshaw asked for the reason why funding was returned. Guillén said the organization declined to state their reason, and simply returned the money.

A MOTION to ratify the updated panel funding recommendations for the Art Project Support Grants FY 2021 totaling \$118,888 (amended to \$132,138) and the list of non-funded applications, as attached, was made by Robin, seconded by Avni, and passed with no recusals or conflicts of interest.

## Announcements

Martindale reminded the Board that a quorum is needed at the next Board Meeting on November 10, 2020 online from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Martindale adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.