

WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 9, 2021 / Virtual On-line Meeting

Commissioners Present

Robin Avni
Andre Bouchard
Representative Carolyn Eslick
Ginger Ewing
Dr. Kelvin Frank
Wes Jessup
Linley Logan
Lee Lyttle
Diane Martindale, Chair
Joan McBride
Monica Miller
Catherine Nueva España
Faaluaina Pritchard
Justin Raffa, First Vice Chair
Charlie Robin
Rosanna Sharpe, Second Vice Chair
Judy Tuohy
Representative Sharon Wylie

Commissioners Absent

Jasmine Mahmoud
Rebecca Redshaw
Senator Lisa Wellman
Sheree Wen

ArtsWA Staff Present

Glenda Carino, Communications Manager
Miguel Guillén, Program Manager, Grants to Organizations
Karen Hanan, Executive Director
Tamar Krames, Arts in Education Program Manager
Leslie Pope, Executive Assistant
Annette Roth, Program Manager, Creative Districts
Alexis Sarah, Arts in Early Learning Project Manager
Terry West, Deputy Director

Guests & Speakers

No guests attended this meeting

Call to Order

Martindale, ArtsWA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Land Acknowledgement

Dr. Kelvin Frank gave the land acknowledgement dedicated to Joe de la Cruz and the Coastal Salish people.

Roll Call and Agenda Approval

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 Logan, and passed unanimously.



Rules for Public Comment

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.

Chairs Report

Martindale reviewed her report (*packet p. 1-2*). The Public Leadership in the Arts presentation to Governor Inslee by ArtsWA and Americans for the Arts was a wonderful moment of joy.

Director's Report

Hanan reviewed her report (*packet pp. 3-6*). It has been a busy time since we last saw you. Who could have anticipated at this time last year that we would still be in this situation. In terms of ArtsWA accomplishments, staff quickly pivoted to respond to the effects of the pandemic on the arts field. ArtsWA quickly distributed three grant cycles to support arts organizations affected by closures and continues to support constituents rapidly when funding or information is available. She recognized that this has been an enormous workload for staff. Staff have worked on behalf of the state, particularly the Community Investments team, who had to delay their regular work to ensure that three rounds of emergency funding could be distributed rapidly. The recent state and federal unrest also caused trauma. Tomorrow's webinar, Navigating Overwhelm, is part of the agency's response to the past year.

Hanan met with many legislators during session and found that testifying online is a smooth process. She requested ArtsWA be included in SB 5328 which forms a creative economy work group.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) is administering the Shuttered Venues grant. These federal funds will not solve all the problems that performance venues have experienced during the pandemic, but it will be helpful. The funds are to be divided between 56 states and territories, which means approximately \$300 million may be distributed in Washington. At a maximum of \$10 million per grant, that would mean approximately 30 or 40 venues would receive financial support. We are striving to get as much funding for Washington as possible. There have been educational webinars, FAQs, and other informational campaigns to get word of this opportunity to our constituents. The grant is not yet open for applications to be submitted.

The Public Leadership in the Arts presentation to Governor Inslee by ArtsWA and Americans for the Arts was a lovely occasion.

Reopening guidelines are being rewritten to follow updated safety guidelines. Hanan thanked everyone who has worked to provide clear guidance in these guidelines for the arts sector.

2020-21 Biennium 6th Quarter Report

This report (*packet pp. 7-14*) 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. All funds will be successfully expended by the end of the fiscal year.

ArtsWA is working to ensure that all available funds for grants will be awarded to our constituents. The recovery of the arts sector is of paramount importance to our work.

The Art in Public Places (AIPP) program is funded through the capital budget. It is a reimbursable program where ArtsWA expends the funds and is reimbursed by partner agencies. By the end of the fiscal year, funds expended will be completely reimbursed. In recent years, ArtsWA worked with the Office of Financial Management (OFM) to review the funding calculation for this program. The cost of the design phase has been excluded in the calculation for acquisitions. Recently, a decision was made to include the entire cost of construction in the $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% funding calculation, which will increase the funding amount that ArtsWA receives for this program.

Collections care and conservation includes staff and expenses to manage the care of the State Art Collection. The majority of this is covered by the agency's operating budget with a small amount from the AIPP allocation. With approximately 5,000 artworks, this money does not go very far. They are on track with their budget.

The Community Investments group typically expends much of its funding in the final quarter of the fiscal year. This year the cycle was changed by the CARES funding, which distributed funds immediately.

The My Public Art Portal, Creative Districts, Folk Arts and SunDome repair project are on track.

Martindale asked whether pandemic financial challenges might result in cuts to the current budget before the end of the fiscal year. Hanan said Governor Inslee is seeking additional revenue versus cutting the budget. It depends on what the Legislature does. Rep. Wylie said the budget cuts and furloughs already enacted have positioned the state so that most programs can survive through this fiscal year. The Legislature is looking at new revenue and opportunities to change the tax system. Many legislators support the arts and culture sector. Discussion centers on how to create sustainability in the more critical areas that are underfunded such as education, mental health and other safety net programs. For the arts, the signs at the federal level are positive. Rep. Wylie is worried about performing arts organizations and restaurants because access is the means to sustainability, and while they are closed, it is a loss of jobs and revenue.

Strategic Plan Dashboard Update

Hanan reviewed the Strategic Plan Dashboard (*packet pp. 15*), which measures ArtsWA's progress on various metrics for agency strategic plan goals including Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) work. The arts in education and community investments areas have changed their metrics to better reflect activity. Krames explained the first two metrics now include pre-K-12 to add data about the creative start early learning program. The other new metrics reflect the number of grantees outside of King County to focus on regional reach, with a goal of keeping that reach at 75% or more.

The average number of days for the installation of artworks is a new metric, and AIPP is performing well. She reminded commissioners to inform ArtsWA when they meet with legislators, so that benchmark can be accurately measured.



Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included:

- Minutes of November 10, 2020 Board Meeting (*packet pp. 18-26*)
- Minutes of December 3, 2020 Board Meeting (*packet pp. 27-28*)

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

Washington State Poet Laureate

Hanan reviewed the panel recommendation for the next Washington State Poet Laureate (*packet pp. 29-30*). She is very excited about the panel recommendation because Rena Priest will bring something special to the position. The poet laureate guidelines were reviewed and rewritten during a year-long process that involved the board, poetry constituents, and past laureates, to bring the expectations and guidelines into the 21st century and increase equity and inclusion. There were 16 well qualified poets who applied for the position. This was significantly more participation than in previous years.

Hanan and Julie Ziegler, Executive Director at Humanities WA, reviewed panel scores and narrowed the pool to seven candidates for final interviews. The final panel identified Rena Priest, who has strong community outreach skills, interaction with Native American community, and impressed the panel. Her stage presence and her poetry are impressive. Her plan is to focus on outreach, especially to Native American communities.

A MOTION to approve the Poet Laureate 2021-23 panel recommendation was made by Rep. Wylie and seconded by Dr. Frank. The MOTION passed unanimously with no recusals, no abstentions, and none opposed.

The Poet Laureate 2021-23 panel recommendation approved by the Board will be forwarded to Governor Inslee for his approval. Only after the Governor has approved the recommendation is this nomination official, and then the name of the candidate can be made public.

Center for Washington Cultural Traditions

Dr. Langston Wilkins, Director of The Center for Washington Cultural Traditions, reviewed recent achievements within this program, as well as future plans. Heritage Arts Apprenticeship Program (HAAP) funds master artists and apprentices together to transmit rare, endangered or unique cultural traditions in Washington State. Applications for the 2021-22 cohort are now being accepted. Fifteen teams will be funded this year and geographic diversity is important. The current HAAP cohort is currently scheduling site visits to observe team progress, and a final event will be established for teams to share their growth and projects.

This year's cultural traditions survey will follow a theme, looking at how food traditions and food ways intersect processes and social issues like heritage, migration, race, and gender. Two regions will be covered: one in South Seattle to include Kent, Renton, and Federal Way, and a second station in the Spokane County region. This program will include outreach, interviews, documentation, virtual panels about food traditions, recorded food demonstrations, written materials, videos and podcasts.

The Cultural Documentation Field School will also focus on food traditions. Dr. Wilkins oversees this work and has hired two contract field workers. Kate Lebo, a dynamic writer who was an apprentice in the 2018 HAAP program and participated in last year's Field School will support the Spokane region. Rebecca Kunin, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology at Indiana University will cover the South Seattle region. She is from the same department where Dr. Wilkins received his degree. Kunin has been in Seattle for several years writing her dissertation and is primed to do this field work.

The Associate Folklorist Program includes place-based field workers positioned throughout the state. They will pursue outreach and engage in various Center initiatives. Antonio Gómez was recently hired as associate folklorist for the Puget Sound Region. He works for Tacoma Arts Live and is an incredible musician and documentarian. Dr. Wilkins is current seeking an associate folklorist for the Spokane region.

Hanan added that the Center is really growing, and she is proud of the its work. This growth is a direct result of legislative support alongside Dr. Wilkins' hard work. Commissioners understand this is a valuable program to train people how to make a living in the arts and preserve arts heritage. There will be more opportunities for growth in partnership with the Creative Forces program, with the potential of HAAP teams interacting with veterans. Hanan thanked the legislative commissioners and the Legislature for their support.

Creative Forces Program

Maltz provided an update on the Creative Forces program (*packet p. 31*). She is a board-certified art therapist employed by the Henry Jackson Foundation, a non-profit that is contracted by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)-Creative Forces Healing Network. She is a community liaison between the national Creative Forces team, ArtsWA, Washington based arts organizations, and military connected individuals and families. Previously, she was the art therapist at the Intrepid Spirit Center on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, a clinic which focuses on brain health for active duty personnel.

Creative Forces is an initiative of the NEA partnership with the Department of Defense (DOD), Veterans Affairs (VA), and state agencies that support DOD/VA sites across the country. Their mission is to improve the health, wellness, and quality of life for military and veterans. Their work focuses on clinical services including on-site art, music and dance therapists in 11 DOD sites across the country and several VA locations. They are committed to research and have published over 20 papers in the last three years supporting arts for healing with the military. They are committed to the clinic-to-community continuum through community arts engagement.

Some of the organizations in Washington include:

- Museum of Glass with its Hot Shop Heroes program
- Path with Art in Seattle that has worked with the underserved and homeless population by providing arts and recently began a specific veteran program
- Sound Vet Jam, a grass roots effort started by a small veteran-based group that decided to spread healing and love through community vet jams and visiting veteran home locations around the state.



ArtsWA has been involved with the national Creative Forces team in two summits, in 2017 and 2019. From that a conceptual framework was designed for arts engagement with active duty and veterans in Washington. Some of these include:

- How to build a clinical understanding of the healing benefits of arts engagement in readjustment and reintegration of military veterans.
- How to foster military competence, respect and understanding. There is a need to understand this population, which represents only 1% of the national population.
- How to connect veterans to local arts programming, museums, and other community arts events.
- How to sustain healing, growth, education, economy and access with respect to military connected individuals and families.

Maltz began working with ArtsWA in her current capacity in January 2021. She continues to collaborate with existing programs at ArtsWA, including AIPP, with State Art Collection pieces currently installed in military facilities. She is also exploring ideas with Arts in Education (AIE) staff to potentially build programs for military families. Maltz is working with Hanan to build a partnership with the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs. A pilot program in the Tacoma/Lacey hub location will begin soon. Maltz will lead the program as a teaching artist so that she can write a playbook for growing the program to include more teaching artists.

Maltz has conducted a survey of previous summit attendees as part of a plan to reconvene this spring. She provided her contact information and welcomes suggestions and input from the Board.

Hanan said over the past few years, she has connected with Alfie Ramos, Director, Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). Ramos is very excited about the potential of using the arts for healing. Maltz, ArtsWA and DVA is considering a joint supplemental budget request to the Legislature to carry the work further with state support. The Creative Forces work appeals to most people and has documented evidence of the power of the arts in healing for military personnel and veterans. Hanan is looking forward to growing this program.

CARES 2.0

Guillén outlined the efforts of the entire Community Investments (CI) Team managing the pandemic crisis and relief funds during this last year. The CI Team is happy to bring these funds to our constituents although they are exhausted from this last year's efforts. The Community Investments team, which is comprised of the Grants to Organizations (GTO) program and the Arts in Education (AIE) program began to hear from constituents in February 2021 that the stay at home order was impacting their ability to complete projects scheduled for the coming months. The CI team responded quickly to convert project support grants to operating support and the constituent response was immediate.

In April, ArtsWA received \$430,600 in CARES funds from the NEA. In one week, the CI team quickly launched a relief grant program in collaboration with Humanities WA. ArtsWA received 325 applications in six weeks from 29 counties totaling over \$1.5 million in requests. A total of 143 organizations in 27 counties were funded. The average grant was about \$3,000 and 80% of the recipients were outside of King County.

In October, ArtsWA received \$1,445,000 in CARES funds via the Department of Commerce. Once again, the CI team quickly developed and launched a program. A total of 441 applications were received in 3 weeks from 33 counties totaling \$3,635,414 in requests, which greatly exceeded available funds. A total of 250 organizations were funded in 32 counties.

In December, ArtsWA received, \$1,960,000 in CARES funds from OFM and the Legislature. Because of the short timeline, it was decided to fund the existing pool of applications from October. These applicants received additional funds to fund their request at 100%. Organizations previously declined were funded, primarily because of the tight scoring and tough decisions that had left them unfunded. The distinction is that previously non-funded organizations received approximately 83% of their requested funding. This is the action currently before the Board for ratification.

Overall, ArtsWA distributed \$3.84 million to 498 organizations in 32 counties. Many of these organizations were new to ArtsWA or had not previously had much contact. This experience has deeply expanded ArtsWA's footprint.

Avni thanked the entire CI Team for their hard work and she appreciated the guidance she received as a panelist for this process.

Conflicts of Interest were identified as follows (*Ginger Ewing and Judy Tuohy left the meeting prior to this vote*):

Board Commissioner	Conflicts of Interest
Andre Bouchard	Terrain Programs, Indigenous Performance Productions; WA Center for Performing Arts
Rep. Eslick	Museum of Northwest Arts; Fellowship Artists Residence
Wes Jessup	Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture
Diane Martindale	San Juan Island Museum of Art
Joan McBride	Kirkland Performance Center; Kirkland Arts
Monica Miller	Gallery One
Catherine Nueva España	Khambatta Dance Company
Faaluaina Pritchard	Asia Pacific Cultural Center
Justin Raffa	Mid-Columbia Mastersingers, Yakima Symphony Orchestra
Charlie Robin	The Capitol Theatre Committee

A MOTION to ratify the revised CARES funding of additional funds as outlined in the packet was made by Rep. Wylie and seconded by Logan. Following Roberts Rules of Order, the remaining six commissioners voted (Avni, Dr. Frank, Logan, Lyttle, Sharpe, Rep. Wylie). The MOTION passed unanimously.

Advocacy

Logan, Advocacy Chair, outlined the plan for this portion of the meeting.

State of the State Report

Hanan introduced Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF) lobbyists Doug Levy, Outcomes by Levy, LLC and David Foster, Foster Government Relations. They advise and help to move legislative issues forward by educating the Legislature.



Levy provided a broad overview of the 2021 legislative session, which has adapted to the virtual world. Legislators are spending much of their time focusing on issues related to the pandemic, such as rental assistance, housing assistance, help for continued unemployment and adjustments to unemployment costs with employers.

The Legislature had some early projections of revenue fall out from COVID-19. That situation has gotten better and may get better still depending on what happens with direct help from the federal government for states and localities. There are discussions around finding revenue through legislation such as a wealth tax.

Several ArtsWA funding requests were included in the Governor's Budget. Levy and Foster are working to educate Legislators on the benefits of keep those requests intact in their operating and capital budgets. Fortunately, several of the ArtsWA requests are in the capital budget, which tends to be a bipartisan vehicle, is primarily financed by bond debt, and these requests have a higher likelihood of being retained. Repair of the SunDome and Creative Districts small infrastructure grants are two of the projects that we hope to carry forward.

Foster added they also work with Humanities WA, which has a modest increase request for the Speakers Bureau. They are also working with Inspire WA to grow the number of people involved in the efforts in the cultural and heritage sector in the state. The help that board members provide from all corners of the state is instrumental to that growth and success. Budget proposals will come sometime in late March.

Rep. Eslick added Levy provided an accurate statement of the big picture. She has a meeting tomorrow with the ranking member for capital budget and will know more. Her latest bill, the family resource bill (HB 1237), creates a definition in statute for resource centers located in communities where families can receive education and assistance for entry into human resources and programs, which can include the arts.

Manny Cawaling, Inspire WA, represents non-profit organizations in arts, heritage, and science and all creative peoples who work in Washington state. Its focus is coalition building, noting we are stronger together. There are unique issues for each organization and individual artist, but in the public policy arena, banding together creates a strong voice for change. Advocacy is the main work of Inspire WA. Advocacy occurs on congressional and state levels. Cawaling and Inspire WA worked hard with congressional leaders for federal level arts and humanities funding support.

Normally, in the first week of February, Inspire WA conducts Arts, Heritage and Science day to meet with legislators for education purposes. This year, due to the pandemic, all events and meetings will be held online, and the event will last for a week. Advocates are being trained to understand funding programs in preparation for legislative meetings. In the future, this one day per year approach will grow to be year-around, developing meaningful relationships and educational opportunities with legislators and cultural leaders.

Advocacy Dos and Don'ts

Logan reviewed the list of Advocacy Dos and Don'ts. Hanan clarified that a commissioner can advocate and lobby but cannot ask other people to lobby on your behalf. If a commissioner does not wear their ArtsWA hat, but is acting as a constituent, they can ask others to take specific action.

Role Playing

This portion of the meeting is designed to help commissioners learn from role playing to simulate an actual legislative meeting.

Raffa provided context for the following role playing to practice for specific district meetings with legislators. Virtual connectivity allows for more constituents to participate but may not feel as personal. He encouraged commissioners to read and practice with the talking points, so they flow naturally during conversation. Raffa explained that while legislators may have negative reactions to requests for funds especially this year because of the pandemic, there are ways to handle each situation. He suggested focusing on the budget requests and remind legislators that the arts sector was among the first to close, and the last to reopen. Jobs are at stake. The arts are not a charity, but part of a vital economy and jobs. Give specific examples of how the pandemic has affected arts organizations. Information is available from Inspire WA, ArtsWA, and staff.

Raffa said he has never been thrown or bated with a curve ball. If you spend some time to build a relationship with a legislator in advance, it will not happen. The one difficult conversation he remembers was with a legislator he had never met before. Walking in cold is different than having an established relationship with your legislator.

Carino reviewed the recap form that commissioners must complete after each legislative meeting and return to her. This information is used for statistics on the strategic plan dashboard, and for Karen's understanding. It is important to review the legislator's website, understand what committees they work on, what they have accomplished, and their focus and interests.

Dr. Frank asked for assistance in preparing talking points around advocating for Native Americans and for ArtsWA. Charlie said he finds it useful when he represents the Yakima Nation (and Central Washington) to identify who has received funding, share the funding impact, and explain what additional support would accomplish. Speak specifically and personally. Share a personal and specific way in which funding has and will help those you represent.

How to Use the Website as an Advocacy Tool

Roth provided an overview of the ArtsWA website, which now has links to advocacy tools. There is information on legislative priorities, summaries of projects, and links to informational handouts including CARES Act funding outcomes. These tools can be used to contact your legislators after each meeting, as follow-up to emphasize talking points. They can also be used to educate constituents. Carino explained that each legislator has a twitter account located in the legislative directory. Tag legislators when sharing arts and district related events and information on social media.

Adjourn

Martindale said the meeting was wonderful; she thanked all presenters and role players. The work of ArtsWA commissioners on behalf of the arts is appreciated. She thanked ArtsWA staff for all their extraordinary efforts and work. Hopefully in the future, we look back on this time with great pride in our contributions,

Martindale adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.