

WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Commissioners Present

Robin Avni
Andre Bouchard
Ginger Ewing
Wes Jessup
Linley Logan
Lee Lyttle
Jasmine Mahmoud
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
Senator Lisa Wellman
Sheree Wen
Representative Sharon Wylie

Commissioners Absent

Representative Carolyn Eslick
Dr. Kelvin Frank
Rebecca Redshaw

ArtsWA Staff Present

Glenda Carino, Communications Manager
Judy Cullen, Program Specialist, Community Investments
Miguel Guillén, Program Manager, Grants to Organizations
Karen Hanan, Executive Director
Linnea Ingalls, Program Specialist, Grants to Organizations
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
Mike Sweney, Art in Public Places Program Manager
Terry West, Deputy Director

Guests & Speakers

Faith Addicott, Confluence Consulting Northwest
Eric Beers, Confluence Consulting Northwest
Helen Machin-Smith, Island Stage Left
Brenda Maltz, Veteran/Military Community Arts Liaison
Rena Priest, Washington State Poet Laureate
Joe Wolfe, future ArtsWA Deputy Director

Call to Order

Martindale, ArtsWA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Land Acknowledgement

Bouchard gave the land acknowledgement dedicated to three Tribes, the Chinook, Duwamish, Wanapum, who have been fighting for Federal recognition and who have been a part of this land since time immemorial. He acknowledged the people of the land and paid respects to the elders both past and present. He asked those present to take a moment to consider the legacy of colonization, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today.

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 Mahmoud, seconded by Lyttle, 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. 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*). She thanked all commissioners for their hard work during the 2021 Legislative Session, and the legislative commissioners who supported proposals for the work of ArtsWA. Carino and Roth were helpful in providing easy to read educational materials to support the advocacy work of the Board. She acknowledged Linley, chair of the Advocacy Committee, and his committee members for their hard work throughout the session. Martindale also thanked the ArtsWA staff their hard work in the last 14 months.

Martindale acknowledged the work of Representative Debra Lekanoff, who personally honored Rena Priest, Washington's newest Poet Laureate. The next day, Rep. Lekanoff signed a bill she sponsored to Place a statute of Billy Frank Jr. in the National Statuary Hall.

ArtsWA is losing Terry West, Deputy Director, to retirement and welcoming Joe Wolfe as the new Deputy Director. We wish West happiness in her retirement.

Governor Inslee's Proclamation of May as Arts Education Month

Krames welcomed everyone and acknowledged this unique platform to honor arts in education and celebrate Governor Inslee's Proclamation of May as Arts Education Month (handout). It celebrates the work of arts educators and youth and the Board to increase arts education in Washington. It speaks of the incredible work being done, and the remote and hybrid innovation teachers have engaged in to bring education to youth. The Board resolution highlights transformative arts education and speaks of the opportunity the field of arts education has to change the narrative of arts and culture in education.

Board Resolution 2021-001 Arts Education Month

A MOTION to adopt Board Resolution 2021-001 for Arts Education Month was made by Pritchard, seconded by Bouchard, and adopted unanimously.

Director's Report

Hanan reviewed her report (*packet pp. 3-6*). She is sad to lose West, who will be sailing off on her retirement in a boat she and her husband are refurbishing. She welcomes Joseph (Joe) Wolfe, who comes to ArtsWA most recently from Thurston County Auditor's Office and officially begins on June 1. Joe introduced himself. He has 17 years of state experience, most recently as the finance and operations department with the state department of health. His education includes a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering and Technology degree from Central Michigan University, and a Master of Business Administration from Saint Martin's University.

Hanan said covid continues to impact the way staff are completing their work. She estimates July might be the earliest for staff to return, but it could be pushed out further. Most staff would prefer to return to work with a hybrid of telework and office work. Covid has shown us that the ArtsWA team is extremely good at its work, extremely trustworthy, and the work gets done.

Essentially ArtsWA received most of what was requested of the Legislature. She thanked the entire Board. Legislative commissioners Rep. Wylie, Rep. Eslick and Senator Wellman were instrumental as well many other legislators that supported the arts during this session. A handout breaks down the

\$2MM in sector relief grants for the next biennium, which will help the creative economy recover and grow. The Creative Districts program will also be able to expand. Conservation funds to complete repair of the capital project, the Circle of Light, at the SunDome, are included in the budget. ArtsWA does expect to play a role in working with a large group of people and organizations named in the proviso language to place a statue of Billy Frank Jr. into the National Statuary Hall. ArtsWA has a solid and reputable public arts program and staff and would be best situated to oversee this process.

The packet includes new FY 2021 data on state arts agency revenue from National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA). The report shows that ArtsWA is ranked, how much funding other state arts agencies are receiving, and other trends around the country.

Hanan has focused on Reopening plans for performing arts, museums, and festivals and events. Approved use of vaccinated sections for the performing arts sector was received yesterday. She is working to ensure inconsistencies in reopening plans are resolved, and safe protocols are in place for the arts sector.

The Governor's Arts and Heritage Awards event is scheduled for December 7. It will be a hybrid with a small in-person group at the Governor's Mansion and online streaming of the event. Categories will be temporarily changed for this year, to reflect that arts organizations and individuals had to pivot to support the survival of the arts during the pandemic. The awards will recognize outstanding individuals and organizations that really shined during this crisis.

Director's Grant Approval Authority

Hanan explained that the proposed change to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) will allow quicker action for grant funding, particularly during covid-19 pandemic relief funding, and into the future.

A MOTION for the Board to ratify the increased authority of the Executive Director to approve grants as outlined in WAC-30-12-015, from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per grant was made by Pritchard and seconded by Robin.

Sharpe asked whether \$5,000 was adequate. Hanan said in general, there is time to call a Board meeting for approval. This helps for smaller grants that operate more frequently and need rapid approval on a month-by-month basis.

The Motion passed unanimously.

2020-21 Biennium 7th Quarter Report

This report (*packet pp. 7-18*) is for information only; it does not require a motion. The budget is on track and the narrative provides details 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.

Strategic Plan Dashboard Update

Hanan reviewed the Strategic Plan Dashboard (*packet pp. 19*), which measures ArtsWA's progress on various metrics for agency strategic plan goals including Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) work. The dashboard provides comparison of goal accomplishment from last quarter to the current quarter.



Robin spoke on the metric that measures board member meetings with legislators and elected officials. He asked board members to inform ArtsWA when they have meetings or else that metric will not be accurate. Seeing the button at yellow is unfortunate, because of all the hard work the Board did during session, that went uncounted due to under reporting to the agency. If anyone wants mentoring about meeting with legislators, advocacy committee members are available to lend support.

Washington State Poet Laureate 2021-23

Hanan introduced Rena Priest, Washington State's news Poet Laureate. Priest thanked the board for their contribution to the arts and the state, and their hard work on behalf of arts and artist. She is looking forward to serving as poet laureate as part of the next 2 years. Priest was raised in Washington on the Lummi reservation. Her poetry responds to where physical location at the time of writing. She is currently writing about her connection to her tribal culture, what happens in her own community, and in the state. She read her poem, *Rolling Uphill*.

Hanan asked Priest to explain her project plans for her two-year tenure. Priest plans to visit tribal communities and bring poetry into classrooms and community centers. She will write and teach around whatever comes up intentionally around salmon restoration and celebration of the natural world and the Washington state landscape. We live in a beautiful place, and the tribal peoples of this state feel a deep connection to it, and she wants to celebrate that connection.

Hanan said Priest was welcomed by all the past poets laureate and many of her Lummi family and leaders at a wonderful ceremony at the Lummi Tribal Council Chambers. The Passing of the Laurel can be seen on the www.arts.wa.gov website.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included: Minutes of February 9, 2021 Board Meeting (*packet pp. 40-48*).

A MOTION to accept the Consent Agenda was made by Pritchard and seconded by McBride. It passed unanimously with no changes to the meeting minutes.

Poetry Out Loud 2020-21

Krames showed a video of Lucy Shainin, a junior at Anacortes High School in Skagit County, who is this year's Washington State finalist. Krames gave an update on the program (*packet p. 49*). The moving and profound courage of youth in the field of literary arts is seen during this competition. They step up to platforms to share their voice in vulnerable and amazing ways by sharing their passion during the recitation competitions.

The Washington State education system recognizes five arts in education mediums as theater, visual arts, media arts, dance and music. Literary arts bridge the English arts, theater, and public speaking curriculums. Poetry Out Loud lands in the midst of this mix.

Poetry Out Loud is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Poetry Foundation for this national yearly program. This year was unique because all events occurred virtually. Krames thanked Judy Cullen and Audrey Molloy for working with her to run this program online. She also thanked Ginger Ewing, ArtsWA commissioner, who served as a judge and Claudia Castro Luna who worked on the event. Each regional champion received a poetry book from Castro Luna.

Arts in Education Update

ArtsWA supports arts education as fundamental to core education for all students in Washington, including early learning opportunities. With limited resources, ArtsWA supports partnerships that

bridge gaps to access in arts learning opportunities. These partnerships include schools, arts organizations, tribal partners, families, artists, and teachers. There is an intentional eye towards what equitable access means to each community.

The AIE Partnership grants were redesigned this year to allow for flexibility with partners who are learning what their programming can include, and to be responsible to their community needs during the pandemic. Grants are \$8,000 to \$15,000 per grant with evaluation criteria including project design, learning communities, and student access and equity.

Creative Start Grants

Krames reviewed the Creative Start Grants process (*handout*). These are one-year grants that support early learning programs with pre-school through third grade. This is the second year of this new grant program. It is state funded and evolving with each year of experience. Funding was split between single site and multiple site programs, to allow more funds for multiple sites. Public schools, school districts, tribal schools and tribal governments, educational service districts and early learning centers were eligible to apply.

A MOTION to approve the panel recommendations for Creative Start Grants as presented was made by Robin and seconded by Senator Wellman. There were no conflicts of interest. The motion passed unanimously, with no recusals or conflicts of interest.

Approve AIE partnership Grants

Krames reviewed the AIE Partnership Grants (*handout*).

A MOTION to approve the panel recommendations for FY 2022 AIE Partnership Grants as presented was made by Senator Wellman and seconded by Avni. There were four conflicts of interest: Jessup (Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture), Miller (Gallery One), Pritchard (Asia Pacific Cultural Center), and Mahmoud (Intiman and TeenTix). The motion passed unanimously with four recusals for conflicts of interest.

Art in Public Places

Sweney, Program Manager, gave an update on the Art in Public Places program and the Public Artist Roster (PAR) process (*packet p. 50*). PAR is a list of artists pre-qualified for selection by local committees. It can include US- and BC-based professionals comprised of emerging and established public artists working in a variety of mediums. The Roster is used for approximately 20-40 acquisition projects per year.

Previous rosters have underrepresented artists of color; female-identified artists; rural, central, and eastern WA artists; and emerging public and studio artists. The Art in Public Places (AIPP) acquisitions staff is attempting to address this situation by creating an application portal that is more user-friendly and requesting biographical statements instead of resumes.

The application process will open May 10 and close June 21. The Roster is valid for four-years. Board members will review panel recommendations for approval at the August board meeting.

Board Development and Nominating Committee Process

Justin Raffa, 1st Vice Chair, is also serving as the Nominating Committee Chair for this year. It is time for the board to reflect on its work and processes. Last year's survey revealed that members would like



flexibility in how the survey is conducted. There will be an online survey to collect responses, and the one-on-one dialog by phone or Zoom is still available. Raffa asked for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee process. It is important to capture board member feedback about the work of the agency, board member involvement and commitments, volunteers for leadership assignments or recommendations. This information will conclude at the August meeting with a report of the findings and a proposed slate of officers for the next year.

Strategic Planning

Hanan said ArtsWA is looking ahead with vision but based in the reality of operating within a state agency environment and within the state budget. This year ArtsWA has contracted with the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) to conduct a statewide survey and an equity study of national state arts agencies to see if there are approaches to adopt or pitfalls to avoid. The survey will be distributed soon.

Faith Addicott and Eric Beers, strategic planning facilitators with Confluence Consulting Northwest (<https://confluencenorthwest.com/>) were introduced. They will facilitate a strategic planning process from a strength-based design approach. Addicott said instead of looking for problems, the process begins with assessing what is working well and where staff and board want to see in the future. The process will take an intentional approach toward change. Assess how programs, agency, and board functioning. How are people are feeling when engaged in doing their work to serve Washington communities. The intent is to find the most aspirational vision for how ArtsWA can serve constituents in the future.

Advocacy: Updates and Future Activities

Logan, Advocacy Committee Chair, reviewed accomplishments of the Board during the last legislative session. He encouraged the Board to meet with their legislators and local leaders during the interim, before 2022. Mahmoud asked whether handwritten letters are recommended during this time when there is technology fatigue. Nueva España said she found it helpful to learn how private, state, and federal funding intersection or fill gaps. She requested that ArtsWA communicate to constituents how state and federal funding can support where private funding may fall short. Pritchard thanked the entire board, and Carino and Roth, for their great work during this session.

Senator Wellman agrees there is an opportunity to reach those who do not understand how arts affect lives and contribute to the economy. Allowing young people to explore the arts builds audiences. We can speak about how the arts support the social emotional health of our society. There has been much trauma during the pandemic and music and other arts can help society recover. Arts and the military show how the arts can help active military and veterans. This holds true for parents and children impacted by the pandemic. This is an organization that conducts work that is relevant to every segment of society. It is important to connect those who do not understand yet, that the arts are relative to the state's economy, social and mental health.

Representative Wylie said her exposure to advocacy has bridged the use of digital technology, and spanned being in various roles, such as legislative and lobbyist. It was convenient when people stopped writing letters and sent emails, but now the legislature receives hundreds of emails, some of which are automatically generated and fraudulent. A written letter now stands out more than an email. Make your contact when the Legislature is not in session, when the overload has quieted. Speak with legislators outside of the budget process for general advocacy, automatic support, and building education and understanding. She would like to see more intentional connection to arts and the sciences. She would also like to see an endowment program of non-state funds to bridge financial gaps

within the arts sector. Make sure to speak with legislators on the appropriations committee will help to keep issues in the budget proposal.

Senator Wellman mentioned the creative economy workgroup created by the Legislature, with ArtsWA named as part of it. There is an opportunity and need to address the status of the creative economy impacted by the pandemic. There are thousands of constituents who make their living within the creative economy, including set designers, animated games and movies, and many jobs not immediately visible. We need to rethink how work will be different, and what we can do that is new in the creative entertainment industry.

Recognition of Outgoing Board Member Ginger Ewing and Rebecca Redshaw

Martindale and Hanan recognized outgoing board member Ginger Ewing. Rebecca Redshaw was unable to attend this meeting. Hanan said Ewing was central to the work in Spokane to build the arts and creative economy. Her insight has been valuable, and she is a great connector to the legislators and stakeholders in the region. Hanan thanked Ewing for showing up with enthusiasm and engagement, and her active participation on panels and as a judge with Poetry Out Loud.

Martindale said Ewing is a powerhouse. She has tremendous faith in the future of the arts in the state of Washington because of people like Ginger. Thank you for your service and we look forward to seeing you in the future.

Raffa's first meeting as a board member was enhanced by meeting Ewing and developing an east side caucus. Ewing has been a steady carpool partner in traveling to board meetings and he got to know her well. He admires her commitment to the Spokane community and her willingness to ask the hard questions. He looks forward to future endeavors working together.

Pritchard said she has always enjoyed and respected Ewing's contributions to the conversation, and her focus on BIPOC issues.

Miller said being on the board with Ewing has made her a better advocate and person. She appreciates Ewing's ability to celebrate other people's accomplishments. She asks clarifying questions that are very relevant, when others may be hesitant. This combination of qualities shows Ewing's true ability to be present and authentic in the moment. It has been a real gift to serve alongside Ewing.

Ewing said she adored her time as a state commissioner and has learned from everyone on the board. Reach out if she can support any endeavors. She is grateful for the experience and enjoyed working with everyone.

Public Comment

Helen Machin-Smith, Island Stage Left, read her letter to the Board as public comment. She requested greater support for live theater to reopen in a safe way during the pandemic, especially with a fully vaccinated theater group during the summer when performances can be held outdoors.

Adjourn

Martindale adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.