

WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022 / Virtual

Commissioners Present

Robin Avni
Dr. Kelvin Frank
Reinaldo Gil Zambrano
Wesley Jessup
Linley Logan
Lee Lyttle
Jasmine Mahmoud, PhD
Diane Martindale
Representative Jacquelin Maycumber
Joan McBride
Monica Miller
Catherine Nueva España, Second Vice Chair
Faaluaina Pritchard
Justin Raffa, Chair
Charlie Robin
Rosanna Sharpe, First Vice Chair
Judy Tuohy
Sheree Wen

Commissioners Absent

Andre Bouchard
Linley Logan
Claudia Castro Luna
Senator Lisa Wellman
Representative Sharon Wylie

ArtsWA Staff Present

Miguel Guillén, Program Manager, Grants to Organizations
Karen Hanan, Executive Director
Janae Huber, Collections Manager
Brenda Maltz, MA ATR-BC, Veteran/Military Community Arts Liaison- WA State Creative Forces: NEA Healing Arts Network
Leslie Pope, Executive Assistant
Annette Roth, Community Development Manager
Alexis Sarah, Early Learning Project Manager
Deane Shellman, Deputy Director
Michael Sweney, Art in Public Places Program Manager
Michael Wallenfels, Communications Manager

Guests & Speakers

Faith Addicott, Confluence Consulting Northwest
Manny Cawaling, Inspire WA
David Foster, Foster Government Relations
Doug Levy, Outcomes by Levy, LLC
Laura VerMeulen, Managing Director, The Longhouse
Jessi Wasson, Inspire WA

Call to Order / Land Acknowledgement / Roll Call

Raffa, ArtsWA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Laura VerMeulen, Managing Director of the Longhouse at Evergreen State College gave the land acknowledgement. Public comment rules were shared.

Roll call was conducted; at first there was not a quorum, but with efforts to contact missing board members, eventually a quorum was reached. Raffa reminded commissioners to prioritize board meetings so that the work of the agency on behalf of constituents can move forward.

A MOTION to approve the agenda was made by Pritchard, seconded by Jessup, and passed unanimously.

Board Chair's Report

Raffa reviewed his report (*packet pp. 1-2*). He was pleased to see commissioners attend the Cultural Congress, discussing how to recover from the pandemic. Check with Inspire WA and its youtube channel to see any recorded sessions. Raffa hopes commissioners had a chance to view the Governor's Arts & Heritage Awards program. He acknowledged the hard work of ArtsWA staff and congratulated award recipients. Strategic Planning roundtable sessions have concluded. He attended the Eastern Region roundtable which had a good turnout with good responses from the community. He hopes the other roundtables also went well.

Executive Director's Report

Hanan reviewed her report (*packet pp. 3-7*). ArtsWA is on track for reopening the Olympia offices on **March 15**. This is of course, subject to change.

We are currently working on four job openings and Hanan is calling this the "Great ArtsWA Staffing Shuffle." With Glenda Carino retiring and Michael Wallenfels stepping up into the role of Communications Director, Joe Wolfe leaving us for the Department of Natural Resources, and Deane Shellman stepping up into the role of Deputy Director, other staffing changes and searches are happening. They include a search for a Community Relations Program Assistant to fill the role Michael vacated. They also include a search for a new staff member to take on the fiscal duties that Savanna Perez will leave behind as she steps up into a role designed to fill some of the gap left by Deane's promotion. Finally, a search is on for someone to serve as 'Program Coordinator' for Art in Public Places (AIPP). That person will take on some of the duties that Deane used to do but will also embrace additional administrative duties in support of AIPP.

The legislative session opened on January 10 and will continue until March 10. It is proving to be a busy one, especially given the "Biennial Budget" feel of it, despite it being a "short", supplemental budget one. We continue to hear that there is "A LOT" of money, which we hope bodes well for our requests. The week of February 21, the House and Senate budgets will be published and then negotiations begin with those budgets and the Governor's budget to create a final budget before the end of session. Hanan thanked all the commissioners who have been actively meeting with their legislators to advocate for ArtsWA budget requests and educate on their importance to the state.

ArtsWA has a partnership with the Department of Commerce to help extend the reach and support of the Building for the Arts program into rural and underserved areas. ArtsWA will provide technical support for potential grantees of the Building for the Arts program. This allows us to proactively help organizations and communities assess and identify potentially viable projects and determine feasibility. The ArtsWA Community Relations Department is developing a website, a webinar, and building an enormous list of potential applicants. ArtsWA is uniquely positioned to know, understand, and interact with the arts and creative sector by virtue of our mission and programming. ArtsWA is best positioned to understand our state's arts and creative organizations, their needs, and aspirations. The true test of this

support will be the number of applicants ArtsWA brings to the table. The application process for Building for the Arts is expected to open mid-May. We are hoping for the successful passage of [HB 1647](#) with its Senate companion bill, SB 5530, through the legislative process. If enacted, this will be a game changer to increase maximum allowable funding and increase the match from 20% to 33%. It is hoped that this change in the match requirement will open the door wider for smaller and rural projects.

As Congress returned to session in the beginning of January. Congress has been unable to reach agreements to enact legislation We are concerned around negotiations for the fiscal year 2022 appropriations bill because the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is funded within that bill. ArtsWA receives approximately \$900,000 per year with its NEA State Partnership grant. If the NEA receives an increase in funding, the grant amount ArtsWA receives might be increased, which would be helpful to increase our support of state services to communities.

On December 18, the U.S. Senate approved President Biden's nomination of Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson to lead the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Dr. Jackson is highly knowledgeable about the agency, having served on the National Council on the Arts during the presidency of Barack Obama. Dr. Jackson is a person of great stature and character, with a strong focus on equity, and knows the arts sector well. Hanan is excited to work with her, through the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA).

We are working with Humanities WA and the Seattle Office of Arts and Culture to plan a Poets Laureate event on April 2, 2022. The event will be held at Hugo House in Seattle. The idea is to bring together key poet laureates to discuss the theme of Poetry as Politics: Intersections of Poetry and Civic Life. The day will include workshops for these poets to mentor and learn from each other. In the afternoon, there will be a public component to the meeting and all commissioners are invited. The event will be free.

Janae Huber, AIPP's Collections Manager, was notified in mid-January, that an application she helped champion to the National Endowment for the Humanities was successful! The grant category was "Preservation and Access Research and Development." The grant amount is \$73,842.

Huber said they worked with the Midwest Art Conservation Center on a project for emergency response for artworks. This pilot project will address emergency planning for collections that are spread throughout a wide geographic area, like the Washington State Art Collection.

2022-23 Biennium 2nd Quarter Report

This report (*packet pp. 8-17*) 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. This report covers the second quarter of the biennium, summarizing expenditures from October 1 through December 31, 2021. Budget reports shows where each program is fiscally during the current quarter. The agency tracks reasons for over or underspending during each quarter to ensure at the end of the fiscal year, budget expenditures balance to as near zero as possible.

Strategic Plan Dashboard Update

Hanan reviewed the Strategic Plan Dashboard (*packet pp. 18*), which measures ArtsWA's progress on various metrics for agency strategic plan goals including Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) work. The dashboard provides a snapshot comparison of strategic plan goal accomplishment from the most recently completed quarter. Commissioners are encouraged to submit legislative meeting recap forms to the agency to ensure accurate accounting of the meetings with elected officials measure.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included: Board Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2021 (*packet pp. 19-29*) and Board Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2021 (*packet pp. 30-32*). A MOTION to accept the Consent Agenda was made by McBride and seconded by Pritchard. It passed unanimously with no changes to the meeting minutes.

Art in Public Places

Huber, Collections Manager, reviewed her report (*packet pp. 33-34*). Deaccession is the administrative process for formally removing artworks from the State Art Collection. It is policy driven process. This process is undertaken with care following the board approved policy, ArtCare, which is available on the ArtsWA website.

Most deaccessions are staff recommended, then reviewed by a panel if time allows, followed by ratification by the Board. In this case, the recommendation was reviewed and approved by the Executive Director, which is allowed when there is not sufficient time to convene a panel.

The artworks recommended for deaccession present a safety hazard in their present condition. They have been contaminated with asbestos fibers, which cannot be safely and completely removed. They were sited at Pierce College - Fort Steilacoom, where the entire building was affected by asbestos. Although 11 artworks were at this site, all other artworks were in cases and protected. These artworks are acrylic paint on canvas, and the asbestos fibers are embedded and cannot be cleaned or removed. The only remedy for these two artworks is disposal by the asbestos abatement team. The two artworks recommended for deaccession are:

- Tom Askman - *The Trout Appeared Perplexed When Presented with the Puzzles*
- Robert McGill - *Hidden Blue* (Date unknown)

A MOTION to ratify the decision of the Executive Director to deaccession the following artworks from the State Art Collection because the artworks present a safety hazard in their present condition was made by Robin and seconded by Sharpe. The motion passed unanimously.

Art in Public Places – K-12 Pooled Funds Update

Sweney, Program Manager, presented an update on K-12 pooled funds (*packet p. 35*). Art in Public Places (AIPP) works with K-12 schools in a slightly different way than with colleges and universities. AIPP works with Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to combine the funds generated by construction in public schools into one pool. Districts that have construction are invited to apply for fully funded site responsive artwork acquisitions as managed by AIPP. What is different this time is that AIPP will allow every school in every district that is interested in acquiring artwork to do so without a competitive application process. All artworks will be sited indoors, and emphasis will be on paintings and murals.

We are excited about eliminating competition for artworks, which allows schools with smaller staffs an opportunity to receive artworks. Indoor artworks cost less to produce and easier to maintain. This will also provide more opportunity for artists on the roster since indoor artworks do not require specialized materials to withstand outdoor weather impacts. AIPP will provide more guidance to artists for this process. Questionnaires are due February 15 and projects will begin right away.

Native American Ad Hoc Committee Report

Dr. Kelvin Frank, Native American Ad Hoc Committee Chair, thanked Laura VerMeulen for commemorating the Squaxin Island people's principle of kinship to the land. He thanked the commissioners involved in discussions for this committee. Dr. Frank referred the Board to the purpose statement as provided in the packet (*packet p. 36*).

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Native American ad hoc Committee is to recommend strategies to further ArtsWA's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion that includes Native American communities across Washington State. To that end, the intention is to strengthen ArtsWA's relationship with and connectivity to the many Native American communities with the goal of increasing participation that is reflective of their overall population(s).

Dr. Frank thanked Raffa, Board Chair, who initiated the committee while recognizing that tribal communities by and large do not submit applications for ArtsWA grant opportunities than other groups. Fewer artists and organizations apply to the programs for which they are eligible. As a board member, Dr. Frank has been adamant about stressing inclusion of tribal governments and participants reflective of their overall percentage of the population in Washington. One idea is to hire a tribal liaison to work with ArtsWA to increase tribal participation.

Raffa said the Board appreciates the important role Dr. Frank, a genuine champion and culture bearer for tribal and indigenous communities, plays in bringing awareness and change to the agency.

Strategic Planning

Karen Hanan with Faith Addicott, Confluence Consulting Northwest, provided an update. Board and staff have created amazing aspirational goals with many strategies to accomplish these goals.

Addicott explained that the agency has agreed on aspirations. Goals and aspirations were shared with the four community regions, and feedback is being incorporated. Staff are creating a year-one plan to outline work that is already being done, and work where the resources are already in place. In a five-year plan, it helps to reduce the broad aspirations and goals into a year-by-year plan. For each yearly plan, staff will develop work plans to accomplish the work.

After completing a year-one plan, Roth and Wallenfels, and staff and teams will complete a draft strategic plan for final review. The final strategic plan will be presented to the Board in May.

In January, community forums have been held in the four ArtsWA regions. People were engaged, and the community helps to point out things that might have been overlooked. For example, people really wanted to see direct conversation about what pandemic recovery looks like in the arts sector.

Robin was impressed by the variety of people who attended the Central region forum, including current and former staff, new community members, and was impressed by the conversation and the depth of their engagement. Many folks reached out to Robin after the forum, to ask how they could help and show appreciation for the opportunity to be included in the conversation.

Avni said she was fascinated by people who had never heard of ArtsWA before. She wonders how many other people in the community do not know about ArtsWA. Mahmoud said she appreciated how the meeting was facilitated. The group was comfortable talking, and she was impressed about their concern for the wellbeing of the staff at ArtsWA. Nueva-España also found that many new people were just hearing about ArtsWA in the forum she attended. Miller agreed that those who attended were very engaged and provided great input. Miller not sure whether the tribes were represented, as she had reached out to the Colville tribe and others. She wants to ensure that those who were not able to attend might still have an opportunity to add their voice to this process.

Addicott said many more people signed up than attended, and some of that may be due to Zoom fatigue. In the conversations around equity, it was clear to see there is much work to be done, even on who attended and did not attend.

Nueva-España said the level of information provided was right for the time allotted, even though there were requests for more detailed information. Lyttle added that he requests for more detailed information but heard many suggestions and comments around arts in the schools, additional training for engaging BIPOC groups in application processes; many of these comments are already included in the strategies that ArtsWA is pursuing.

Addicott said major topics included:

- Communicating the story of the value of the arts in pandemic recovery and the economy
- What the arts sector will look like after pandemic recovery
- Two-way communication to ask the community what they need, to create greater equity
- The power of storytelling, not just data alone
- Public art that is not visual – what does live public art look like – and what is its place
- Strong support for the Poetry Out Loud program, which reaches across the state and into rural regions.

Avni said some groups are struggling with how to increase and focus on equity and inclusion and there is a potential role for ArtsWA to place in facilitating in this area. There was also concern that if a community is not particularly diverse, would that lack of diversity impact their ability to receive grant funding.

Addicott said the plan will be evaluated every year, to create a plan for the coming year and to adjust when circumstances require adjustment.

Raffa is amazed at how many of his own constituents that either do not know ArtsWA exists, or understand all the work ArtsWA does, or opportunities that exist. It proves that commissioners have more work to do to advocate for and educate constituents on the work of ArtsWA

Advocacy

Charlie Robin, Advocacy Committee Chair, led the Board through advocacy education and training.

State of the State Report

Doug Levy, Outcomes by Levy, LLC, David Foster, Foster Government Relations, and Manny Cawaling, Inspire WA, spoke about the legislative session. Foster said cut off is close for several bills and deadlines for budget requests from advocates to legislators in this four week of session. Levy said to keep contacting your legislators. Emails and phone calls are acceptable forms of contact. It is important to use all the tools in our toolbox to make our priorities known on the budget side, especially this week.

Commissioners engaged the role playing to simulate an actual legislative meeting. Robin guided the board to use the preparation worksheet for legislative meetings. Commissioners are asked to return an online recap form report after every legislative meeting.

Manny Cawaling, Inspire WA, provided an overview of Arts, Science and Heritage Week.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present to make comment.

Adjourn

Raffa reviewed the upcoming important dates listed on the agenda. He adjourned the meeting at 12:28 p.m.