



BOARD MEETING AGENDA

WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022 / Virtual Online Meeting

Raffa, ArtsWA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. He read ArtsWA's land acknowledgement that was written with input from Native American commissioners.

Roll call was conducted, and a quorum was verified. Raffa asked for a MOTION to approve the agenda; the motion was made by Pritchard, seconded by Senator Wellman, and passed unanimously.

Raffa shared the Governor Inslee's Proclamation of April 2022 as Poetry Month (*packet p. 1*). He encouraged the board to find a way to celebrate poetry month and to follow the current Washington State Poet Laureate Rena Priest on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or wapoetlaureate.org.

The public is welcome to attend ArtsWA Board of Commission meetings, but 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 is not a discussion period. There were no members of the public present at this meeting.

Arts in Education

Krames, Arts in Education Program Manager, reviewed the Arts in Education program and the Arts 4 All grants (*packet pp. 2-4*). Newly revised AIE program summary goals and strategies for all preK-12 students are included in the new strategic plan. Goals include:

- **Foster** collaboration within the arts education landscape.
- **Expand** learning opportunities for educators working to close the opportunity gap.
- **Strengthen** youth, educator, and family civic engagement with the arts and cultural sector.
- **Ensure** arts learning is accessible to all PreK-12 students in Washington State.
- **Elevate** the role of arts education in Washington State through Data, Research, and Accountability.

The AIE program includes four staff who work on many ongoing programs including: AIE Grants, Creative Start, Teaching Artists Training Lab (TAT Lab), and Poetry Out Loud (POL). New programs that have launched or are being developed currently include: WA Youth Arts Leadership Program (WAYAL), Arts for All (A4A) Coalition, a Statewide A4A Asset Map Project, and an AIE Seattle University Internship.

The new Arts for All (A4A) grant supports Arts in Education staffing in service of preK-12 students as they continue to navigate fundamental changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic had a huge impact on music and theater programs due to health and safety regulations and school programs. There were disproportionate disruptions on arts learning due to access to Wi-Fi/broadband and geographic proximity to arts and cultural learning

opportunities. Funding for these A4A Recovery Grants is made possible by the Washington State Arts Commission's Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds from the State of Washington and the United States Treasury.

Funding Amounts were \$10,000 or \$20,000 to provide real and significant support to arts education staffing only, as they continue to implement arts education programming. Nonprofit arts and cultural organizations 501(c)(3), preK-12 public schools and school districts, Educational School Districts (ESD), and tribal, state, or municipal government agencies were eligible to apply. Fiscally sponsored organizations were not eligible to apply. No matching funding was required. Eligibility included three areas: Financial and staffing need, ongoing PreK-12 arts and cultural programming, and COVID-19 related learning disruptions that could be past, current or ongoing.

The Arts in Education program received a total of 93 eligible AIE FY23 A4A Recovery Grant applications, with a total request amount of \$1,670,000. ArtsWA's current projected budget for FY22 may allow for funding approximately 27% of the total requested grant amount. At the current time, we will be able to fund an anticipated 26 out of 93 applications based on a range of requests in the amount(s) of \$10,000 and \$20,000.

Out of the total 93 applications, based on ArtsWA regions, 54% came from the Northwest Region, 30% from the Southwest Region, 7% from Central and 9% from the Eastern region. Applications per county show that there were many counties that did not apply.

The panel committed almost 40 hours to reviewing the 93 applications. The panel recommends that all funded applications receive the full amount requested.

Wen said community dissatisfaction might be created due to the one- or two-point difference in scoring that resulted in some organizations being funded and others not being funded. Krames said the panelists scored every application before the panel meeting and then recalibrated their scores in discussion during the panel. There were deep and heartbreaking discussions during the panel, around criteria and eligibility, and the lack of funds that do not allow full funding for all applications. Hanan added that the actual panel process is impeccable. The problem is there is not enough money to fund incredible work within our state.

Wen expressed concern about funding at the full requested amount, which means funding fewer organizations. Krames said it was a difficult decision between funding at the full amount requested versus funding at a percentage to spread funds sparsely amongst more organizations. For most of our grants, ArtsWA does fund at a percentage, providing smaller grants so that more organizations can receive funding. In this instance, because this is for staffing, which requires a solid funding base to ensure effectiveness, the full request amounts were awarded.

Pritchard commented as a self-described competitor for the grant, that while her organization is not funded for this award, she would rather see these organizations receive the full amount so that the funding will make a difference and impact.

McBride asked whether staffing grants would continue into the future, because the results of the pandemic will be impacting the arts and culture sector for a while. She believes staffing is important to ensure continued programming. Hanan said ArtsWA is seeking additional funding. The Department of Commerce received the bulk of funding for the arts sector, but ArtsWA needs to continue to work to get more financial support for the sector. Senator Wellman said Hanan has been working tirelessly to increase the funding that ArtsWA receives for support of the sector. She has been making the case to the Legislature that ArtsWA is skilled and capable of moving funds out to the sector.

Krames said part of funding at the full amount has to do with an increased awareness of paying an adequate wage for teaching artists. McBride supports that awareness and impact.

A MOTION to approve the panel recommendations for the FY23 Arts for All (A4A) Recovery Grant at \$450,000 to include 26 Organizations & School Districts was made by Pritchard and seconded by Senator Wellman.

Dr. Frank said he is disappointed in the lack of applications from tribal governments and indigenous organizations. It shows that more engagement needs to happen for these organizations to be part of this process. Krames said that comment is appreciated.

Wen asked if the \$20 million and \$25 million in funding awarded during the 2022 Legislative Session could be spent on staffing. Hanan said those funds were awarded to the Department of Commerce, and ArtsWA does not have any power or influence to award those funds. Hanan is working with Commerce to see what can be done.

Wen made a proposal to modify the motion, to change nonfunded to TBD so that organizations know they are not rejected. Robin objected to the proposed amendment to the original motion. He believes it is easier when an organization receives a solid “no” versus a “TBD” which creates an uncertain future and suggests they might have more work to do before possibly receiving funds. Pritchard seconded Robin’s rejection to the amendment. McBride called the question. There was no second to Wen’s amendment to the original motion.

Raffa called for conflicts of interest. Five conflicts were declared:

- Pritchard (Asia Pacific Cultural Center)
- Mahmoud (TeenTix and Tacoma Art Museum)
- Tuohy (Arts Council of Snohomish County dba Schack Art Center)
- Miller (Gallery One)
- McBride (Bellevue Arts Museum; Kirkland Performance Center)

The original MOTION passed with five recusals and one opposed (Wen).

Creative Districts

Roth, Community Development Manager, reviewed Creative Districts issues.

Moses Lake Creative District Certification

Roth reviewed the recommendation to certify the Moses Lake Creative District, which would provide a \$7,000 grant for community development (*packet p. 5*). She showed a map of the proposed district, which follows the river and Moses Lake. The city will administer the district in partnership with their downtown association and will hire a part-time coordinator. A museum and performing arts complex, an outdoor amphitheater, and a farmers market will be part of the district. This will be the first district in Grant County.

A MOTION to approve the application panel's recommendation that Moses Lake Creative District be granted Creative District certification was made by McBride, seconded by Sharpe, and passed unanimously. There were no conflicts of interest.

FY 2021-23 Round 1 Creative Districts Capital Project Grants

Roth reviewed requests received for capital project grants from all 11 current districts (*packet pp. 6-7*). Each district is eligible for up to \$40,000 in capital grants. They can split the entire amount over funding cycles and most districts pursue this option. The funding amounts shown on the chart vary because of this approach, and indicate the remaining balance for each district. The panel recommended to fund at the full amount for each district.

A MOTION to approve the funding recommendations for FY 2021-23 Round 1 Creative Districts Capital Project grants totaling \$174,527.28 was made by Pritchard and seconded by Lyttle. McBride said this program is wonderful for towns and counties throughout our state. Dr. Frank added that he would like to see more tribal or indigenous government activity in the Creative Districts program. The MOTION passed unanimously. There were no conflicts of interest.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

Raffa adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m.