

WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 10, 2022 / Virtual

Commissioners Present

Robin Avni
Andre Bouchard
Lou Oma Durand
Dr. Kelvin Frank
Reinaldo Gil Zambrano
Ryan Hardesty
Lee Lyttle
Jasmine Mahmoud, PhD
Tisa Matheson
Terry Morgan
Catherine Nueva España, 2nd Vice Chair
Justin Raffa, Chair
Charlie Robin
Rosanna Sharpe, 1st Vice Chair
Krishna Thiagarajan
Senator Lisa Wellman
Representative Sharon Wylie

Commissioners Absent

Claudia Castro Luna
Representative Jacquelin Maycumber
Joan McBride
Judy Tuohy
Sheree Wen

ArtsWA Staff Present

Adetola Abatan, Art in Public Places (AIPP) Program Manager
Michelle Avitia, AIPP Program Coordinator
Bryan Bales, Wellness Arts & the Military (WAM) Program Manager
Karen Hanan, Executive Director
Jonathan Hickerson, Conservation Lead, Central and E. WA
Linnea Ingalls, Grants to Organizations (GTO) Program Coordinator
Desiree Johnson, AIE Administrative Assistant 3
Kristy Keeley, Fiscal Analyst 3
Adrienne Kerrigan, Community Relations Program Assistant
Tamar Krames, Arts in Education Program Manager
Marissa Laubscher, AIPP Senior Project Manager
Ashley Marshall, GTO Administrative Assistant 3
Valerie Peterman, AIPP Project manager
Leslie Pope, Executive Assistant
Annette Roth, Community Development Manager
Alexis Sarah, Early Learning Project Manager
Deane Shellman, Deputy Director
Michael Wallenfels, Communications Manager
Cindy Xu, Fiscal Analyst 2

Guests & Speakers

David Foster, Foster Government Relations
Rebecca Haynes, Arts Leadership MFA candidate
Betsy Heimburger, Arts Leadership MFA candidate
Doug Levy, Outcomes by Levy

For a full transcript of the meeting, please view recording at TVW:

<https://tvw.org/watch/?eventID=2022111183>

Call to Order / Land Acknowledgement / Roll Call

Raffa, ArtsWA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Nueva España read the ArtsWA land acknowledgement. Roll call verified that a quorum was present. A MOTION to approve the agenda was made by Lyttle, seconded by Senator Wellman, and passed unanimously. Public comment rules were shared.

Board Chair's Report

Raffa reviewed his report (*packet pp. 3*). Board Meeting dates for 2023 are included in the packet (*packet p. 4*).

Executive Director's Report

Hanan reviewed her report (*packet pp. 5-10*). ArtsWA's community outreach efforts have resulted in an increase in applications to the Building for the Arts program. The selection process for the next Washington State Poet Laureate (2023-2024) is now accepting applications. The Billy Frank Jr. National Statuary Hall commission project continues, with four artists scheduled to present ideas to the Committee in January.

2022-23 Biennium 5th Quarter Report

This report (*packet pp. 11-22*) is for information only; it does not require a motion. Shellman, Deputy Director, reviewed the reformatted quarterly budget report which now includes graphs and charts. The budget is on track for expenditures by program for the fiscal year.

Updated Strategic Plan Dashboard Proposal

Wallenfels presented a proposal for the Strategic Plan Dashboard (*packet p. 23*) that tracks agency accomplishments from the strategic plan to inform the Board. Commissioner feedback requested adding outreach tracking and any other commissioner action items as applicable.

Consent Agenda

A MOTION to accept the Consent Agenda was made by Robin and seconded by Thiagarajan. The Consent Agenda included:

- Board Meeting Minutes of August 9-10, 2022 Board Meeting (*packet pp. 24-27*)

The MOTION passed unanimously with no changes to the meeting minutes.

Art in Public Places

Laubscher, Senior AIPP Project Manager, presented the Curator Roster panel recommendations (*packet pp. 28-30*). She thanked Gil Zambrano for serving on the panel.

A MOTION TO approve the panel's recommendation to add 51 people to the Curator Roster was made by Morgan, seconded by Lyttle, and passed unanimously with no conflicts of interest.

Grants to Organizations

Ingalls, GTO Program Coordinator, reviewed the Additional FY23 ReVive Washington Grants (*packet pp. 31-35*).

A MOTION to ratify the Executive Director's decision to approve the panel's recommendation for FY23 ReVive Washington additional grants as provided in the packet was made by Thiagarajan and seconded by Avni. The MOTION passed unanimously with no conflicts.

Advocacy Discussion

Robin, Advocacy Chair, introduced Special Guests-Doug Levy, Outcomes by Levy, and David Foster, WESTAF Lobbyists.

Representative Wylie encouraged commissioners to link arts opportunities and events within their districts to what is supported and accomplished by ArtsWA throughout the entire state. Be aware of the interests of each legislator and focus talking points on their committees and the needs of their districts. Strive to contact legislators prior to the beginning of session. Help legislators learn how ArtsWA requests benefit their districts.

Senator Wellman said there are three areas to focus on:

- Wellness, Arts and the Military and the impact of this program on military constituents, using personal stories where possible;
- Arts in Education programs and their impact on students to increase their educational engagement and critical thinking skills; and
- Creative Districts in support of economic development and jobs.

Senator Wellman believes ArtsWA is one of the best run agencies in state government. The agency is efficient and gets things done. When ArtsWA receives funding, it moves the money out to the State in a timely manner to achieve a significant state-wide impact for constituents in the arts and creative sector.

Foster provided an overview of the legislative environment before the 2023 Legislative Session, which is the long, budget writing session that begins January 9 and ends April 23. There will be many new house members and senators, which is an opportunity to provide education on the impact of the arts and ArtsWA. The more conversations held with legislators in advance of the beginning of the legislative session, the better position ArtsWA will be in during the short 15-minute meetings during session.

Next week a revenue forecast will be published that informs the Governor's budget proposal that is disclosed in December. His proposal will include requests from all state agencies. There is chatter about tightening the belt because of inflation and now that federal covid-19 special funding is slowing or ending. The Governor will review maintenance of existing programs, support special programs, and a few new proposals. This environment requires more education and discussion with legislators on the value and impact of ArtsWA programs and the budget requests being made.

Levy said it has been a good run for the state on the operating budget side in the last few years due to federal government supplements, and the success of the tech and housing sectors. That resulted in funding for arts sector relief. The budget is not falling off the table for 2023-25, but there will be more scrutiny on budget requests. Levy announced that he is semi-retiring from the lobbying scene but will continue to provide support. Going into the 2023 Legislative Session, Foster will be taking the lead in working with ArtsWA.

Foster encouraged conversations with legislators during the interim, before the 2023 Legislative session begins, to explain the difficult and complex components of arts businesses and the impacts of current economic and other forces on those businesses. Continue those relationships

through the session, to deepen the understanding of the cultural sector. That will create a platform for discussing the value of the ArtsWA budget requests.

Senator Wellman said it takes time for legislators to learn how to navigate the legislative process. Focusing on programs that have been funded for years and have achieved success for the state is a safe conversation to build support for ArtsWA funding. It can provide new legislators with confidence about programs that are successful and continuing.

ArtsWA budget requests for 2023 were reviewed. Robin encouraged commissioners to meet with their legislators prior to the start of session. Commissioners should research and learn what ArtsWA resources and programs are active within their districts and learn about their legislators' committees and interests. Hanan, Robin, Raffa, and the WESTAF lobbyists can participate in any scheduled legislative meetings if informed about meeting dates.

Arts in Education

Krames, AIE Program Manager, reviewed the additional funding for FY 23 Arts for All (A4A) Recovery Grants and the panel recommendations (*handout*).

A MOTION to approve the additional funding recommendations for FY 23 Arts for All (A4A) Recovery grants was made by Mahmoud and seconded by Robin. There were no conflicts of interest. The motion passed with no recusals or abstentions.

Program Updates

Collaborations with Commerce

Wallenfels, Communications Manager, reviewed recent programs in partnership with The Department of Commerce (packet pp. 43-44). ArtsWA provides community outreach for the Building for the Arts program and played a significant role in distributing federal grant money in partnership with Commerce.

Creative Districts Annual Report

Roth, Community Development Manager, provided an overview and update on the Creative Districts program, which launched in 2018, after legislation was passed in 2017. A Creative District is a right-sized, contiguous geographic area that is home to a concentration of arts and cultural sector activities. Roth reviewed the process a community traverses to become certified.

Wellness, Arts & the Military (WAM) Program

Bales, WAM Program Manager, introduce himself and provided a review of the WAM Program Plan (*packet p. 45*) in support of service members, veterans, and their families (SMVF) through grant programming. These grants serve organizations that support SMVF through the arts, as well as individual SMVF artists within Washington State.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present to make comment.

Adjourn

Raffa reviewed the upcoming important dates listed on the agenda and adjourned the meeting at 12:27 p.m.