

Board Meeting Minutes

Washington State Arts Commission

Tuesday, August 1, 2023 / Capitol Theatre, Yakima WA

Commissioners Present

Robin Avni
Claudia Castro Luna
Lou Oma Durand
Reinaldo Gil Zambrano
Tony Ginn
Ryan Hardesty
Tisa Matheson
Tisa McBride
Noël Moxley
Catherine Nueva España, Second Vice Chair
Justin Raffa, Chair
Charlie Robin
Star Rush
Rosanna Sharpe, First Vice Chair
Krishna Thiagarajan
Judy Tuohy
Senator Lisa Wellman
Representative Sharon Wylie

Commissioners Absent

Senator Matt Boehnke
Dr. Kelvin Frank
Jasmine Mahmoud, PhD
Representative Jacquelin Maycumber
Joan McBride
Terry Morgan

ArtsWA Staff Presenters

Miguel Guillén Grants to Organizations (GTO) Program Manager
Karen Hanan, Executive Director
Linnea Ingalls, GTO Program Coordinator
Tamar Krames, AIE Program Manager
Annette Roth, Community Development Manager
Alexis Sarah, Early Learning Project Manager
Deane Shellman, Deputy Director
Mike Sweney, AIPP Program Manager
Michael Wallenfels, Communications Manager

Guests & Speakers

Pam Breaux, Executive Director, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA)
Michael Cade, Thurston Economic Development Council
Christian Gaines, Executive Director, Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF)
Thomas Grant Richardson, Director, Center for Washington Cultural Traditions
Michael Wallenfels, Communications Manager
Julie Ziegler, Director, Humanities Washington

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

Aug 1: <https://www.tvw.org/watch/?eventID=2023081008>

Aug 2: <https://www.tvw.org/watch/?eventID=2023081009>

Call to Order / Land Acknowledgement / Roll Call

Raffa, ArtsWA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m. Robin welcomed the board to Capitol Theatre and gave the land acknowledgement. Roll call was conducted, and a quorum

was verified. Commissioners newly appointed to the board were introduced: Star Rush, Noël Moxley, and Anthony Ginn. The public comment rules were shared.

A MOTION to approve the agenda was made by McBride, seconded by Ginn, and passed unanimously.

Chair's Report

Raffa read from his report (packet pp. 1-4) about his hope for the future from the agency program growth he has seen during his six years on the Board, and his concern over the need for greater funding to better support Washington state constituents.

Commissioners were reminded to RSVP for their attendance at board meetings, and to schedule the 2024 board meeting dates and locations on their calendars.

Executive Director's Report

Hanan reviewed her report, the budget report and strategic plan dashboard update (packet pp. 5-9). She highlighted the budget request to increase per capita funding to \$2 per person in order to grow legacy programs, create new programs and better provide service to constituents. Shellman introduced the final fiscal quarter budget report.

Approve Consent Agenda

The consent agenda includes approval of:

- Board meeting minutes of May 2, 2023—pp. 27-30

A MOTION to approve the consent agenda was made by McBride and seconded by Castro Luna. The motion passed with no corrections to the minutes.

Grants to Organizations

Guillén and Ingalls presented panel recommendations for grant funding for approval. Applications were more diverse in terms of culture and arts practices. Overall, twice as many applications were received than last year, showing that communications and outreach is working. However, funding remains at the same level as last year.

A MOTION to ratify the Executive Director's decision to approve the panel's recommendation for FY24 Creative Project Grant totaling \$87,500 as provided in the packet (pp. 31-36) was made by Tuohy, seconded by Ginn. There were no conflicts of interest. The motion passed unanimously.

A MOTION to ratify FY24 General Operating Support: Emerging grants totaling \$38,500 as provided in the packet (pp. 37-40) was made by Nueva España and seconded by Castro Luna. There was one conflict of interest: Thiagarajan (Seattle Chamber Orchestra). The motion passed with one recusal.

A MOTION to ratify the Executive Director's decision to approve the panel's recommendation for FY24 General Operation Support: Sustaining for Small and Midsize Organizations totaling \$222,000 as provided in the packet (pp. 41-53) was made by Avni and seconded by Moxley. There was one conflict of interest: Raffa (Mid-Columbia Mastersingers). The motion passed with one recusal.

A MOTION to ratify the Executive Director's decision to approve the panel's recommendation for FY24 General Operation Support: Sustaining for Large Organizations totaling \$152,000 as provided in the packet (pp. 54-63) was made by Tuohy and seconded by Ginn. There were three conflicts of interest: Robin (The Capitol Theatre Committee), Nueva España (Velocity Dance Center), and Thiagarajan (Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestras and Seattle Arts & Lectures). The motion passed with three recusals.

A MOTION to approve the panel's recommendation for FY24 Art Service Organization grants totaling \$40,000 as provided in the packet (pp. 64-66) was made by Thiagarajan and seconded by Robin. There were no conflicts of interest. The motion passed unanimously.

The Grants to Organizations team received notification that there were pandemic funds remaining which allowed them to provide additional funding to the FY23 ReVive Washington grants.

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 (pp. 67-76) was made by Ginn and seconded by Avni. There were two conflicts of interest: Nueva España (Khambatta Dance Company) and Rush. The motion passed with two recusals.

Arts in Education Program

Krames reviewed the FY24 AIE Project Grants panel recommendations (packet pp. 77-83). Sarah reviewed the Creative Start grants funding process that supports pre-K and early learning (packet pp. 84-88).

Creative Start Project Grant Recommendations

A MOTION to approve panel recommendations for funded and not-funded FY24 Creative Start Project Grants was made by McBride and seconded by Ginn. There were two conflicts of interest: Moxley (Tieton Arts & Humanities) and Tuohy (Shack Arts Center). The motion passed with two recusals.

FY24 AIE Project Grants

A MOTION to ratify the Executive Director's approval for additional funds for Arts in Education (AIE) Sustaining Project Grants was made by Robin and seconded by Touhy. There was one conflict of interest: Matheson (Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture). The motion passed with one recusal.

A MOTION to approve panel recommendations for additionally funded Arts in Education (AIE) Sustaining Project Grants was made by Nueva España and seconded by Moxley. There were two conflicts of interest: Castro Luna (Jack Straw) and Durand (Jack Straw). The motion passed with two recusals.

A MOTION to approve the panel recommendations for additionally funded Arts in Education Emerging Project Grants was made by Sharpe and seconded by Avni. There were no conflicts of interest. The motion passed unanimously.

Center for Washington Cultural Traditions

Ziegler provided an overview of the partnership between Humanities Washington and ArtsWA, which includes the State Poet Laureate and the Center for Washington Cultural Traditions (CWCT).

Richardson explained the Heritage Arts Apprenticeship Program (HAAP) and presented the cohort of HAAP pairs for approval (packet pp. 89-90). HAAP brings together teams of a master artist with one or more apprenticeships to train in their culture with the purpose of carrying the artform into the future. HAAP is only one of many programs in CWCT but often proves to be the gateway program that introduces culture bearers to the Center to participate in other programs.

A MOTION to approve the panel recommendations for the Heritage Arts Apprenticeship Pairs as outline in the packet was made by Robin, seconded by McBride, and passed unanimously with no conflicts of interest.

Art in Public Places

Sweney provided an overview of the acquisition process and the role that the roster of pre-approved artists plays in the overall program. The pre-qualified list includes regional and national artists, emerging and established, in a variety of art mediums. AIPP usually begins 30 to 40 new projects per year, meaning approximately 30 to 40 artists listed on the roster receive work each year (packet p. 91).

A MOTION to approve the review panel recommendations for the Public Artist Roster as provided in the handout was made by Thiagarajan and seconded by Moxley. There was one conflict of interest: Tuohy (Shack Art Center). The motion passed unanimously with one recusal.

Regional and National Partnership Presentation

Hanan said the relationship with National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) and Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF) brings value to the state through various means of support.

Breaux, NASAA Executive Director, said that NASAA was created 65 years ago by state art agencies to strengthen state art agencies. NASAA provides data and evidence-based knowledge services, representation services, and community building services. Training, webinars, and other education are provided. The organization has long-term data on state arts agencies and their granting, for instance. NASAA can help tell the story of granting with over 20 years of data. NASAA is the only national arts agency that works with Congress to ensure 60% of funding to the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) for their granting, and 40% of funding to state arts agencies through partnership grants, so that states can support the arts with federal funding. NASAA also brings the nation-wide state arts community together for learning and convening to share best practices.

NASAA advocacy is non-partisan. The organization works intentionally to maintain the arts for the public good while working across 50 states and six jurisdictions. NASAA is dedicated to helping state arts agencies navigate an environment where resources may become more unpredictable in the next few years through their advocacy efforts. It is also exploring new ways for state arts agencies to build partnerships to share knowledge and increase diversity efforts.

Gaines, WESTAF Executive Director, was established almost 50 years ago to give a collective voice on the national stage for the interior west. It has grown to include all 13 western states and three U.S. territories. The primary purpose is to support newly formed state arts agencies, and serve as a connector between local, state and federal entities in support of the arts. WESTAF is responsive to their constituents through public policies, alliances and advocacy around issues of regional concern. WESTAF joins with the five other regional arts organizations in the U.S. to collaborate on various issues that affect the arts. It also conducts the Tour West program by providing funding for presenters that encourages attracting programs to the western regional that might not otherwise come this direction. WESTAF also funds lobbyists for the various states to support state arts agencies' pursuit of state funding, and the establishment of laws that support the arts. WESTAF has become a serious technology developer making strategic investments in building and developing technology for the arts sector and is an expert on the creative economy. WESTAF is currently leading an effort within Washington state to better understand the creative economy.

Nominating Committee Report

Sharpe, First Vice Chair, is serving as the Nominating Committee Chair. The Survey of Commissioners (packet pp. 92-96) is an important tool, and important time for reflection and gathering feedback. She thanked commissioners for participating and reviewed the outcomes. Sharpe reviewed the proposed slate for the election of Board Officers (*handout*).

A MOTION to accept the slate of Board Officers was made by McBride and seconded by Tuohy; it passed unanimously. Charlie Robin, the newly elected Board Chair, will begin his term at tomorrow's meeting.

Raffa provided an overview of committees that Commissioners may participate in during their Board service.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present to make comment.

Adjourn

Robin adjourned the meeting at 4:39 p.m.

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

Before the meeting, Commissioners toured the SunDome at the State Fair Park and Event Center to view Richard C. "Dick" Elliott's 'Circle of Light.' ArtsWA, with funding from the Washington State Legislature, brought this incredible artwork "full circle"—fully restored, and ready to delight the community for decades to come. Many thanks to Kathy Kramer, President and CEO, of the State Fair Park, and her staff for the tour.

Call to Order

Robin called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. Moxley read the land acknowledgement and roll call was conducted to verify that a quorum was present.

Strategic Plan Update: Year Two Priorities

Hanan and Wallenfels facilitated pecha kucha presentations on strategic plan year two priorities for various agency programs (packet pp. 97-100).

Paul G. Allen Foundation Projects Overview

Roth provided an overview of the proposal made to Paul G. Allen Foundation (PGAF) for funding (packet p. 101). PGAF was interested in the Creative Districts program and the Creative State podcast. If the proposal is funded, it would be a two-year project with a total funding of approximately \$500,000.

Roth and Cade discussed the economic growth component of the proposal. Wallenfels provided an overview of the Creative State podcast.

2024 Advocacy Strategy Discussion

Robin, in his capacity of Advocacy Chair, discussed the difference between allowed advocacy activities for Commissioners, and grassroots advocacy which is not allowed. Hanan said ArtsWA is a cabinet agency, which means that staff support the Governor's budget. Commissioners do have space to discuss funding needs not in the Governor's budget because they are tasked by law to discuss agency budget needs with legislators, to educate on the needs of the agency including budget priorities and funding. Commissioners cannot ask their neighbors or friends to lobby legislators on the agency's behalf; that is grassroots lobbying and is not allowed.

Robin provided guidelines for Commissioners to reach legislators between now and the next quarterly meeting. Robin says legislators will look for and be receptive to information specific to their area. Representative Wylie said it is important to develop relationships with legislators and educate them on the value of the arts including educational and economic value, especially to their district, but also to the state. Senator Wellman sits on the Ways and Means Committee in the Senate. Individual projects are nice and local legislators need to understand what is happening in the district. As a state and a cultured society, there are state-wide programs and impacts such as those that impact the military or children, that are of interest to all legislators.

One-pager Review and Discussion

Commissioners split into groups to discuss the one-pagers outlining budget requests for next year's legislative session. Input will be used to refine one pagers for use during the 2024 legislative session.

Rep. Wylie emphasized that it is important to be as boiled down and succinct as possible with information.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present to make comment.

Adjourn

Robin adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.