

**OHIO ARTS COUNCIL  
BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 20, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Rich at 11:18 a.m. in the offices of the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) in Columbus. Board members in attendance: Jeff Rich, chair; Ginger Warner, vice chair; Jane Foulk, secretary; Caprice Bragg; Juan Cespedes; Robb Hankins; Tom Johnson; Monica Kridler; Darryl Mehaffie; Farid Naffah; Neal Zimmers; and Rep. Mike Duffey. Board members not in attendance: Jim Dicke, Jon Holt, Emma Off, Rep. Teresa Fedor, and Sen. Michael Skindell. Staff attending: Donna Collins, Dan Katona, Justin Nigro, Ken Emerick, Dia Foley, Christy Farnbauch, Hannah Brokenshire, and Chiquita Mullins Lee. Also in attendance: Tim Villari, Office of Sen. Gayle Manning; Linda Woggon, executive director, Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA); Bill Blair, legislative counsel, OCA; and Hilary Damaser, principal assistant attorney general.

Before convening, Board Chair Jeff Rich marked Denny Griffith's recent passing with a moment of silence. (Mr. Griffith was a former OAC staffer in the current Artist Programs office, a longtime president of the Columbus College of Art & Design, and an artist in his own right.)

**NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME SESSION**

Mr. Rich welcomed three recent new appointees to the OAC – Somerset Mayor Tom Johnson; Caprice Bragg, vice president of development for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum; and Dr. Farid Naffah, a gastroenterologist and arts patron from the Mahoning Valley. Mayor Johnson, Ms. Bragg, and Dr. Naffah briefly introduced themselves.

Executive Director Donna Collins led members through welcome informational packets, reacquainting the entire board with the OAC's work. Principal Assistant Attorney General Hilary Damaser oriented members to Ohio's open meeting and public record laws, including provisions governing proper legal procedures for public meetings, board deliberations, executive sessions, record creation and retention, and penalties for law violation.

*Darryl Mehaffie and Neal Zimmers joined the meeting at 11:32 a.m., and Robb Hankins joined the meeting at 11:34 a.m.*

Vice Chair Ginger Warner asked what constituted a confidential matter as a rationale for executive session, and Ms. Damaser replied that confidential matters were designated by statute, for instance, trade secrets.

Ms. Collins reviewed the remainder of the packet, including the 2016 board meeting dates; OAC board committee descriptions and current composition; an OAC staff list; the OAC's FY 2016-17 proposed budget allocation; board reimbursement procedures; the OAC's state, regional, and national affiliations; and the OAC staff handbook.

Mr. Rich praised the OAC staff's teamwork, efficiency, responsiveness, and competence, as well as that of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies' staff. He reminded members that the January meeting was reserved for discussing big picture issues.

*Tim Villari with the Office of Sen. Gayle Manning left the meeting at 11:49 a.m.*

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Neal Zimmers, to approve minutes from the committee and board meetings of July 22, September 16, September 23, October 21, and December 3, 2015. **Motion carried without dissent.**

#### **CHAIRMAN'S AND DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Rich asked for Ms. Collins' report. She applauded the staff's efforts to start work on new initiatives – Fund Every County, Main Stage to Main Street, TeachArtsOhio, and a revamped Creative Aging program. The agency recently received 33 applications to its Creative Aging request for proposals (RFP), held a panel to review RFPs, and convened funded applicants – all within a two-week period. Evaluation of initiatives will be conducted on an ongoing basis.

Ms. Collins reviewed 2015 accomplishments in the State Arts Plan as well as completion of a full on-year grant cycle, holding a statewide convening, coordinating an annual exhibition of high school student art with the Ohio House of Representatives, and reorganizing *Poetry Out Loud* into regional semifinal competitions. She thanked the board for its support. Robb Hankins complimented the final look and content of the State Arts Plan, and Deputy Director Dan Katona added that the plan and accomplishments will be distributed electronically. Responding to Jane Foulk, Ms. Collins noted that distribution will include promotion to the state legislature.

#### **AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Awards Committee Chair Monica Kridler thanked staff and committee members for their work throughout the Governor's Awards selection process. She was particularly grateful for the procedural change that resulted in committee members scoring all nominations received. She then listed the 2016 Governor's Awards winners and noted that several media outlets had run stories, and Ms. Warner thanked Communications Strategist Hannah Brokenshire for improving media coverage, especially in the Cincinnati area. Ms. Kridler urged members to attend the event.

MOTION by Jane Foulk, seconded by Ginger Warner, to accept the Awards Committee's report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE MATERIAL**

In reviewing the first quarter of FY 16 expense report, Ms. Warner noted that grants listed reflected those approved at prior board meetings. She also informed members that the OAC would begin separately tracking grants for state colleges and universities, given that they also receive other public funds.

Mr. Hankins asked what determined when a grant was paid in full or in part, and Neal Zimmers joined the question. Ms. Collins explained that some grants are always paid in full while other programs have options allowing organizations to request partial payment.

Responding to Ms. Warner, Artist Programs/Percent for Art Director Ken Emerick explained that Percent for Art expenses constituted fees for artists who submitted proposals. Ms. Warner requested that universities be identified on each Percent for Art expense going forward.

Ms. Collins added that the OAC budget will begin reflecting quarterly rent payments of \$34,140 to the Department of Administrative Services, which covers the main office space, meeting rooms, utilities, housekeeping, and common space shared by Rhodes State Office Tower tenants. Rent was built into the OAC's Operating Expenses line item in the state's main budget act. Ms. Collins reported that rent-paying practices vary among state arts agencies.

Ms. Collins also informed members that, through latest round of collective bargaining negotiations, the state agreed to give state employees salary increases of 2.5% over the next three fiscal years as well as a one-time bonus of \$750. Although the OAC did not have resources to cover these additional payroll expenses after they were announced, the Office of Budget and Management worked with the OAC and other agencies to cover these costs, at least in part. As a result, the OAC will receive \$43,982 in FY 16 and in \$76,079 in FY 17, which will aid the agency in covering its increased payroll obligations without layoffs.

**MOTION** by Jane Foulk, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, to accept the Finance Committee's report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

#### **GRANT RATIFICATIONS**

Mr. Rich explained some grant programs release dollars between board meetings and thus the board ratifies them after issuance. Rep. Mike Duffey asked that future reports have detail on the location and experience funded by the Big Yellow School Bus, and Ms. Collins agreed.

**MOTION** by Neal Zimmers, seconded by Ginger Warner, to accept this quarter's grant ratification report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

#### **OHIO POET LAUREATE SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Rich said a work obligation had kept Amit Majmudar, the first Ohio Poet Laureate, from attending the board meeting. Ms. Warner explained the committee's process and provided

background on Mr. Majmudar, a radiologist who will be publishing his third book of poetry and has several notable publications to his name. He was the committee's unanimous choice, she said, and had many ideas to execute his position ably. Juan Cespedes added that Steve Abbott of the Ohio Poetry Association also was on the committee and believed Mr. Majmudar would be a bold choice. He also reported that the Governor's Office was ecstatic over the choice. Ms. Collins said Kathy Signorino, artist programs coordinator, would be the Poet Laureate's point of contact and listed several actions Mr. Majmudar had already taken, including starting social media accounts, scheduling readings, and positioning the Poet Laureate within the *Kenyon Review*. Ms. Warner was impressed with how prolific Mr. Majmudar could be even while working full-time. Mr. Cespedes thought the position would propel Mr. Majmudar even further. Mr. Hankins pointed out the connection between science and the arts and creativity. He found the result exciting, and Mr. Rich complimented it as well.

MOTION by Jane Foulk, seconded by Juan Cespedes, to accept the Ohio Poet Laureate Selection Committee's report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

The board recessed at 12:42 pm. and resumed business at 1:18 p.m. *Monica Kridler left the meeting during the recess.*

#### **NEW IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE STATE ARTS PLAN**

Mr. Rich introduced the afternoon session by setting aside some time to consider new ideas and encouraging their discussion throughout staff presentations. Ms. Collins mentioned that many novel ideas have been incorporated into the new grants system, logo and brand identity, and website.

#### **OAC GRANT SYSTEM (ARTIE) UPDATE**

Mr. Katona said the OAC was one of the first states to adopt an online grants system in 2005 and had now continued to innovate in the area through its new system ARTIE, which went live in November 2015. He proceeded to provide a live demonstration of the system, including log-in and registration procedures, improved password security features, rich text formatting with hyperlinks, real-time word counting within grant applications, streamlined questions, electronic support material uploading, archival features, e-signatures, and panelist mode.

Ms. Warner verified with Mr. Katona that board members would continue to be able to review panelist comments, as they have in the past during board review of recommended grants. Responding to Mr. Hankins and Rep. Duffey, Mr. Katona said that work samples could be uploaded into ARTIE and that past applications would be viewable, respectively. Ms. Warner and Mr. Hankins praised staff on the improved overall system.

Mr. Katona then showed the board staff mode and commented that ARTIE's empowers OAC staff to make changes to the system in-house, which makes for a faster, less expensive experience compared to the prior system.

*Rep. Duffey left the meeting at 1:45 p.m.*

He demonstrated data sorting and searching techniques and observed that the system pays for itself thanks to reduced panel meeting costs. Replying to Mr. Hankins, Mr. Katona said ARTIE backed itself up every 24 hours and is cloud-based.

#### **OAC STAFF UPDATE – PUBLIC INFORMATION/COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE AND OFFICE OF INNOVATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

Christy Farnbauch, director of innovation and engagement, reported that work on rebranding had been one year in the making and credited the efforts of Ms. Brokenshire for bringing the project – including a new website – to completion. Ms. Brokenshire shared that the existing logo debuted in January 1988 and then introduced the brand identity to the board through a 90-second launch video. Responding to Mr. Hankins, Ms. Brokenshire said the video was produced by a contractor, and the board on the whole applauded the video. She then debuted screenshots of the new website and explained its navigability. Mr. Rich inquired whether the board appeared on the website, and Ms. Brokenshire shared that board members were listed and pictures of board members could be added in the future. She concluded by showing the website's mobile look.

*Darryl Mehaffie left the room at 2:04 p.m.*

Ms. Farnbauch updated the board on the Creative Aging initiative. As background, she said two years ago the National Endowment for the Arts and National Center for Creative Aging invited the OAC to consider exposing older adults to the arts. Working with Arts Learning Coordinator Chiquita Mullins Lee, the OAC's initiative at first was modeled after replicating arts learning programs (e.g., residencies) in senior centers across Ohio.

*Darryl Mehaffie rejoined the meeting at 2:08 p.m.*

Ms. Farnbauch continued that the OAC has now changed the program model to be more focused on partnerships. As a result, the OAC released a request for proposals and received more than 30 applications. Panelists, including representatives from the Ohio Department of Aging, quickly reviewed applications over the Christmas holiday and awarded full funding to 15 applicants. Awardees then convened early in January 2016 and will convene again in April to share best practices. The awardees reflect a diverse mix of organizations, such as senior centers, art centers, and ballet companies. Two evaluators from the Ohio State University will measure the program's impact.

Ms. Farnbauch also reported that offering of professional development opportunities for the field is underway, including monthly webinars and in-person convenings. Replying to Mr. Rich, Ms. Farnbauch said webinars are recorded and permanently available online. She also informed the board that a conference will be held following the Governor's Awards on May 19.

*Robb Hankins left the room at 2:13 p.m.*

Mr. Rich complimented Ms. Farnbauch's work and the idea of having the field share best practices to improve operations.

Speaking about activities generally within her office, Ms. Farnbauch added that the agency's information technology inventory and needs will be assessed. The Riffe Gallery held its first juried exhibition and garnered increased attendance of 7,500 for the show – a recent high. She reported the Riffe Gallery will hold a popup exhibition in April. Mr. Rich thanked Ms. Farnbauch and observed the importance of the agency's work in creative aging.

*Robb Hankins rejoined the meeting at 2:15 p.m.*

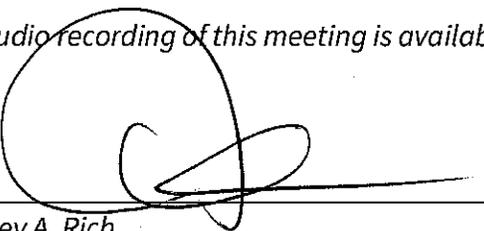
**OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Rich shared information on the Ohio Ethics Commission's filing requirements for financial disclosure statements in 2016.

Ms. Warner noted that board members represent the entire state of Ohio, rather than particular regions or discipline areas.

The meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

*An audio recording of this meeting is available upon request.*



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Jeffrey A. Rich  
OAC Board Chair



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Jane Foulk  
OAC Board Secretary