

**OHIO ARTS COUNCIL  
BOARD MEETING  
JULY 19, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ginger Warner at 10:16 a.m. in the offices of the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) in Columbus. Board members in attendance: Ginger Warner, chair; Jane Foulk, secretary; Caprice Bragg; Juan Cespedes; Gary Hanson; Jon Holt; Tom Johnson; Darryl Mehaffie; Farid Naffah; Bill White; Neal Zimmers; Sen. Matt Dolan; and Rep. Teresa Fedor. Board members not in attendance: Jim Dicke, vice-chair; Susan Allan Block; Robb Hankins; Monica Kridler; and Rep. Mike Duffey. Staff attending: Donna Collins, Dan Katona, Justin Nigro, Ken Emerick, Dia Foley, Kathy Signorino, Brianna Dance, Amanda Etchison, Jim SzeKacs, and Chiquita Mullins Lee. Also in attendance: Andrea Costin, Office of Sen. Michael Skindell; Hilary Damaser, principal assistant attorney general; Bill Behrendt, executive director, Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA); Lexie Spring, OCA member services coordinator; Bill Blair, OCA legislative counsel; Kathryn Miller, OAC fellow; Kayla Draper, OAC fellow; and Fan Su, OAC intern.

Chair Ginger Warner welcomed the board, including State Sen. Matt Dolan, and congratulated Vice-Chair Jim Dicke, Robb Hankins, and Jon Holt on their respective reappointments.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Jon Holt, to approve minutes from the committee and board meetings of April 5, 2017. **Motion carried without dissent.**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ms. Warner summarized the Executive Committee's April meeting, where the committee discussed increasing the OAC's staff size due to rising numbers of grant applications as well as moving to a biennial review of the executive director's performance. The committee also favorably recommended increasing the next Ohio Poet Laureate's annual stipend to \$5,000 from \$3,500 to recognize the position's valuable work and match Individual Excellence Award amounts.

MOTION by Jon Holt, seconded by Gary Hanson, to approve increasing the Ohio Poet Laureate's stipend to \$5,000. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Ms. Warner said the committee also acted to revise the Individual Excellence Award guidelines to read as follows: "Applicants must be at least eighteen years of age. Students attending high school or students pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees at the time of application may not apply." She thanked Neal Zimmers for raising the issue to the board and several members for reviewing language to clarify the guidelines' intent. Because award applications are live in ARTIE, the committee took action and instructed staff to make the change, rendering this action a board ratification, she reported.

MOTION by Jon Holt, seconded by Jane Foulk, to ratify the Executive Committee's decision to revise the Individual Excellence Award grant guidelines as follows: "Applicants must be at least eighteen years of age. Students attending high school or students pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees at the time of application may not apply." **Motion carried without dissent.**

Ms. Warner noted the Ohio Poet Laureate selection process would commence soon. Members of the committee comprised herself, Juan Cespedes, Jon Holt, Bill White, Caprice Bragg, former State Sen. Eric Kearney, and Massachusetts poet Sandra Lim. An out-of-state poet was selected to remove favoritism from the process since the Ohio poetry community is well-intertwined, she said.

Ms. Warner then reported on the Executive Committee's morning meeting earlier that day, stating that staffing, National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding, and the agency's draft social media policy were briefly discussed. She said the committee also voted to recommend board approval of the agency's next strategic plan, State Arts Plan 2020. She recognized successes from the prior plan, including redesigning grant programs, funding every county, employing new technology, and relaunching the agency's brand and website. She said all staff took part in developing the plan, which focuses again on four key action areas—invest, engage, innovate, and lead, thereby staying on course with the agency's renewed direction. Executive Director Donna Collins and Deputy Director Dan Katona elaborated on the plan.

MOTION by Juan Cespedes, seconded by Jon Holt, to approve State Arts Plan 2020. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Lastly, Ms. Warner reviewed the committee's discussion to seek a partnership with Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA) Foundation to conduct an economic impact study on the arts in Ohio. Mr. White asked to see the prior study and options for the future study, which Ms. Collins agreed to provide him. Mr. Cespedes recognized the importance of the work.

MOTION by Juan Cespedes, seconded by Jon Holt, to enter into a partnership agreement with the Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation to support research on the economic impact of the creative industries in Ohio, up to a maximum of \$20,000. **Motion carried without dissent.**

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ms. Warner thanked the governor and state legislature for their support during a difficult budget cycle and noted that the agency had earned the second largest NEA grant for the eighth consecutive year. Ms. Collins and Mr. Katona then proceeded to detail the agency's proposed FY 2018-2019 budget allocations, recommended by the Finance Committee at its morning meeting.

MOTION by Jane Foulk, seconded by Neal Zimmers, to approve the proposed FY 2018-2019 budget allocations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Ms. Warner reviewed the agency's quarterly expense report later in the day.

MOTION by Neal Zimmers, seconded by Jon Holt, to approve the quarterly expense report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Ms. Warner then summarized the committee's discussion on the board's ratification authority. Two years ago, this authority had been extended for the agency's four initiatives—Fund Every County, Creative Aging Ohio, TeachArtsOhio, and Main Stage to Main Street. Given the success of this approach over the last biennium, the committee recommended to the full board extension of this ratification authority for all of the initiatives except Main Stage to Main Street, which had been folded into the agency's regular grantmaking.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Bill White, to approve extended ratification authority for staff for Fund Every County, TeachArtsOhio, and Creative Aging Ohio grants. **Motion carried without dissent.**

## **GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS**

### ***Sustainability for Large Organizations***

Ms. Warner started consideration of grant recommendations with Sustainability for Large Organizations. She reminded the board that the recommendations are for the third year in a four-year cycle. Ms. Collins and Mr. Katona provided detail on the Sustainability funding formula. Responding to Gary Hanson, Mr. Katona noted that organizations whose budgets fell below \$1.75 million in the middle of the four-year cycle were kept in the large category during the cycle as a means of grandfathering. Similarly, mid-sized organizations whose budgets rise above \$1.75 million were kept in the mid-sized category until the cycle resets in the on-year.

MOTION by Jon Holt, seconded by Caprice Bragg, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendations for Large Organizations, excluding the Musical Arts Association, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Gary Hanson, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendation for Large Organizations for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. **Motion carried without dissent. Caprice Bragg left the room for discussion and vote.**

MOTION by Juan Cespedes, seconded by Gary Hanson, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendations for Large Organizations for the Musical Arts Association and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. **Motion carried without dissent. Ginger Warner left the room for discussion and vote.**

### ***Sustainability for Mid-Sized Organizations***

Investment Office Director Dia Foley reviewed Sustainability grant recommendations for Mid-Sized Organizations. She noted organizations that had gone out of business or failed to adhere to grant requirements were not recommended for funding, and two organizations—the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education and Standing Room Only—were re-included in the formal category this cycle.

MOTION by Caprice Bragg, seconded by Juan Cespedes, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendations for Mid-Sized Organizations, excluding the Darke County Center for the Arts. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Gary Hanson, seconded by Neal Zimmers, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendation for Mid-Sized Organizations for the Darke County Center for the Arts. **Motion carried without dissent. Darryl Mehaffie left the room for discussion and vote.**

### ***Arts Access***

Ms. Foley briefly reviewed Arts Access grant recommendations.

MOTION by Jon Holt, seconded by Juan Cespedes, to accept the Arts Access grant recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

### ***Arts Partnership***

Ms. Warner invited Chiquita Mullins Lee, OAC arts learning coordinator, to present the Arts Learning section recommendations, beginning with Arts Partnership, and Ms. Mullins Lee reviewed the recommendations for the program.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Bill White, to accept the Arts Partnership grant recommendations, excluding the Musical Arts Association, Greenacres Foundation, and Lake Erie Ink. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Juan Cespedes, seconded by Jon Holt, to accept the Arts Partnership grant recommendation for Lake Erie Ink. **Motion carried without dissent. Caprice Bragg left the room for discussion and vote.**

MOTION by Juan Cespedes, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, to accept the Arts Partnership grant recommendation for the Musical Arts Association and Greenacres Foundation. **Motion carried without dissent. Ginger Warner left the room for discussion and vote.**

### ***Artist in Residence***

Ms. Mullins Lee continued, presenting the Artist in Residence grant recommendations.

MOTION by Juan Cespedes, seconded by Jon Holt, to accept the Artist in Residence grant recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

**ArtsNEXT**

Ms. Warner turned to the Project Support category, inviting Jim Szekacs and Brianna Dance, organizational program coordinators, to present the ArtsNEXT grant recommendations. Mr. Hanson observed that the grant program had a higher ratio of organizations not recommended for funding, and Mr. Katona and Mr. Szekacs agreed, noting the innovation-based criteria of ArtsNEXT may set a higher bar for funding.

MOTION by Caprice Bragg, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, to accept the ArtsNEXT grant recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

**ArtSTART**

Mr. Szekacs and Ms. Dance reviewed the ArtSTART grant recommendations. Neal Zimmers asked that the grant recommendation for Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) be separated from the others. He explained that while serving on the Granville Arts Commission, he and the commission had voted against a very similar request for funding from Columbus Crossing Borders (working with CRIS), and Mr. Zimmers wanted to keep his vote consistent. At Ms. Warner's request, Ms. Dance reviewed the process for considering the application, noting it met technical requirements for eligibility, as assessed by staff. Ms. Warner wanted to ensure the grant would not be inappropriate and presented an option for proceeding—to delay action on the grant and have staff collect more information.

*Rep. Teresa Fedor joined the meeting at 11:40 a.m.*

Tom Johnson agreed with Ms. Warner's approach. Mr. Hanson thought the mission of CRIS was similar to a couple of other grantees. Mr. Zimmers offered his understanding of the Columbus Crossing Borders/CRIS grant request, which involved presenting at several locations artwork and a documentary on immigrants and refugees with panel discussions. The Granville Arts Commission thought the proposal involved social activism more than art-making, he said. Mr. Hanson questioned whether the OAC should assess content, but saw Ms. Warner's option for proceeding as fair.

MOTION by Neal Zimmers, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, to accept the ArtSTART grant recommendations, excluding Community Refugee and Immigration Services and Lake Erie Ink. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Neal Zimmers, seconded by Tom Johnson, to accept the ArtSTART grant recommendation for Lake Erie Ink. **Motion carried without dissent. Caprice Bragg left the room for discussion and vote.**

MOTION by Bill White, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, to table consideration of the grant recommendation for Community Refugee and Immigration Services until the board's October 4, 2017 meeting, pending additional staff research. **Motion carried without dissent.**

#### ***Creative Aging Ohio***

Ms. Foley reviewed the Creative Aging Ohio grant recommendations. Ms. Collins noted that the Creative Aging Ohio grants were being treated as recommendations, rather than ratifications, given that the staff's ratification authority had lapsed between the end of last fiscal year and the current board meeting date.

MOTION by Jon Holt, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, to accept the Creative Aging Ohio grant recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

#### ***Ohio Artists on Tour (Fee Support)***

Mr. Katona reviewed the Ohio Artists on Tour grant recommendations.

MOTION by Neal Zimmers, seconded by Jon Holt, to accept the Ohio Artists on Tour grant recommendations, excluding the Darke County Center for the Arts. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Juan Cespedes, seconded by Jane Foulk, to accept the Ohio Artists on Tour grant recommendation for the Darke County Center for the Arts. **Motion carried without dissent.**  
**Darryl Mehaffie left the room for discussion and vote.**

#### ***Traditional Arts Apprenticeships***

Ms. Warner invited Artist Programs Director Ken Emerick and Coordinator Kathy Signorino to present the Traditional Arts Apprenticeships grant recommendations. Ms. Signorino noted that while two grants appear to be out-of-state, the apprentice in each resides in Ohio and thus the benefit of the apprenticeship accrues to Ohio.

MOTION by Jon Holt, seconded by Neal Zimmers, to accept the Traditional Arts Apprenticeships grant recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

#### ***Ohio Heritage Fellowships***

Mr. Emerick and Ms. Signorino described the process of the Traditional Arts Advisory Committee and the selection of this year's three Ohio Heritage Fellows, Roy Adams of New Lebanon, Linda Thomas Jones of Cleveland, and the Riley School of Irish Music in Cincinnati. Ms. Warner informed the board that no vote was needed on the Ohio Heritage Fellowships, although the board unanimously noted approval of the fellowships via voice vote.

*Sen. Matt Dolan left the meeting at 12:05 p.m.*

## CHAIR AND DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Collins provided her report, noting:

- The agency's on-year NEA grant application is due in September.
- The agency had begun work with the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Alliance of Arts Education on a national education data collection project.
- *OHIO: The Start of It All*, the next OAC Riffe Gallery exhibition opening July 27, would feature children's illustrations from the Mazza Museum at the University of Findlay.
- Panelist recruitment for the fall was underway, with the investment and organizational programs office particularly busy given the uptick in applications.

Ms. Warner complimented the staff's work on the Spotlight program in conjunction with the First Lady's Office.

The board recessed at 12:15 p.m. and resumed business at 12:48 p.m. *Jane Foulk left the meeting during the recess.*

## OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Warner reminded board members of their discussion on establishing a social media policy during its last meeting. In response, Operations and Public Affairs Director Justin Nigro, Assistant Attorney General Hilary Damaser, and Jon Holt worked to develop a draft policy for the board's approval. Mr. Nigro thanked Mr. White for promoting the idea initially and Mr. Holt and Ms. Damaser for providing review. Mr. Nigro proceeded to outline the draft policy. Outside of social media, Ms. Warner advocated that as OAC practice, if asked for comment by the media, board members should defer to the chair or executive director, similar to her experience on other boards. Mr. White hoped to continue to receive guidance on being careful about advocacy, and Mr. Johnson asked for guidance from Ms. Damaser on a few examples. Ms. Damaser said caution was warranted when expressing an opinion.

MOTION by Bill White, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, to approve and adopt the agency's social media policy. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Mr. Nigro presented Amanda Etchison, the agency's new communications strategist, to the board and provided information on her background, including her time as editor-in-chief of *The Lantern* at The Ohio State University, a Pulliam Fellow at *The Arizona Republic*, and an events assistant with the Dublin Irish Festival. He complimented her work to date on improving media relations. Ms. Etchison introduced herself; shared her passion for the intersection of storytelling, journalism, and the arts; and previewed an upcoming media release on the board's summer grant approval, which would include an interactive map. Ms. Warner welcomed Ms. Etchison and noted the importance of her work on building awareness of the OAC. Rep. Teresa Fedor thought the map would be of interest to state legislators to promote OAC grantees in their newsletters and help increase future applications. Mr. Katona added that the NEA, and thus the OAC, now collects geographic information on where

grantee activities take place, in addition to solely geographic headquarters, which would improve the map. Mr. Nigro also introduced Kayla Draper, the new social media and special events fellow who will transition with and replace Kathryn Miller.

**OHIO CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS (OCA) REPORT**

OCA Executive Director Bill Behrendt reported on a successful Arts Day and expressed gratitude at the state legislature’s preservation of funding for the arts, and OCA Legislative Counsel Bill Blair echoed his remarks. Mr. Behrendt credited OCA’s action alerts for improving the organization’s advocacy and thought the threat for eliminating the NEA also motivated advocates. He updated members on the U.S. House’s latest action to consider a budget of \$145 million for the NEA, a reduction of \$5 million from the prior fiscal year but a rejection of the presidential administration’s call for its total elimination. Mr. Behrendt expressed his belief in the importance of economic data to support public funding for the arts and thanked the board for seeing the value in commissioning a study on the matter. Ms. Collins thanked the OCA board and staff for its work.

*Rep. Teresa Fedor left the meeting at 1:32 p.m.*

Before adjournment, Ms. Warner announced future board meeting dates of October 4, 2017; January 24, 2018; April 25, 2018; and July 25, 2018. She mentioned the possibility of a board retreat to consider new ideas and learn more about certain policy areas or regional activities. She brought forward examples of how the arts can better intersect with the military, veterans’ services, and medicine as areas of potential exploration. Ms. Warner lastly called attention to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies’ (NASAA) Leadership Institute taking place in Portland, Oregon in October, encouraging board members to attend, as well as a NASAA brief on why government should support the arts.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

  
Geraldine B. Warner  
OCA Board Chair

  
Jane Foulk  
OCA Board Secretary