

**OHIO ARTS COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Jim Dicke at 11:03 a.m. in the offices of the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) in Columbus. Board members in attendance: Susan Allan Block; Juan Cespedes; Jon Holt; Tom Johnson; Monica Kridler; Darryl Mehaffie; Farid Naffah; Bill White; Neal Zimmers; and Rep. Mike Duffey. Board members not in attendance: Ginger Warner, chair; Robb Hankins, secretary; Caprice Bragg; Gary Hanson; Rep. Teresa Fedor; and Sen. Matt Dolan. Staff attending: Donna Collins, Dan Katona (via phone), Justin Nigro, Ken Emerick, Dia Foley, Amanda Etchison, Katie Monahan, Jim Szekacs, Chiquita Mullins Lee, Jarred Small, Brianna Dance, and Kathy Signorino. Also in attendance: Jake Kramer, office of Sen. Michael Skindell; Hilary Damaser, principal assistant attorney general; Bill Hilyard, chair, Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA); Bill Behrendt, OCA executive director; and Beth Graham, OAC fellow.

Vice-Chair Jim Dicke welcomed the board and expressed regrets from Chair Ginger Warner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Monica Kridler, to approve minutes from the board meeting of July 25, 2018. **Motion carried without dissent.**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

At Mr. Dicke's request, Executive Director Donna Collins relayed the committee's discussion of preparing transition materials for Governor-Elect Mike DeWine.

CHAIR AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Mr. Dicke thanked board members for agreeing to serve on various committees.

MOTION by Susan Allan Block, seconded by Neal Zimmers, to approve the FY 2019 committee assignments. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Ms. Collins then provided her report:

- The agency's rules—as reviewed, approved, and in some cases amended by the board—had been submitted to the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review.
- Ohio Poet Laureate Dave Lucas had held numerous events and activities in the first year of his term and had syndicated a monthly column in several Ohio newspapers.
- Several agency staff would be attending the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies 2018 conference, with Deputy Director Dan Katona and Operations and Public Affairs Director Justin Nigro presenting sessions.
- The Ohio Prison Art Connection held a successful one-day convening, and Ms. Collins had presented at the Leap to Faith in Recovery Conference convened through the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

- The OAC Riffe Gallery's *Art Educators as Artists* exhibition had opened, while the lobby exhibition was in partnership with the Ohio Department of Veterans Services.
- The final Spotlight exhibition with First Lady Karen Kasich opened the prior night, on the theme of the Harlem Renaissance. Dr. Farid Naffah complimented the exhibition and the First Lady's devotion to the arts. Darryl Mehaffie related his pleasure at seeing Governor Kasich attend the opening and offer a tribute to her.
- The Arts Impact Ohio conference will be December 5-6, 2018.
- Nominations for the 2019 Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio were now open.
- Scenic Ohio had honored the Ohio Arts Council with a 2018 award for its work to promote the Quilt Barn trail.

Neal Zimmers had asked Ms. Collins about additional ways to promote the Ohio Poet Laureate's events in Southern Ohio, and she shared that plans were in the works to present in Dayton and in the southern half of the state. Mr. Mehaffie was interested in having Mr. Lucas' column syndicated locally, and Mr. Nigro provided background on how the agency had promoted the column. Susan Allan Block mentioned that the column might be easier to run online if print syndication becomes challenging, and she inquired as to whether public access television had been explored. Mr. Nigro responded that the agency had not yet broached public access television but could study it; meanwhile, Mr. Lucas had debuted his column before the City Club of Cleveland, an event which was broadcast online and promoted on social media. Ms. Block added that the column could be formatted for short radio segments too, and Mr. Nigro said that Mr. Lucas would be looking into this option as well as podcasting with the advice of Bill White. Mr. White avowed again his willingness to be helpful in the endeavor. Mr. Dicke thought targeting Southern Ohio was a sound idea.

PROGRAMS, PANELS, AND PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Mehaffie, the committee's acting chair, reviewed the committee's first action to recommend approval of panelist recommendations.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Juan Cespedes, to approve the panelist recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Mr. Mehaffie then reviewed the committee's second action to recommend approval of the FY 2020-2021 *Guidelines*. Mr. Katona noted that this version of the *Guidelines* covered two years rather than one, offering more predictability for potential applicants. He outlined the incorporation of the "Top 40" model to set the threshold between large and mid-sized Sustainability grantees and the addition of a separate funding category for Statewide Arts Service Organizations (SASOs). Mr. Katona named the six SASOs—the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education, VSA Ohio, OhioDance, Heritage Ohio, the Ohio Arts Professionals Network, and Ohio Designer Craftsmen—in response to Mr. Zimmers. Mr. Katona said several others were close to meeting the SASO criteria but missing a component.

MOTION by Tom Johnson, seconded by Susan Allan Block, to approve the FY 2020-2021 *Guidelines*. **Motion carried without dissent.**

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Dicke reviewed the agency's quarterly expenditure report covering the fourth quarter of FY 2018.

MOTION by Juan Cespedes, seconded by Neal Zimmers, to approve the quarterly expenditure report for the fourth quarter of FY 2018. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Mr. Dicke next reviewed the agency's quarterly ratification report.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Susan Allan Block, to approve the quarterly ratification report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Mr. Dicke introduced the topic of the agency's FY 2020-2021 operating budget request, presenting the committee with a letter from Ms. Collins to the director of the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), which summarized the larger submission to OBM.

Mr. Dicke reported that the state biennial audit had concluded with a draft of the Auditor of State's management letter available to review. The official letter was not expected to be edited or released until after the November election, per the Auditor's policy, and the agency was in the process of implementing recommendations, he said. Mr. Dicke related Juan Cespedes' earlier comments in committee to congratulate the agency on a clean audit.

Mr. Dicke noted that the agency was selected for a limited scope performance audit by the Office of Inspector General for the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA). Responding to Tom Johnson, Ms. Collins estimated the federal audit might be completed by late November, but it was uncertain. Mr. Dicke agreed that the end of federal audits were difficult to predict.

MOTION by Tom Johnson, seconded by Bill White, to accept the remainder of the Finance Committee report—the updates on the state operating budget request, the state biennial audit, and the federal limited scope performance audit. **Motion carried without dissent.**

The board recessed at 11:58 a.m. and resumed business at 12:29 p.m. *Tom Johnson and Rep. Mike Duffey left the meeting during the recess.*

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Dicke invited Mr. Nigro to introduce Katie Monahan, the agency's new communications strategist, to the board. Ms. Monahan updated the board on the upcoming Arts Impact Ohio conference, themed *Arts And...* and highlighting the intersections of arts with various societal issues. She provided an overview of the conference's keynotes, plenary sessions, workshops,

and associated events. Responding to Monica Kridler, Ms. Collins estimated attendance to be around 200 and possibly greater. Mr. Nigro noted that, owing to Ms. Monahan's position, the conference was more ambitious than the 2016 version, now featuring multiple days, several offsite locations, art tours, and more.

Mr. Dicke discussed the agency's constituent satisfaction survey. He said that the agency regularly surveys its grantees and applicants to learn of their needs and ideas and to gauge how its staff performs. He briefly reviewed the survey results, as compiled by Mr. Katona.

Mr. Dicke called attention to the agency's grant program deadlines and panel meeting dates, encouraging board members to attend the panel meetings or listen online; ethics training requirements; and the board's upcoming meeting dates.

Ms. Collins congratulated Ms. Kridler on receiving the Greater Columbus Arts Council's Community Arts Partnership Award for Arts Educator.

Monica Kridler left the meeting at 12:49 p.m.

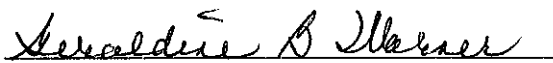
Messrs. White and Johnson asked Ms. Collins for more information on the agency's work in arts education, and Ms. Collins provided an update on the OAC's partnership with the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education, as well as the newly launched Ohio Arts Education Data Project.


OHIO CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS (OCA) REPORT

OCA Executive Director Bill Behrendt introduced OCA Chair Bill Hilyard. Mr. Behrendt briefed the board on the status of NEA funding level, including the bipartisan rejection of a U.S. House of Representatives floor amendment to cut the NEA's budget. The National Arts Action Summit was set for March 4-5, 2019, he said. Mr. Behrendt briefly discussed Ohio's 2018 statewide and state legislative elections.

Responding to Mr. Mehaffie, Mr. Behrendt said Arts Day and the Governor's Awards for the Arts Luncheon would take place at the Columbus Athenaeum, while the Arts Day Advocacy Briefing would move back to the Riffe Center and take place at the Davidson Theatre. He said this would help to expedite student advocates processing through Riffe security.

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.


Geraldine B. Warner
OAC Board Chair


Robert Hankins
OAC Board Secretary