

**OHIO ARTS COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING
JULY 21, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Robb Hankins at 10:42 a.m. in the offices of the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) in Columbus. Board members in attendance: Gary Hanson; Jon Holt; Tom Johnson; Darryl Mehaffie; Adam Shank; Beth Waldren; Bill White; Neal Zimmers; and Rep. Tavia Galonski. Board members not in attendance: Ginger Warner, chair; Jim Dicke, vice chair; Tina Husted; Monica Kridler; Rita Mansour; Farid Naffah; Rep. Sara Carruthers; Sen. Matt Dolan; and Sen. Teresa Fedor. Staff attending: Donna Collins, Dan Katona, Justin Nigro, Dia Foley, and Carla Oesterle. Also in attendance: Hilary Damaser, principal assistant attorney general; Angela Meleca, executive director of Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA); Doug Preisse, on behalf of OCA; Jarrod Hartzler, executive director of the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education; Becky Machovec, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum; Oliver Pontius; Devon Noble; and Carynne Jarrell.

Secretary Robb Hankins welcomed all in attendance. He expressed how grateful he was to return to in-person meetings, remarking that this was the first OAC board meeting held in person since the board switched to virtual meetings in July 2020 due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Mr. Hankins then welcomed Beth Waldren and Adam Shank to their first in-person meeting, and Ms. Waldren and Mr. Shank introduced themselves and shared their excitement to continue their service.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hankins invited the board to review minutes from the OAC board meeting held on March 31, 2021 and Executive Committee meeting of May 19, 2021.

MOTION by Jon Holt, seconded by Neal Zimmers, to approve the minutes from the OAC board meeting on March 31, 2021 and Executive Committee meeting of May 19, 2021. **Motion carried without dissent.**

CHAIR'S REPORT and EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Hankins began his report, stating that the Executive Committee had met in May to discuss the federal dollars from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) provided to state arts agencies through the American Rescue Plan (ARP). The committee decided that this funding would be disbursed to OAC operating support grant recipients, in line with NEA guidance. The FY 2022-2023 budget allocations to be presented to the board reflect the committee's recommendation, he concluded.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Next, Mr. Hankins directed the board to review the proposed committee assignments.

MOTION by Bill White, seconded by Beth Waldren, to accept the FY 2022 committee assignments as presented. **Motion carried without dissent.**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

For her report, Executive Director Donna Collins began by thanking the OAC staff, who she acknowledged were working remotely for more than a year. She shared that an office return plan had been developed and was under implementation, with the OAC leadership team working together in the office for the first time since March 2020 earlier that week.

Next, Ms. Collins shared her excitement over the historic state appropriation of \$40 million for the OAC for FY 2022-2023. Ms. Collins reminded the board that this news follows a notable year of agency funding in FY 2021, when the OAC's appropriations were supplemented with \$20 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding made available to the agency through the initiative of Governor Mike DeWine, Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted, and state legislative leaders. Ms. Collins thanked the board and arts advocates for their work in securing such impactful support for the arts in all 88 counties in Ohio.

At the national level, Ms. Collins shared that the OAC has been working with Arts Midwest to promote grant funding through the organization's new GIG Fund. The first round of this funding was distributed in July 2021, with a second round scheduled for fall 2021. Additionally, the OAC has been participating in a multi-state professional development program with the AIR Institute, made up of representatives from Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky, Ms. Collins said. She further explained how the program focuses on the intersections of economic development, community development, and artists. She added that the next step in the program's evolution aims to incorporate teachers to inspire and engage high-schoolers to take an active role as creative leaders in their communities.

The OAC has also become involved with the new Crisis Analysis and Mitigation coaching program for arts responders, Ms. Collins said. This initiative aims to train and develop a nationwide network of responders—the National Coalition of Arts' Preparedness & Emergency Response (NCAPER)—who will learn how to coach distressed communities in developing or expanding mitigation efforts using the arts and creativity. As part of this pilot effort, NCAPER has worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to train state arts agency staff to be part of the response team. Ms. Collins shared that OAC Arts Learning Coordinator Jarred Small has been selected to represent Ohio in this training initiative.

In arts education, Ms. Collins said, the OAC continues to work with the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education and the Ohio Department of Education on collaborative projects such as the Ohio Arts Education Data Project and the Ohio Arts Education Data Dashboard. Ms. Collins shared that in March 2021, the OAC secured new funding from a national grant program to advance creative aging programs for older adults in Ohio. The OAC sought funding from the Leveraging State Investments in Creative Aging program, a joint initiative of the National Assembly of

State Arts Agencies and Aroha Philanthropies. Ohio secured the highest potential award of \$60,000 for its Ohio Intensive Creative Aging Training Initiative. Ms. Collins shared that training began in July 2021 to prepare 27 Ohio teaching artists for deeper work in developing creative aging initiatives.

Reporting on ongoing projects in the Operations and Public Affairs office, Ms. Collins highlighted the OAC's "Resilient Ohio" series of feature articles spotlighting the innovative solutions developed by Ohio arts organizations as they navigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. She also said that the team has programmed a slate of professional development webinars for constituents, including an upcoming presentation with representatives from the NEA focusing on federal- and state-level public funding opportunities in the arts. Finally, Ms. Collins reminded the board that the nomination process for the 2022 Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio is being actively promoted through the deadline in late August 2021.

Ms. Collins then provided an update on the OAC's Riffe Gallery. She shared that it held an open house celebrating the closing of the *After Hours: Artwork by State of Ohio Employees 2021* exhibition earlier that month. She encouraged the board to explore the gallery's upcoming exhibition, *SHIFT: Thinking Globally, Acting Locally*, when it opens to the public on July 31. She also promoted the *2021 Biennial Juried Exhibition*, set to open in October 2021.

Focusing on the Artist Programs/Percent for Art office, Ms. Collins mentioned the upcoming Individual Excellence Award grant deadline set for September 1, 2021. She also described how work continues on both the Ohio Heritage Fellowship program and installation of the *Ohio Civil Rights Commission Youth Art Exhibition*, an annual show featuring photographs taken by high school students that is presented in partnership with the OAC and the Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC).

OAC staff in the Investment and Organizational Programs offices are processing final reports and preparing grant award contracts, Ms. Collins said. Preparation for grant application review panels to be held in spring 2022 is also underway, she added. In addition, Ms. Collins said that the OAC is seeking to fill a vacancy in its Organizational Programs office.

Looking ahead to the full staff's return to the office, Ms. Collins explained that a hybrid model had been developed that generally consists of two or three days of in-office work for staff members. This schedule is set to take effect in August, she said, and will be evaluated and updated as needed in the months to come.

Mr. Hankins thanked Ms. Collins for her report. Reflecting on a recent trip to a theatre in Cincinnati, Mr. Hankins shared his appreciation for the return of in-person arts experiences.

QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE REPORTS

Mr. Hankins reviewed the quarterly expenditure report covering the third quarter of FY 2021.

Bill White inquired into the status of OAC staff members' compensation, recalling that some staff members had experienced pay cuts as part of the state and agency's cost-savings response to the economic impact of COVID-19 in summer 2020. Ms. Collins shared that, at that time, exempt staff had been issued pay cuts amounting to about 4% in exchange for cost-savings days. She noted that, at the onset of the pandemic, several exempt staff offered to sacrifice more pay to ward off any potential layoffs, which were avoided through prudent management of administrative dollars. Since then, the state determined exempt staff (except the executive director) would receive two 3% increases, keeping parity with bargaining unit staff, after the state's fiscal picture improved. Mr. White said he wished to recognize the staff for their flexibility and understanding over the past year while working through challenging times and uncertainty.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Beth Waldren, to approve the quarterly expenditure report for the third quarter of FY 2021. **Motion carried without dissent.**

STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE

Mr. Hankins expressed his thanks to Gov. DeWine, Lt. Gov. Husted, Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman, and Ohio Speaker of the House Robert Cupp for their support of the arts in Ohio and echoed Ms. Collins' thanks to arts advocates throughout the state. He also acknowledged the work of nonprofit arts organizations and their staffs for their role in strengthening the state's creative economy before inviting Ms. Collins to provide an update on state and federal funding. Ms. Collins said the grants to be reviewed by the board later in the meeting showed positive growth by many measures and highlighted related statistics.

Tom Johnson inquired about whether an opportunity exists to have funding for the arts distributed from the state through additional ARP Act funding, similar to how the agency received \$20 million in CARES Act funding to support arts and culture organizations. Ms. Collins responded, saying that Ohio Citizens for the Arts has been advocating for \$50 million in funding for arts and culture.

FY 2022-23 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

Mr. Hankins shared more statistics that spoke to the impact of OAC funding in FY 2022. He described how awards for the Fund Every County program will increase by \$235,000, continuing to ensure greater access and geographic equity in the arts. He also celebrated how the amount invested into projects for culturally diverse organizations, via Building Cultural Diversity, will double compared to four years ago. The amount invested into in-school residencies for teaching artists in PK-12 schools throughout Ohio will quadruple compared to four years ago, he continued, comparing the \$1.4 million via TeachArtsOhio in FY 2022 to the \$340,000 awarded through the program in FY 2018. Finally, he expressed awe that the FY 2022 grant awards would mark the largest amount of funding the OAC has ever invested into

operating support for small organizations, via Arts Access; into arts and cultural projects for newer organizations, via ArtSTART; and into innovative arts projects, via ArtsNEXT.

Ms. Collins reminded the board that adjustments may need to be made to the FY 2023 budget depending on whether the OAC receives additional funding from state or federal sources in the months ahead. Any additional spending for the current fiscal year would be brought to the executive committee and board for its approval, she said.

MOTION by Gary Hanson, seconded by Neal Zimmers, to approve the FY 2022-23 budget allocations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

FUNDING RESTRICTIONS MEMORANDUM

Mr. Hankins led the board in reviewing the funding restrictions memorandum that states, per the OAC's board-approved guidelines, the agency cannot fund activities, organizations, and expenditures through operating or project support from organizations receiving funding from the Ohio legislature—either directly or by any third-party or pass-through entity—via a line item or earmark in the state budget during the same fiscal year in which the organization applies to receive support from the OAC.

Mr. Hankins noted that the state's FY 2022-2023 operating budget contains three cases where organizations who applied to receive OAC support were also eligible to receive funding from a legislative earmark. He said that if any of those three organizations accept their earmarks, they will not receive OAC funding for the next two years.

Mr. Johnson inquired as to the source of the policy on this matter. Ms. Collins responded that the policy had been previously adopted by the OAC board. He then asked whether this was a new policy and whether it is an uncommon situation. Neal Zimmers responded, saying it was a longstanding policy. When it was initially adopted, Mr. Zimmers explained it was primarily motivated by a desire to ensure fair competition among arts organizations applying for OAC funding. Ms. Waldren asked a clarifying question regarding when limitations on an organization's ability to receive OAC funding would be lifted. Mr. Hankins said that organizations accepting earmarks would be eligible to apply for OAC funding after the earmarks expire.

Mr. White inquired as to whether there had been any structural changes made to the policy since its inception. Mr. Zimmers responded that to his knowledge, the board had always stood by the policy. Mr. White asked whether there had been exceptions made in the past. Ms. Collins said she had researched this and did not find any instances of exceptions.

Mr. Johnson asked whether the prohibition relates to the state's operating budget or the capital budget. Ms. Collins responded that it relates to the operating budget. Ms. Waldren asked whether there was a time limit, such as within the two-year budget biennium, by which

the earmarks must be used. Ms. Collins said the legislature sets the specifications that govern how the earmarks must be used.

Mr. Johnson asked whether any of the three organizations received CARES Act money from the state, and Deputy Director Dan Katona reported that the Musical Arts Association (dba the Cleveland Orchestra) received \$738,800 in CARES Act dollars.

Mr. Shank asked about the arts organizations' legislative relationships. Ms. Collins assured him that OAC staff had proactively reached out to the impacted organizations to make them aware of the policy and said that she has confidence in the constituents to make informed decisions that they feel are best for their organizations.

Mr. Hankins summarized the discussion to say that, by taking no action, the board would effectively enforce the policy as it exists. The board subsequently took no action.

GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Sustainability for Large Organizations

Mr. Hankins began consideration of grant recommendations with Sustainability for Large Organizations. He explained that the Sustainability program provides operating support for hundreds of arts organizations throughout Ohio. He then invited Investment Director Dia Foley to introduce the review process and expand upon the Sustainability-Large category.

Ms. Foley said that the largest 40 organizations in Ohio are considered in the "Large" category, with out-of-state panelists conducting reviews. She then reminded the board that the Sustainability program is a four-year program. Because of this, she said, applicants submit a full application in the first year and off-year updates and other financial forms during the other years of the program. She added that this was the third year of the current four-year program cycle.

MOTION by Tom Johnson, seconded by Beth Waldren, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendations for Large Organizations without all Cuyahoga County recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Neal Zimmers, seconded by Adam Shank, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendations for Large Organizations for all Cuyahoga County organizations. **Motion carried without dissent. Gary Hanson left the room for discussion and vote.**

Sustainability for Mid-Sized Organizations

Mr. Hankins introduced the Sustainability grant recommendations for Mid-Sized Organizations, defined as organizations whose budgets fall below those of the largest 40 organizations but exceed \$50,000. He asked Ms. Foley to provide an overview. She explained that these awards are also four-year grants, with the current year being year three.

MOTION by Bill White, seconded by Gary Hanson, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendations for Mid-Sized Organizations without the Darke County Center for the Arts, the Dayton Visual Arts Center/The Contemporary Dayton, We Care Arts, and all Cuyahoga County recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Neal Zimmers, seconded by Beth Waldren, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendation for the Darke County Center for the Arts. **Motion carried without dissent. Darryl Mehaffie left the room for discussion and vote.**

MOTION by Gary Hanson, seconded by Tom Johnson, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendations for the Dayton Visual Arts Center/The Contemporary Dayton and We Care Arts. **Motion carried without dissent. Jon Holt left the room for discussion and vote.**

MOTION by Jon Holt, seconded by Adam Shank, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendations for all Cuyahoga County organizations. **Motion carried without dissent. Gary Hanson left the room for discussion and vote.**

Arts Access

Mr. Hankins introduced Arts Access grant recommendations. He reminded the board that the Arts Access program is similar to Sustainability in that it provides general operating support for small organizations with budgets less than \$50,000. Arts Access grants are two-year awards, and this year is the first year for the current cycle, he said. Mr. Hankins invited Mr. Katona to present the recommendations.

Before providing his overview, Mr. Katona shared that, due to COVID-19, the panel review process for the OAC's FY 2022 grant applications—including those received for Arts Access—took place virtually for the second year in a row. He thanked the panelists for their flexibility and praised the efficiency of the digital meetings. Mr. Katona said that Arts Access received 51 applications, six of which were new to the program.

Ms. Waldren asked for more information about the correlation between the recommended award amount and the panel score an application receives. Mr. Katona said the recommended amount relates to the strength of the application, as evaluated by the panel.

MOTION by Gary Hanson, seconded by Adam Shank, to accept the Arts Access grant recommendations without all Cuyahoga County recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Neal Zimmers, to accept the Arts Access grant recommendations for all Cuyahoga County organizations. **Motion carried without dissent. Gary Hanson left the room for discussion and vote.**

The board recessed at 11:58 a.m. and resumed business at 12:29 p.m.

Statewide Arts Service Organizations

Mr. Hankins introduced the Statewide Arts Service Organizations (SASO) grant recommendations. He reminded the board that this is a relatively new program that recognizes the unique role these organizations perform in supplementing the work of the OAC. The grants require certain partnership opportunities with the agency, such as leading professional development opportunities, hosting field/virtual visits, and sharing their expertise with the OAC and others in the arts community. Mr. Hankins invited Mr. Katona to provide additional information about the organizations applying for SASO grants.

Explaining that the OAC is very pleased with the progress made so far with the SASO program, Mr. Katona reminded the board that this program was designed to provide operating support to the partner organizations.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Bill White, to accept Statewide Arts Service Organizations grant recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Arts Partnership

Mr. Hankins began the board's consideration of arts learning grants with the Arts Partnership program. He noted that the Arts Partnership program is a multi-year grant program and asked Ms. Foley to explain why some OAC grant programs are structured in this way. Ms. Foley responded that grants that are awarded on a two-, three-, or four-year cycle allow constituents to build upon their work year after year. She explained that this provides continuity and is beneficial because organizations needn't apply every single year, thus allowing them to take on longer-term projects. She added that many of these projects are completed in phases and noted the administrative efficiency that comes with this approach. Ms. Foley said the Arts Partnership program received 81 applications for FY 2022, all of which have been recommended for funding.

MOTION by Adam Shank, seconded by Tom Johnson, to accept the Arts Partnership grant recommendations without We Care Arts, the Piano International Association of Northern Ohio, and all Cuyahoga County recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Neal Zimmers, seconded by Bill White, to accept the Arts Partnership grant recommendation for We Care Arts. **Motion carried without dissent. Jon Holt left the room for discussion and vote.**

MOTION by Tom Johnson, seconded by Neal Zimmers, to accept the Arts Partnership grant recommendation for the Piano International Association of Northern Ohio. **Motion carried without dissent. Adam Shank left the room for discussion and vote.**

MOTION by Neal Zimmers, seconded by Bill White, to accept the Arts Partnership grant recommendation for all Cuyahoga County organizations. **Motion carried without dissent.** Gary Hanson left the room for discussion and vote.

TeachArtsOhio

Introducing the TeachArtsOhio grant recommendations, Mr. Hankins reminded the board that the program began as an initiative of the OAC under Ms. Collins to improve the way the agency conducts teaching artist residencies. He shared how the program has flourished, year after year, despite the COVID-19 pandemic and remote learning, and he commended teaching artists for finding creative ways to continue their work over the past year. He added that there has been tremendous growth and interest in the TeachArtsOhio program among arts educators all over the state, particularly in underserved communities. He invited Ms. Collins to provide an overview of the program and the grant recommendations.

Ms. Collins shared that arts education has long been an important area of focus for the OAC. She provided a brief history of the TeachArtsOhio program, discussing its approach to providing engaging, personal, high-quality arts learning experiences and lauding the program's growth in recent years. This year, the program received 65 applications, 61 of which were recommended for funding. Of those recommended for funding, 19 were new applicants to the program, Ms. Collins said. Mr. Hankins thanked Ms. Collins for her report and shared how he felt that the TeachArtsOhio program showcases how the arts are sometimes the motivating factor for students to attend school.

MOTION by Jon Holt, seconded by Bill White, to accept the TeachArtsOhio grant recommendations without all Cuyahoga County recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Bill White, to accept the TeachArtsOhio grant for all Cuyahoga County entities. **Motion carried without dissent.** Gary Hanson left the room for discussion and vote.

ArtsNEXT

Mr. Hankins began discussion of the ArtsNEXT program and funding recommendations. He explained that this program focuses on funding innovative activities to help encourage new, creative projects in the field. He invited Ms. Foley to share more about ArtsNEXT and the projects recommended for funding. Ms. Foley said that 72 applications were recommended for funding, 24 of which were new applicants, and provided additional detail.

Mr. White asked how applicants typically use the feedback they receive in the panel comments. Ms. Collins responded by saying that the panel review comments are often used by constituents as areas of focus for strengthening subsequent grant applications. She said

that overall trends of comments are tracked by the OAC as an evaluative measure of administrative program design. Mr. Katona added that feedback collected from these responses is used to inform the phrasing of future grant application questions and the planning of agency-presented professional development opportunities for the field.

MOTION by Jon Holt, seconded by Gary Hanson, to accept the ArtsNEXT grant recommendations without the Dayton Visual Arts Center/The Contemporary Dayton and all Cuyahoga County grant recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Gary Hanson, seconded by Neal Zimmers, to accept the ArtsNEXT grant recommendation for the Dayton Visual Arts Center/The Contemporary Dayton. **Motion carried without dissent. Jon Holt left the room for discussion and vote.**

MOTION by Adam Shank, seconded by Bill White, to accept the ArtsNEXT grant recommendations for all Cuyahoga County organizations. **Motion carried without dissent. Gary Hanson left the room for discussion and vote.**

ArtSTART

Mr. Hankins introduced ArtSTART, the OAC's general project support grant program. He explained that many arts organizations first come to the OAC through this program and expressed his excitement that the FY 2022 grant recommendations totaled the largest amount ever invested into ArtSTART by the agency. Mr. Hankins invited Mr. Katona to share more about the program.

Mr. Katona reiterated that the ArtSTART program is traditionally the gateway program for many organizations new to applying for OAC funding. In reviewing the applications for FY 2022 funding, Mr. Katona said that 157 applications were received, with 144 recommended for funding, of which 46 were new applicants. These numbers were impressive, Mr. Katona said, especially given the circumstances of the past year and the challenges arts organizations and their staffs have faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Hankins asked whether all organizations seeking ArtSTART grants were first-time OAC applicants. Mr. Katona clarified that most organizations begin with this program, though some may have applied to other OAC programs in the past.

MOTION by Beth Waldren, seconded by Gary Hanson, to accept the ArtSTART grant recommendations without the Piqua Arts Council, the Ely Chapman Education Foundation, all Cuyahoga County organizations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Neal Zimmers, seconded by Beth Waldren, to accept the ArtSTART grant recommendation for the Piqua Arts Council. **Motion carried without dissent. Darryl Mehaffie left the room for discussion and vote.**

MOTION by Neal Zimmers, seconded by Adam Shank, to accept the ArtSTART grant recommendation for the Ely Chapman Education Foundation. **Motion carried without dissent. Bill White left the room for discussion and vote.**

MOTION by Tom Johnson, seconded by Bill White, to accept the ArtSTART grant recommendations for all Cuyahoga County organizations. **Motion carried without dissent. Gary Hanson left the room for discussion and vote.**

Ohio Artists on Tour

Mr. Hankins invited Ms. Foley to introduce the Ohio Artists on Tour grant program. Ms. Foley explained that this program provides fee support for organizations who use artists or ensembles listed in the Ohio Artists on Tour directory. She said organizations can request up to one-third of an artist or ensemble's fee—up to \$10,000—and requests may be made for fee support for multiple artists in a single year—up to a maximum of \$15,000. Organizations applying to the Ohio Artists on Tour program must first have been awarded another OAC grant through a qualifying program in either the upcoming fiscal year or in the current fiscal year, Ms. Foley added. As such, these grants are issued in conjunction with applications to other grant programs. For FY 2022, Ms. Foley said, the Ohio Artists on Tour program received 18 contracts from organizations to present approximately 85 artists or ensembles during the course of the year.

MOTION by Neal Zimmers, seconded by Beth Waldren, to accept the Ohio Artists on Tour grant recommendations without all Cuyahoga County organizations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Neal Zimmers, seconded by Adam Shank, to accept the Ohio Artists on Tour grant recommendations for all Cuyahoga County organizations. **Motion carried without dissent. Gary Hanson left the room for discussion and vote.**

Traditional Arts Apprenticeships

Mr. Hankins explained that Traditional Arts Apprenticeships are aimed at preserving unique folk and cultural heritage in Ohio. He invited Mr. Katona to share more about the program.

Mr. Katona said these grants fund traditional apprenticeship experiences led by master artists and that they focus on yearlong, in-depth instruction in traditional art forms. He said that the program had 15 applications in FY 2022, six from new applicants, that were recommended for funding—an increase from previous years.

MOTION by Gary Hanson, seconded by Adam Shank, to accept the Traditional Arts Apprenticeships grant recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Reports on the Ohio Heritage Fellowship, Multiple Applicants, and Fund Every County

Mr. Hankins directed the board's attention to the Ohio Heritage Fellowship recommendation memo that noted Cincinnati dancer and educator Padma Chebrolu as the 2021 Ohio Heritage Fellowship awardee. He also briefly discussed the FY 2022 Multiple Application Report, listing organizations applying for OAC grant awards in multiple programs, and the Fund Every County Report focusing on outreach to targeted counties.

Award Adjustment

Mr. Hankins acknowledged that it is possible that grant award amounts may need to be adjusted by the executive director and staff once the budget is finalized. He illustrated some situations where this may occur, stating, for example, if a grant is returned or canceled, or if an organization accepts an earmark.

MOTION by Neal Zimmers, seconded by Beth Waldren, to authorize the executive director to make changes as necessary to grant amounts in order to accomplish all previously approved grants, including any changes to grant amounts because of funding limitations or increases or any changes due to unforeseen factors directly affecting the subject of the grants, as long as the changes do not constitute any change in the purpose of the grants other than the award amounts. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Potential for Additional American Rescue Plan Funds

Mr. Hankins said he thought it would be in order for the board to empower its Executive Committee to consider how an infusion of dollars through the State of Ohio's funds from the ARP Act to the OAC would be used to support the arts in Ohio. He asked Ms. Collins to provide more information about this process.

Ms. Collins said that, at this time, the agency is not sure if there will be additional ARP funds that come to the OAC either at the state or federal level. In case these funds do flow to the agency, she asked the board to consider adopting a course of action, which would be aligned to guidance from the state and federal governments, to bring grant distribution recommendations for the Executive Committee's consideration.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Bill White, to authorize the Executive Committee to consider and review plans proposed for expending additional ARP Act dollars flowing from either the State of Ohio or federal government. **Motion carried without dissent.**

NEW BUSINESS: GENERAL UPDATES

Mr. Hankins directed the board to review the dates for upcoming in-person board meetings for the remainder of the year. Next, Mr. Hankins complimented the OAC staff on the virtual Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio, which premiered digitally on May 10, 2021, via the Ohio Channel. He announced that the 2022 Governor's Awards event would return to its traditional, in-person format on May 11, 2022.

Mr. White inquired about the production of the videos presented during the virtual Governor's Awards and complimented the final products. Operations and Public Affairs Director Justin Nigro explained that the videos are filmed and produced by staff at the Ohio Channel, under direction and with assistance from OAC communications staff. He also shared that nominations for the 2022 Governor's Awards are open until August 23, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS: AGENCY INITIATIVES

Mr. Hankins invited Ms. Collins and Mr. Katona to present information on new initiatives under development at the OAC that have been informed by constituent feedback.

Ms. Collins explained that the OAC has implemented a quarterly survey for the field, the results of which will be shared at a later meeting. In the meantime, she said, responses have been collected and incorporated into the creation of two new initiatives: Arts Resilience Awards and IDEA+.


Mr. Katona introduced the Arts Resilience Initiative as an opportunity to reach out to organizations in need of financial support who may not have qualified for the OAC's distribution of \$20 million in CARES Act funds in fall 2020. He reminded the board that these CARES Act awards were directed toward current Sustainability grant recipients due to the need for quick distribution and sound stewardship. As new funding became available, as an offset of ARP Act dollars from the NEA, Mr. Katona said the agency had identified need among organizations outside of the Sustainability program for assistance as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Resilience Awards would be forward-looking awards, he said, with funds applicable to future programming expenses. Funding would be reserved for organizations that have not previously been selected as recipients for COVID relief through the CARES Act or the federal Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program. Organizations already receiving grant funding through OAC programs would also not be eligible for Resilience Awards. A secondary point of focus of this initiative would be supporting one-time projects that showcase artist-community partnerships that seek to bolster Ohio's creative economy, Mr. Katona said.

Ms. Collins shared that the second initiative is tentatively titled IDEA+ and would focus on targeted areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion; administrative development; and accessibility. Ms. Collins explained that the IDEA+ program would be an ideal testing ground for alternative means of collecting grant application materials, whether through a streamlined written application, a video submission, or an interview process. She noted that such approaches have been recently piloted by regional art organizations like Arts Midwest. In conclusion, Ms. Collins stated that the OAC believes these initiatives are an opportunity for the agency to reach farther and to support constituents in meeting their self-identified needs.


Mr. White asked about the timeline for distributing grants through these two initiatives, should they be adopted. Mr. Katona responded that attempts would be made to ensure that

Bill White inquired as to whether any updates have been received regarding the OAC staff's return to the office and the board's return to in-person meetings. Ms. Collins said that the OAC takes its lead for return-to-office protocol from Gov. DeWine's office. She added that the agency has yet to receive specific guidance as to when to expect a resumption of in-person activities. Mr. White thanked Ms. Collins for her update. Mr. Dicke agreed and commended the State of Ohio on its efficient roll out of COVID-19 vaccines. He concluded by saying that he is hopeful that these efforts, guided the leadership of the Ohio General Assembly and Gov. DeWine, will allow a sense of normalcy to return.

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.



Ginger Warner
OAC Board Chair



Robb Hankins
OAC Board Secretary