

**OHIO ARTS COUNCIL  
BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 25, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ginger Warner at 10:05 a.m. in the offices of the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) in Columbus. Board members in attendance: Ginger Warner, chair; Jane Foulk, secretary; Susan Allan Block; Caprice Bragg; Juan Cespedes; Robb Hankins; Jon Holt; Tom Johnson; Monica Kridler; Darryl Mehaffie; Farid Naffah; and Bill White. Board members not in attendance: Jim Dicke, vice-chair, called into meeting; Gary Hanson; and Neal Zimmers. Staff attending: Donna Collins, Dan Katona, Justin Nigro, Ken Emerick, Dia Foley, Christy Farnbauch, Hannah Brokenshire, Kathy Signorino, and Chiquita Mullins Lee. Also in attendance: Erich Bittner, Office of Senate President Larry Obhof; Bill Behrendt, executive director, Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA); Lexie Spring, OCA member services director; Bill Blair, OCA legislative counsel; Hilary Damaser, principal assistant attorney general; Kathyryn Miller, OAC fellow; and Brooke Watz, OAC intern.

**NEW BOARD MEMBER WELCOME**

Chair Ginger Warner greeted board members and reminded them of their annual financial disclosure statement filing and ethics training requirements. She welcomed William B. White of Marietta to the board. Mr. White, a veteran and founder of marketing consulting firm OffWhite, introduced himself. He noted his background as the former president of the Ohio Foundation of Music Education and interest in serving all Ohioans, including those from the state's Appalachian region.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Susan Allan Block, to approve minutes from the committee and board meetings of October 26 and December 5, 2016. **Motion carried without dissent.**

*Jane Foulk and Monica Kridler joined the meeting at 10:15 a.m..*

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

Chair Ginger Warner outlined the orders of business for the meeting—the hearing of reports from the board's Awards, Finance, and Nominating Committees; consideration of the quarter's expense report and grant ratifications; and a preview of the upcoming year.

*Jon Holt joined the meeting at 10:22 a.m..*

Executive Director Donna Collins welcomed Mr. White and provided her report:

- The OAC had made grants in all 88 counties over the biennium and all but three Ohio House districts, with applications in place for the last three.

- The agency's latest webinar—on how to best apply for OAC funding—attracted nearly 300 registrants and nearly 200 active participants. Three regional meetings will follow in Holmes, Hancock, and Jackson Counties, focused on coaching Fund Every County grantees to encourage them to apply for other OAC grants.
- TeachArtsOhio is active in 36 schools, with teaching artists working with students in semester- or year-long residencies. An evaluator will provide qualitative and quantitative data and analysis to the agency later in 2017.
- The Ohio House of Representatives Student Art Exhibition has been installed, now in its second year.
- One of 2016's Ohio Heritage Fellows, Elaina Hernandez, was celebrated at a performance of her dance group, El Corazon de Mexico, in Toledo.
- A new Information Technologist 2, Ted Hattemer, was in the process of being hired to replace Earl Meadows, who retired.
- Talking points and testimony were being drafted to prepare for the agency's budget hearings in the House of Representatives and Senate.
- The OAC had partnered with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission on a photography exhibition. Juan Cespedes added that one of the benefits would be to allow students to display their art publicly and build their resumes.
- Despite rumors about the new presidential administration considering eliminating the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Ms. Collins subscribed to the guidance of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA)—to be strategic and calm. Federal budgeting is a long process, and a number of partners are in place, whether elected officials, advocacy groups, or others, who could share the importance of the arts, she said. Should NEA funding cease, the OAC's grant budget would decrease by 7%, she estimated.

Ms. Warner thanked Ms. Collins for the report and her and the staff for their hard work. She complimented the agency for expanding its partnerships and thought they would help make the case for funding to the legislature. She credited the agency's increased funding for its ability to fund all 88 counties. Susan Allan Block hoped a video could be produced that captured testimonials from teachers and students participating in TeachArtsOhio.

#### **AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ms. Warner outlined the Awards Committee's work to review Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio nominations. Juan Cespedes thanked the committee and discussed their process for recommending the 2017 winners. He listed the winners, emphasizing their geographical diversity. Board members complimented the work of various winners.

MOTION by Tom Johnson, seconded by Monica Kridler, to approve the Awards Committee report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ms. Warner reviewed the Finance Committee's morning discussion, including the quarterly budget report, the agency's biennial audit, and ratifications for this quarter.

Responding to Jane Foulk, Ms. Collins confirmed the agency's expenditures were available through the Ohio Treasurer's online checkbook. Darryl Mehaffie asked about whether OAC staff time was necessary to upload items to the online checkbook, and Ms. Collins said it was automatic. Mr. White asked about the types of posts promoted on Facebook, and OAC Communications Strategist Hannah Brokenshire explained that the agency primarily promotes calls-to-action, such as various Governor's Awards items. Social media metrics, such as views, are monitored for promoted posts, she said in response to Ms. Block.

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Jon Holt, to approve the Finance Committee's report, inclusive of the quarterly expense report and ratification report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

On behalf of its chair Neal Zimmers, Jon Holt reported on the Nominating Committee's January 13 meeting. He reminded the board that the chair and vice-chair sit on the Executive Committee per state rule, and the Nominating Committee recommends four additional board members. The committee recommended Juan Cespedes, Caprice Bragg, Jane Foulk, and Jon Holt serve on the Executive Committee for 2017.

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Susan Allan Block, to approve the Nominating Committee's report and name Juan Cespedes, Caprice Bragg, Jane Foulk, and Jon Holt to the 2017 Executive Committee. **Motion carried without dissent.**

#### **OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Warner reminded board members to file their financial disclosure statements by May 15.

Mr. Cespedes updated the board on recent activity by the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board, including permitting John Glenn to lay in state at the Ohio Statehouse. Ohio House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger had started an art committee to review the placement and potential commission of artwork at the Statehouse, such as a statue of John Glenn and other paintings and portraiture. Ms. Warner hoped Neil Armstrong might also be considered.

Robb Hankins discussed the ongoing "genius" project occurring in the Canton area and the overlap between artists and inventors, using Samuel Morse as an example.

Tom Johnson shared that the ArtPlace America call for applications had been released.

#### **THE YEAR AHEAD**

Ms. Warner opened a discussion on the year ahead. Consideration of the state's FY 2018-2019 state budget was underway, and she encouraged the board to attend the agency's legislative budget hearings. Ms. Collins previewed her testimony, with a focus on promises kept. Mr. Cespedes also encouraged board members to advocate for the OAC – in their capacity private citizens, Ms. Warner added.

*Darryl Mehaffie left the meeting at 11:11 a.m.*

Ms. Warner then turned board members' attention to the grant panel calendar, encouraging them to attend any panel meetings of interest. Deputy Director Dan Katona elaborated on the various panels that would convene and the knowledge gained through the panel process.

Lastly, Ms. Warner shared her experience on the Ohio Poet Laureate Selection Committee and its process, and she asked any board members interested in serving this year to notify her. She complimented the work of Dr. Amit Majmudar, the current and first state Poet Laureate, and Ohio's poets in general, including the many who were nominated during the inaugural selection process.

The board recessed at 11:23 a.m. and resumed business at 11:44 a.m. *Caprice Bragg left the meeting during the recess.*

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

OCA Legislative Counsel Bill Blair introduced Bill Behrendt, the organization's new executive director, to the board. Mr. Blair shared OCA's funding goal for OAC of \$34 million with the OAC board. Though cognizant of the state's difficult fiscal environment, he placed the OAC's relatively small budget in the greater context of the state's \$67 billion General Revenue Fund and reminded the agency of OCA's advocacy role.

Mr. Behrendt expressed excitement at his new role. He shared OCA's new mission statement, adopted before his arrival, which was "to increase funding and public support for the arts through advocacy, education, and engagement." On advocacy, he looked forward to working on the state's budget process, Arts Day, and National Arts Advocacy Day. On education, he said OCA had partnered with the Ohio CDC Association on creative placemaking thanks to a grant. On engagement, he said OCA updated its website, logo, and brand and rebooted its social media presence. The board applauded OCA's work.

Ms. Warner asked who covered expenses for students of the Ohio State University (OSU) to attend National Arts Advocacy Day, and OCA Member Services Coordinator Lexie Spring responded that OSU's Barnett Center, which housed the university's arts administration program, had funded the students, with students paying \$50. Ms. Warner encouraged OCA to promote the program beyond OSU.

Mr. Blair, Ms. Warner, and Mr. Hankins detailed their past experiences with policymakers' consideration of eliminating the NEA and arts funding in general. Monica Kridler hoped OAC and OCA would share messaging to allay fears about talk over the NEA's elimination. Ms. Collins looked forward to working with Mr. Behrendt and noted that she had a forthcoming e-newsletter article on the matter. Mr. Blair advocated an aggressive approach, and Ms. Collins said it was important to keep constituents on a single message and calm about their grants, even if constituents were interested in being strong advocates. Ms. Block recommended starting an online petition with a positive message would be worth pursuing, perhaps utilizing a tool like change.org, which did not require registration. Ms. Spring shared information on the online advocacy tool VoterVoice, which offered some similar functions.

#### **OAC STAFF REPORT**

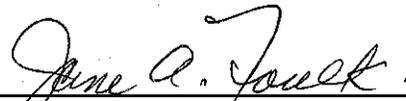
Ms. Warner invited Christy Farnbauch, director of innovation and engagement, to share information on the agency's Creative Aging Ohio initiative. Ms. Farnbauch said 33 projects were funded over the last 18 months, with 18 currently underway. She highlighted projects at the Springfield Museum of Art, Verb Ballets in Shaker Heights, and the Tomorrow Center in Cardington. Ms. Farnbauch had also given a well-received presentation at the National Arts Marketing Project Conference with Greg Finch of the National Center for Creative Aging and Desmond Davis of Verb Ballets.

Mr. Johnson thought telling the stories of individuals affected by grants would be important to advocacy and wondered if Ms. Farnbauch knew of any programs involving helping opiate addicts through the arts. Ms. Farnbauch called attention to arts organizations that help divert at-risk individuals from dangerous activities such as drug use. Mr. Hankins liked the arts and aging slogans Ms. Farnbauch had shared, such as "I dance so I don't fall." He also said the Canton Museum of Art has a new program in addiction recovery, which could be messaged as "I went to the art museum so I can get off drugs." Ms. Farnbauch mentioned efforts to collect better data on creative aging, such as the OAC's work with Ohio University's Collaborative on Aging. She likened data in the creative aging field to that of arts education decades ago. Ms. Block shared information on dancing as a way to alleviate the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease and thought those linkages could be important to attract interest from the health care industry.

The meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.



Geraldine B. Warner  
OAC Board Chair



Jane Foulk  
OAC Board Secretary