

**OHIO ARTS COUNCIL  
BOARD MEETING  
JULY 22, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Jim Dicke at 10:23 a.m. via video conference. Board members in attendance: Robb Hankins, secretary; Susan Allan Block; Dave Barber; Gary Hanson; Tom Johnson; Monica Kridler; Darryl Mehaffie; Farid Naffah; Bill White; and Rep. Tavia Galonski. Board members not in attendance: Ginger Warner, chair; Juan Cespedes; Jon Holt; Tina Husted; Neal Zimmers; Rep. Sara Carruthers; and Sen. Matt Dolan. Staff attending: Donna Collins, Dan Katona, Justin Nigro, Dia Foley, Carla Oesterle, Kathy Signorino, Katie Davis, Amanda Etchison, Janelle Hallett, Ted Hattemer, Patrick Hughes, Katie Monahan, Chiquita Mullins Lee, Cat Sheridan, Jarred Small, Jim Szekacs, and Kim Turner. Also in attendance: Hilary Damaser, principal assistant attorney general; Joseph Ze Soza, Office of Sen. Teresa Fedor; Tara Smith, arts administration fellow; Aimee Wissman, marketing and exhibitions fellow; Kevin Cornell; Becky Machovec; the Shepherd School of Irish Music; and Leslie Wagner.

Vice-Chair Jim Dicke welcomed everyone to the first-ever virtual meeting conducted by the OAC board. He shared a message of gratitude from Chair Ginger Warner, and Executive Director Donna Collins outlined videoconferencing procedures and protocols.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Dicke invited the board to review minutes from several meetings.

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, to approve the minutes from the committee meetings on Aug. 30, 2019, Sept. 25, 2019, and Jan. 29, 2020, as well as the OAC board meeting on Jan. 29, 2020. **Motion carried without dissent.**

**CHAIR AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

Mr. Dicke reminded board members that the day's agenda included several items carried over from the board meeting scheduled for March 25, 2020, which was canceled due to the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) throughout Ohio.

Mr. Dicke recommended that the board conduct its review of the FY 2021 committee assignments at its next meeting. He stated that new committee members are typically chosen at the start of each fiscal year and encouraged board members to consider committees of which they would like to be a part.

Mr. Dicke shared that Ohio Governor Mike DeWine had announced the state's new poet laureate, Kari Gunter-Seymour of Athens County. Mr. Dicke commended her plan to use her new position to work with individuals struggling with addiction and those in recovery.

*Bill White and Rep. Tavia Galonski joined the meeting at 10:33 a.m.*

For her director's report, Ms. Collins began by explaining that the OAC staff had been teleworking since mid-March and thanked staffers for their flexibility and commitment to serving constituents throughout this time.

Ms. Collins shared that the OAC staff was in the process of drafting an essential state arts plan for the upcoming 18 months. She explained its intention to build off of the current State Arts Plan while responding to changing global conditions as the arts and culture sector reacts to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, she said, the OAC was developing its on-year application to submit to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Ms. Collins shared that the OAC received budget guidance from the Ohio Office of Budget and Management for FY 2022-23. She said the agency was currently drafting its executive budget request, due in mid-September.

Next, Ms. Collins discussed the Ohio Arts Beacon of Light project, a multimedia outreach effort launched by the OAC in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She explained that the project was inspired by OAC board member Tina Husted, who wanted to create a digital space where artists of all ages, working in all disciplines, could gather to share their experiences, support each other, and showcase their artwork. Ms. Collins explained that the works shared through the Ohio Arts Beacon could be seen on OAC social media channels, as well as on YouTube, where in-depth featured artist interviews were published.

Ms. Collins shared an update from her work with the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission, saying the group had received preliminary approval from the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board to move forward with plans to erect a monument honoring the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Discussing staff professional development, Ms. Collins shared that the agency is participating in a 16-week course through the Cultural Equity Learning Community, a national cohort of arts and culture sector leaders aimed at building racial equity and justice in the arts.

Ms. Collins noted that the OAC had been working with Arts Midwest to support their work in the United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund, a national recovery initiative made possible by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Ms. Collins provided an update from the OAC's arts learning team, explaining that Arts Learning Coordinator Chiquita Mullins Lee was working with her national *Poetry Out Loud* partners to adapt the program to the uncertainties of the 2020-21 school year. Ms. Collins also complimented Ms. Mullins Lee and Arts Learning Coordinator Jarred Small on their work with

constituents whose arts education grant activities were disrupted due to changes to operations at schools across the state in spring of 2020.

Ms. Collins shared staff had begun to identify options for proceeding with honoring the 2020 Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio winners after the luncheon event had to be rescheduled due to COVID-19. Comparable efforts were underway to research alternative methods and strategies for hosting the Arts Impact Ohio statewide conference, which was similarly affected. In the meantime, Ms. Collins said, virtual professional development opportunities continued to be presented through the OAC's monthly webinar series.

Ms. Collins also provided the board with information regarding the OAC's Riffe Gallery, specifically mentioning the upcoming exhibition *Paper Routes: Women to Watch 2020 - Ohio*, set to open on July 30. This exhibition, Ms. Collins said, was a collaboration with the Ohio Advisory Group of the National Museum of Women in the Arts. She reminded the board that the gallery offers extensive digital archives and virtual programming such as artist talks, exhibition tours, and artmaking workshops, which allow the gallery to engage audiences while practicing safe physical distancing.

Finally, Ms. Collins informed the board that the agency's fiscal office has been working on fulfilling requests related to the ongoing state audit, which she said should be completed by the end of the summer.

Thanking Ms. Collins for her report, Mr. Dicke praised the OAC staff for their innovation in adjusting to changing work environments and complimented their dedication to serving constituents in turbulent times.

#### **QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE REPORTS**

Mr. Dicke reviewed the agency's quarterly expenditure report covering the second quarter of FY 2020.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Tom Johnson, to approve the quarterly expenditure report for the second quarter of FY 2020. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Mr. Dicke then guided the board through its review of the expenditure report for the third quarter of FY 2020. He mentioned that this quarter spanned January through March 2020 and was therefore impacted by the onset of the coronavirus and related closures and shutterings. Drawing attention to the grant expenditure activity during this quarter, Mr. Dicke explained that the OAC began issuing partial payments to grantees in early March in an effort to alleviate serious cashflow issues that occurred when economic activity abruptly stopped and grantees shuttered in response to the spread of the coronavirus in Ohio. Mr. Dicke added that the OAC was praised by constituents for this decision to expeditiously issue partial payments to pre-approved grants, and he invited Ms. Collins to provide additional information about

how this plan was carried out. Ms. Collins explained that the issuing of partial payments was directly inspired by the OAC's desire to provide support to arts organizations throughout Ohio who were undergoing unexpected cancelations, closures, and other pandemic-related uncertainties. Drawing on existing agency policy regarding partial payments to grantees, the decision, Ms. Collins said, was made in March to get grant money to constituents as quickly as possible. Thus, the OAC's investment office began auto-issuing partial payments to the great appreciation of grantees.

Continuing his review, Mr. Dicke explained that administrative expenses in the report reflected early cost-saving measures adopted by the OAC. He acknowledged that some staff members had experienced pay cuts and that there were freezes in place on new contracts, staff travel, and new hires. He asked Ms. Collins to elaborate. Ms. Collins shared that approximately half of the OAC's staff had been issued pay cuts, which included 10 mandatory cost-savings days, as well as a freeze on any step increases, pay increases, or cost-of-living increases. Ms. Collins also detailed the work of OAC staff in conducting a full review of agency expenses with the intent of self-identifying other opportunities to reduce administrative costs. Ms. Collins commended the staff for their creativity, honesty, and teamwork in undertaking this project.

MOTION by Dave Barber, seconded by Bill White, to approve the quarterly expenditure report for the third quarter of FY 2020. **Motion carried without dissent.**

#### **RATIFICATION REPORT**

Mr. Dicke briefly reviewed the ratification report.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Gary Hanson, to approve the ratification report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

#### **STATE AND FEDERAL BUDGET UPDATE**

Mr. Dicke began the state and federal budget update by acknowledging the negative impact of the coronavirus and its resulting consequences affecting state and federal budgets. He paused to reflect on the sacrifices made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including those made by the arts and cultural sector of the economy. He asked Ms. Collins to share with the board updates related to the OAC's budget.

Ms. Collins said the agency had received FY 2020-21 budget guidance from the Ohio Office of Budget and Management throughout the spring. The state, Ms. Collins explained, faced a significant revenue shortfall caused by the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Continuing, she said that projections for FY 2021 remain lower than original budgeted estimates, and she added that OBM believes, based on current economic indicators, that state revenue will fall approximately \$2 billion less than pre-pandemic estimates. For FY 2021, approximately \$3 million originally budgeted for the agency had been placed in a hold

account that the agency was advised it may not be able to spend, she said. Accordingly, Ms. Collins said grant budget reductions were spread across programs based on application numbers, panel recommendations, and cost-saving measures.

### **FY 2021 BUDGET ALLOCATION REVISIONS**

Mr. Dicke led the board in reviewing proposed revisions to grant budget allocations. He said that Ms. Collins and Mr. Katona developed the figures based on budget reductions faced by the agency, the needs of constituents, and the application levels for funding.

Explaining further, Ms. Collins stated that each year, the OAC examines the number of applicants in each grant program and their funding requests in order to determine the budget recommendations presented to the board. She reviewed decreases in budget allocation for agency administration as well as operating support, project support, arts learning, and other grant areas.

Mr. Dicke thanked Ms. Collins for her detailed explanation. Mr. White expressed his relief that the budget cuts were less damaging than what he had expected, a sentiment Mr. Dicke echoed. Mr. Dicke added his gratitude for the effort made to lessen the impact of the economic situation on OAC grantees and thanked Ms. Collins and her team for their compassion and care in preparing the revisions.

MOTION by Bill White, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, to approve the proposed FY 2021 budget allocation revisions. **Motion carried without dissent.**

### **GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

Mr. Dicke started consideration of grant recommendations with Sustainability for Large Organizations. He reminded the board that this was an off-year for multiple-year grant programs, including Sustainability. He explained that the Sustainability program provides operating support for hundreds of arts organizations throughout Ohio. Being a four-year grant program, Sustainability is the longest cycle of grants awarded by the OAC, and FY 2021 represented the second year of the cycle. The largest 40 organizations in Ohio were considered in the “Large” category, Mr. Dicke said, before inviting Mr. Katona to elaborate.

Mr. Katona reminded the board that this was the second year of using the new method of setting the “Large” threshold at the largest 40 organizations. He then reviewed changes to the cover sheets that introduce each set of grant recommendations, for example, the number of applications received and the number of applications that have been withdrawn by the applicant due to COVID-19. Mr. Katona clarified that this information was new to these reports and was the result of OAC staff reaching out to applicants following panel meetings to check on whether grantees anticipated any changes to their grant activities. He noted that none of the largest organizations in the Sustainability program withdrew their applications.

Mr. Katona then discussed the funding formula for the Sustainability for Large Organizations grant program and grant reductions.

MOTION by Gary Hanson, seconded by Monica Kridler, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendations for Large Organizations, excluding the Toledo Museum of Art, the Dayton Art Institute, and all Cuyahoga County recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Dave Barber, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendation for Large Organizations for the Toledo Museum of Art. **Motion carried without dissent. Susan Allan Block left the room for discussion and vote.**

Mr. Dicke asked Ms. Collins to assume the chair for the next vote.

MOTION by Monica Kridler, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendation for Large Organizations for the Dayton Art Institute. **Motion carried without dissent. Jim Dicke left the room for discussion and vote.**

Mr. Dicke resumed his role as chair.

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, 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. Dicke introduced the Sustainability grant recommendations for Mid-Sized Organizations, which he defined as organizations whose budgets fell below those of the 40 largest organizations but exceeded \$50,000. He asked Investment Director Dia Foley to provide an overview of the grant recommendations.

Ms. Foley highlighted elements of the grant program. She called attention to the number of applications received for this program, which totaled 261, a decrease of three applications from FY 2020. Ms. Foley explained that one organization withdrew due to the COVID-19 pandemic and two other organizations withdrew their applications because they would no longer be programming during FY 2021. Lastly, she shared that eligible income calculated for these organizations last year was carried over in response to the coronavirus' impact.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Dave Barber, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendations for Mid-Sized Organizations, excluding the Canton Ballet, Canton Museum of Art, Canton Symphony Orchestra Association, Massillon Museum, Players Guild of Canton, Voices of Canton, Momentum, Pomerene Center for the Arts, Darke County Center for the Arts, and all Cuyahoga County organizations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Monica Kridler, seconded by Bill White, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendations for Mid-Sized Organizations for the Canton Ballet, Canton Museum of Art, Canton Symphony Orchestra Association, Massillon Museum, Players Guild of Canton, and Voices of Canton. **Motion carried without dissent. Robb Hankins left the room for discussion and vote.**

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

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

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Dave Barber, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendation for Mid-Sized Organizations for all Cuyahoga County organizations. **Motion carried without dissent. Gary Hanson left the room for discussion and vote.**

#### ***Arts Access***

Mr. Dicke introduced Arts Access grant recommendations. He reminded the board that the Arts Access program was similar to Sustainability in that it provides general operating support, but for small organizations with budgets less than \$50,000. Arts Access grants were two-year awards, and FY 2021 was the second and final year for the current cycle. Mr. Dicke invited Ms. Foley to present the recommendations. Ms. Foley shared that the Arts Access program had 51 applications, none of which requested to be withdrawn for any reason.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Dave Barber, to accept the Arts Access grant recommendation excluding all Cuyahoga County organizations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

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

#### ***Statewide Arts Service Organizations (SASO)***

Mr. Dicke introduced the Statewide Arts Service Organizations (SASO) grant recommendations. He reminded the board that this was a relatively new grant program that recognized the role these organizations perform in supplementing the work of the OAC. The grants require completion of certain partnership opportunities with the agency, such as leading professional development opportunities, hosting field visits, and sharing their expertise with the OAC and others in the arts community. Mr. Dicke asked Mr. Katona to elaborate more on these activities, and Mr. Katona shared that the OAC was pleased with the

progress made so far. He admitted that, due to the COVID-19 response, some of the previously planned partnership activities with the six SASOs had to be rescheduled or adjusted. Nevertheless, he thanked them for their flexibility and involvement.

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Bill White, to accept the Statewide Arts Service Organizations grant recommendation. **Motion carried without dissent.**

### ***Arts Partnership***

Mr. Dicke introduced the Arts Partnership grant program, reminding the board that Arts Partnership grant recipients were currently in the second year of a two-year funding cycle. He introduced Ms. Mullins Lee and Mr. Small, OAC arts learning coordinators, and asked them to present the Arts Learning section recommendations. Mr. Small reviewed the Arts Partnership program guidelines, and Ms. Mullins Lee then guided the board through the Arts Partnership grant recommendations. Of the 77 applications recommended for funding, only one was withdrawn due to reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic, she said.

Expressing curiosity regarding the withdrawn applications, Mr. White asked what would happen to the grant funding set aside for that application. He also asked if the decision to withdraw an application was made by the applicant and if the OAC takes any steps to advise or guide applicants through that process. Ms. Mullins Lee responded that the organization did request that their application be withdrawn and clarified that this was due to the nature of the grant activities proposed—face-to-face interactions with senior adults, a concerning activity during the coronavirus pandemic. The organization had been encouraged to reapply for funding next year, she added.

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Bill White, to accept the Arts Partnership grant recommendations, excluding the Canton Museum of Art, Stark County Educational Service Center (ESC), and all Cuyahoga County organizations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Dave Barber, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, to accept the Arts Partnership grant recommendations for the Canton Museum of Art and Stark County ESC. **Motion carried without dissent. Robb Hankins left the room for discussion and vote.**

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Monica Kridler, 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***

Moving to the grant recommendations for the TeachArtsOhio program, Mr. Dicke summarized the program, highlighting its impetus as an initiative to improve the manner in which the agency conducts artist residencies, as well as its growth to include teaching artist activities occurring virtually in a time of school closures and distance learning. Mr. Dicke commended

the OAC staff for their work in expanding the program throughout the state, particularly to underserved communities. He then invited Mr. Small to present the grant recommendations.

Mr. Small reminded the board that the TeachArtsOhio program covered artist fees for teaching artists working in a variety of art forms and disciplines, alleviating financial burdens from schools and district budgets while providing high-quality, personal arts learning experiences to students. He explained that the TeachArtsOhio panel review process for FY 2021 grants was conducted virtually over two days—the first TeachArtsOhio panel review to span more than one day and the first-ever OAC panel review held in an entirely digital forum. Referencing the TeachArtsOhio grant recommendation overview table, Mr. Small mentioned that the OAC received 62 TeachArtsOhio applications this year, a record for this grant program. Furthermore, he said, more than half of the applications received were submitted by new applicants to the program, 24 of which were recommended for funding.

Ms. Kridler asked if there were any contingency plans in place for teaching artists unable to physically visit schools during their residency period due to school districts' response to the spread of COVID-19. Mr. Small said that the OAC would exercise flexibility in assisting grantees with adjusting their programs and plans. He added that when schools began to close and switch to remote learning options in spring of 2020, he was glad to see many teaching artists offer virtual arts learning experiences for the students. He thanked teaching artists, teachers, and administrators for their willingness to approach logistical challenges with creativity and innovation as schools looked to operations for the next academic year.

Mr. White asked whether grant recipients whose TeachArtsOhio programs had been canceled entirely would have the opportunity to use their funds for future projects or other operational needs. Mr. Small responded that the funds were only approved to pay for fees related to teaching artists, so they would not be able to be used for non-TeachArtsOhio expenses. He added that schools unable to carry out their artist residencies in any manner would be encouraged to reach out the OAC to discuss options for extending the grant projects. Ms. Collins added that, later in the meeting, the board would review the plan the agency has in place for any organization that needs to rescind its grant funding due to cancelation. Mr. Small said that the OAC's arts learning team worked with individual grantees personally to adjust their grant activities to meet changing needs or abilities. He added that the agency's overall goal in funding these residencies was to engage students in high-quality, professional arts learning experiences, so the OAC tries to preserve this mission for each grant.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Gary Hanson, to accept the TeachArtsOhio grant recommendations excluding all Cuyahoga County organizations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

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

### *ArtsNEXT*

Mr. Dicke introduced the Project Support grant programs, ArtsNext and ArtSTART. He shared that, in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the OAC staff reached out to applicants in both programs to ensure that activities and projects would still be moving forward as intended and described in the application.

Mr. Dicke invited Jim Szekacs, organizational programs coordinator, to present the ArtsNEXT grant recommendations. Mr. Szekacs outlined the grant program, defining the types of innovation championed by the program—incremental, transferrable, and disruptive—and providing examples of projects that would be considered innovative and experimental. Mr. Szekacs added that interest in the ArtsNEXT program continued to grow year after year, as seen in the 103 applications received for FY 2021 compared to the 77 received for FY 2020. In addition to the increase in overall applications, Mr. Szekacs also mentioned the interest of new applicants to the program, which made up more than half of the applications for this round of funding. Overall, Mr. Szekacs said, about 60 percent of applications were being recommended for funding.

MOTION by Dave Barber, seconded by Gary Hanson, to accept the ArtsNEXT grant recommendations, excluding the Canton Symphony Orchestra Association, Darke County Center for the Arts, Piqua Arts Council, and all Cuyahoga County organizations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Gary Hanson, seconded by Bill White, to accept the ArtsNEXT grant recommendation for the Canton Symphony Orchestra Association. **Motion carried without dissent. Robb Hankins left the room for discussion and vote.**

MOTION by Monica Kridler, seconded by Gary Hanson, to accept the ArtsNEXT grant recommendation for Darke County Center for the Arts and Piqua Arts Council. **Motion carried without dissent. Darryl Mehaffie left the room for discussion and vote.**

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Dave Barber, to accept the ArtsNEXT grant recommendation for all Cuyahoga County organizations. **Motion carried without dissent. Gary Hanson left the room for discussion and vote.**

### *ArtSTART*

Mr. Dicke introduced the ArtSTART general project support grant program and invited Janelle Hallett, organizational programs coordinator, to review the grant recommendations.

Ms. Hallett described the ArtSTART program and explained that 176 ArtSTART applications were reviewed. She noted that, despite the grant deadline falling in the early months of coronavirus-related shutdowns and stay-at-home orders, the number of applications received was only 10 fewer than the previous year.

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, to accept the ArtSTART grant recommendations, excluding the Piqua Arts Council and all Cuyahoga County organizations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Dave Barber, seconded by Gary Hanson, 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 Robb Hankins, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, 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 (Fee Support)***

Mr. Dicke asked Mr. Katona to review the Ohio Artists on Tour grant recommendations, who reviewed the program's process and procedures and provided a brief overview of the grant recommendations. He thanked Organizational Programs Coordinator Brianna Dance for her ongoing work with the Ohio Artists on Tour program.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Gary Hanson, to accept the Ohio Artists on Tour grant recommendations, excluding the Darke County Center for the Arts and all Cuyahoga County organizations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Dave Barber, 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.**

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Bill White, 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. Dicke began discussion of the Traditional Arts Apprenticeships grants with an overview of the program. He then invited Artist Programs Director Kathy Signorino and Artist Programs Coordinator Katie Davis to present the Traditional Arts Apprenticeships grant recommendations. Ms. Signorino introduced Ms. Davis, who led the board through its review.

MOTION by Dave Barber, seconded by Monica Kridler, to accept the Traditional Arts Apprenticeships grant recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Mr. Dicke directed the board to review the reports discussing organizations that submitted multiple applications for FY 2021 funding, as well as the FY 2021 Fund Every County report. He thanked everyone for their exceptional work during the virtual panel meetings.

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

Mr. Dicke asked Ms. Signorino to describe the process behind the selection of this year's Ohio Heritage Fellow. Ms. Signorino shared that Paschal Yao Younge of Athens, Ohio, had been selected for the Ohio Heritage Fellowship in the category of Performing Arts in recognition of his statewide impact through his mastery of African Traditional Musical Arts.

Mr. White asked if any video clips existed of Dr. Younge's musical performances. Ms. Signorino responded that many videos were available on his website and offered to share links to these recordings with the board following the meeting. She also reminded the board that each Ohio Heritage Fellow is featured in a video segment produced by ThinkTV in Dayton.

### ***Award Adjustment***

Mr. Dicke said that due to the uncertainties surrounding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting changes in the State of Ohio's economic response, the board would consider authorizing the executive director to adjust awards once the final budget is in place. He reminded the board that a similar authorization had unanimously passed in prior years.

MOTION by Bill White, seconded by Monica Kridler, to authorize the executive director to make such adjustments and alterations as found necessary to accomplish all previously approved grants, including adjustments and alterations to grant amounts because of funding limitations or increases pursuant to the final FY 2020-21 operating budget appropriations, or any adjustments and alterations due to unforeseen factors directly affecting the subject of the grants, such that any adjustments and alterations will not constitute any change in the purpose of the grants other than the grant amounts. **Motion carried without dissent.**

### ***Awarding Funds to the Next Highest Scorers***

Mr. Dicke explained that the board would next consider a motion to authorize the executive director to award grant funding to applicants with the next-highest scores in each grant program in the event that previously approved applications were withdrawn for any reason. He said that this would allow the agency to award newly freed-up dollars to deserving organizations without having to seek prior approval from the board on a case-by-case basis. He added that the board would still retain the power to ratify these awards later.

Mr. White asked for further clarification on how the awarding of these funds would proceed if one of the withdrawn applications was from a Fund Every County-designated grantee. Ms.

Collins responded that, in this situation, the agency would thoroughly review scores and consider other high-scoring Fund Every County applications a priority.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Bill White, to authorize the executive director to make awards to the next highest scorer or scorers in the event of a grant program withdrawal. **Motion carried without dissent.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS: STATE ARTS PLAN UPDATE**

Mr. Dicke invited Mr. Katona to discuss the OAC's State Arts Plan and its strategic plan. Mr. Katona began with a review of the agency's last two plans, which were both three-year plans. The first plan was launched during 2014-15 and included a full constituent field survey, conducted online with supplementary in-person focus groups and one-on-one interviews, which yielded more than 5,000 responses and reached all 88 counties. It was completed during an on-year for Ohio's three-year NEA application in 2014. The OAC's most recent plan, the State Arts Plan 2020, which was compiled and launched in 2017, scheduled to coincide with the agency's next required on-year NEA application in its three-year cycle.

Mr. Katona added that the initial intent was to launch another three-year plan in fall of 2020. Immediately before the pandemic, plans were underway to reprise the large online field survey and repeat a series of focus groups and interviews, in addition to collecting constituent feedback from event attendees at the Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio luncheon and the Arts Impact Ohio conference.

In March, these plans were initially paused, and then ultimately suspended, Mr. Katona explained. This decision was made for several reasons, the first being the fact that staff efforts needed to be redirected at multiple intensive short-term needs of the field related to the crisis. Second, Mr. Katona continued, OAC staff did not believe it was appropriate to ask constituents to set time aside thinking about the agency's strategic plan at a time when so many were in full-blown crisis. And third, he said, with events moving so rapidly, the OAC did not believe it was possible to realistically plan for three years at a time.

Mr. Katona then explained that a revised planning process has been proposed, featuring a shorter term "bridge" plan focused on the most essential elements facing the OAC and its constituents. This 18-month plan, Mr. Katona said, would include a variety of shorter-term measures directed at immediately responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, while reiterating the OAC's long-standing and continuing commitment to other longer-term measures, some of which will continue from the prior plan and be organized under the same four mission-centered pillars currently used by the OAC: Invest, Innovate, Engage, and Lead.

Mr. Katona explained that the OAC intends to conduct virtual focus groups organized by discipline, currently being scheduled to take place in early August. There are meetings scheduled to focus on constituents from music and dance, theatre and literature, the visual

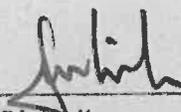
arts, multidisciplinary arts, and arts education, as well as conversations with individual artists and representatives of major institutions.

To further inform planning, Mr. Katona said the OAC hoped to reach out to small groups of arts patrons, rural arts organizations, and perhaps other constituent groups. He added that board members would be invited to take part in one-on-one interviews with Ms. Collins later this summer for their input as the process moves forward. Other information-gathering efforts will take place via constituent responses in grant award Final Reports.

Looking ahead to next steps, Mr. Katona said the agency would complete an initial draft of the “essentials plan” in August, with a final draft to be shared with the Executive Committee and full board. This 18-month plan would also be included in the OAC’s NEA application. Mr. Katona said the agency expects the “essentials plan” to be fully underway by January 1, 2021, concluding in June 2022. Following the expiration of the “essentials plan” in June 2022, Mr. Katona said, the OAC would likely undertake a second, shorter-term 18-month plan. Doing so would allow the agency to resume its three-year planning cycle.

Mr. Dicke thanked Mr. Katona for his report, and extended thanks to the OAC board and staff. His gratitude was echoed by several board members.

The meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.



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*Jim Dicke II*  
OAC Vice-Chair



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*Robert Hankins*  
OAC Board Secretary