

**OHIO ARTS COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ginger Warner at 10:09 a.m. in the offices of the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) in Columbus. Board members in attendance: Ginger Warner, chair; Jane Foulk, secretary; Caprice Bragg; Juan Cespedes; Robb Hankins; Gary Hanson; Jon Holt; Tom Johnson; Monica Kridler; Darryl Mehaffie; Farid Naffah; and Bill White. Board members not in attendance: Jim Dicke, vice-chair; Susan Allan Block; Neal Zimmers; Rep. Mike Duffey; Rep. Teresa Fedor; and Sen. Matt Dolan. Staff attending: Donna Collins, Dan Katona, Justin Nigro, Ken Emerick, Dia Foley, Amanda Etchison, Jim Szekacs, Chiquita Mullins Lee, Jarred Small, and Carla Oesterle. Also in attendance: Tony DiMenna, office of Sen. Michael Skindell; Hilary Damaser, principal assistant attorney general; Dave Lucas, Ohio Poet Laureate; Bill Behrendt, executive director, Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA); Bill Blair, OCA legislative counsel; and Kayla Draper, OAC fellow.

Chair Ginger Warner welcomed board members and notified them of various committee meeting cancellations—namely, the Nominating Committee, which had been scheduled to meet January 13; the morning Finance Committee; and the afternoon Executive Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Robb Hankins had a correction to the minutes from the October 4 Programs, Panels, and Public Policy Committee to note that Darryl Mehaffie called the meeting to order in Mr. Hankins' absence.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Jane Foulk, to approve minutes from the committee meetings of August 30, September 30, and October 4, 2017, including the above correction. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Jane Foulk, seconded by Juan Cespedes, to approve minutes from the board meeting of October 4 and committee meeting of November 30, 2017. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Gary Hanson, to correct minutes from the October 4 board meeting to rectify the date. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Jon Holt joined the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

CHAIRMAN and DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Ms. Warner said the board would hear from newly named Ohio Poet Laureate, receive a Governor's Awards for the Arts update, consider expenditure and ratification reports, and preview the upcoming year.

Executive Director Donna Collins provided her report:

- Partnerships continue with the Ohio Departments of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC), Education, Aging, and the Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC).
- Ms. Collins and ADA Coordinator Kim Turner will be attending and presenting on accessibility at the upcoming Arts Midwest regional meeting.
- *Quilt National 2017* opens at the OAC's Riffe Gallery on January 25, with the current lobby exhibition featuring artwork by Ohio inmates.

Ms. Collins invited supervisors to present. Operations and Public Affairs Director Justin Nigro provided updates on the Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio, website improvements, and the Ohio House of Representatives Student Art Exhibition. Tom Johnson asked how the OAC monitors website traffic, and Mr. Nigro responded that the agency uses Google Analytics. Ms. Warner thanked Mr. Nigro for his work in these areas and others.

Investment Director Dia Foley updated the board on various grant deadlines, applications received, upcoming panel meetings, and reports. She said grant applications had increased again. Ms. Warner asked to have reminders sent to board members before grant panel meetings. Mr. Hankins asked how disabilities were determined for the Artists with Disabilities Access Program. Ms. Foley said the agency does not require applicants to specify their disabilities, but they do attest to having a disability through signing their application. Ms. Foley credited the work of VSA Ohio and OAC Investment Associate and ADA Coordinator Kim Turner in this regard.

Artist Programs and Percent for Art Director Ken Emerick briefed the board on the recently concluded Individual Excellence Award panels, the agency's collaboration with OCRC on a youth photography exhibition, and the status of current Percent for Art projects. Ms. Collins thanked Juan Cespedes for facilitating the agency's OCRC partnership. Responding to Mr. Johnson, Mr. Emerick said the Percent for Art requirement is triggered when the state appropriates \$4 million for a specific capital project, with some exceptions. Ms. Warner believed it worth pursuing promotion of Percent for Art to legislators, and Darryl Mehaffie asked about outreach to local elected officials at project dedications. Mr. Emerick said outreach depended on the partnering agency's desires. Mr. Mehaffie and Ms. Warner thought informational packets might be helpful to brief legislators on projects in their districts. Responding further to Mr. Mehaffie, Mr. Emerick said about 25 states have similar programs. Mr. Mehaffie believed the uniqueness of Ohio's program would merit positive attention from legislators, and Mr. Emerick agreed and committed to continuing to improve promotion of the program alongside communications staff. Monica Kridler inquired whether Percent for Art projects could be showcased at the Governor's Awards for the Arts luncheon, and Ms. Warner acknowledged that the scripted portion of the event was under time constraints, but another sort of presentation of the projects might be possible at the luncheon. Mr. Mehaffie asked whether university trustees were involved with Percent for Art projects, given their wide networks that could be deployed to promote the artwork, Mr. Emerick said university projects

largely relied on interactions among Percent for Art committees, rather than university trustees, due to time commitments; however, project timelines allowed time for input from university authorizers.

Deputy Director Dan Katona updated the board on the agency's Fund Every County initiative, development of the staff's work plan for *State Arts Plan 2020*, and the National Endowment for the Arts' positive panel review of the OAC's state partnership agreement on-year application. He said the NEA panel particularly complimented the agency's service to the underserved; increase in its administrative line item; full staff participation in strategic planning; statewide arts conferences; revamped grant guidelines, structure, and online system; and initiatives like Fund Every County and TeachArtsOhio. Responding to Ms. Kridler, Mr. Katona clarified the conferences referenced included Arts Impact Ohio and Creative Ohio.

To conclude, Ms. Collins thanked the board for trusting the staff to continue their good work.

POET LAUREATE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Warner reported on the Ohio Poet Laureate Committee's work to make recommendations on the 2018-19 laureateship to Governor John Kasich. The committee recommended and Governor Kasich appointed Dave Lucas of Cuyahoga County, whom Ms. Warner invited to speak to the board. Mr. Lucas thanked the board and committee. He discussed work planned during his laureateship to celebrate both traditional and non-traditional forms of poetry. In practical terms, he intended to make daily posts of poems by Ohio poets on social media, adapt his course "Poetry for People Who Hate Poetry" to other formats and venues, publish a regular column and/or podcast, and take advantage of unique opportunities (e.g., a joint reading with the Indiana Poet Laureate). Mr. Johnson offered the idea of a poetry reading before the legislature. Mr. Hankins inquired further about non-traditional poetry, and Mr. Lucas drew a connection between classical literature and modern-day rap. Jon Holt asked how Mr. Lucas would measure success, and Mr. Lucas thought it would become evident in the long-run (e.g., decades) rather than immediately. Mr. Cespedes asked Mr. Lucas to speak about his ideas to promote readership, and Mr. Lucas said he admired former Poet Laureate Amit Majmudar's efforts to pair students with poets. Mr. Lucas concluded by reciting his poem "Midwestern Cities" and invited the board to provide him input throughout his term.

Ms. Warner informed the board of the committee's selection process, including its successful use of an out-of-state poet to help the committee analyze candidates' work and provide an objective viewpoint.

MOTION by Gary Hanson, seconded by Monica Kridler, to approve the Poet Laureate Committee report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Warner invited Mr. Cespedes to provide a report on the Awards Committee's activity. Together they thanked the committee, including its representatives from Ohio Citizens for the Arts, for their efforts. Mr. Cespedes complimented and listed the 2018 winners.

MOTION by Bill White, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, to approve the Awards Committee report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE REPORT AND RATIFICATION REPORT

Ms. Warner said that the morning's Finance Committee did not meet due to the lack of a quorum, so the board would proceed to review the agency's quarterly expenditure report and ratification report. There were no questions.

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, to approve the quarterly expenditure report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Jane Foulk, to approve the quarter's ratification report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

DISCUSSION ON ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD SECRETARY

Ms. Warner reported that the Nominating Committee, which typically recommends a slate of members for the Executive Committee, did not meet due to inclement weather. In light of this, Ms. Warner saw an opportunity to be more open, transparent, and inclusive. She invited the board to choose either to elect the positions now or delay election until the April 2018 board meeting. She also distributed the state law and rules that govern the agency, as well as the board's current structure of standing committees. She noted that the Executive Committee would be charged with making recommendations for rule changes given that the agency's five-year rule review requirement occurs in January 2019. Mr. Cespedes, Gary Hanson, and Jane Foulk recommended taking up the issue at the April meeting.

MOTION by Jon Holt, seconded by Caprice Bragg, to waive the board-level policy that the Nominating Committee present a slate of nominees for Executive Committee membership. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Jon Holt, seconded by Monica Kridler, to accept nominations from the floor for the position of board secretary and positions on the Executive Committee at the April 25, 2018 board meeting. **Motion carried without dissent.**

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Warner thanked the board for completing individual ethics training requirements for 2017. She then reminded board members that financial disclosure statement filing for 2018 (covering 2017) would be due by May 15, 2018.

Ms. Warner noted that Ms. Collins would receive the Distinguished Service Award from the Ohio Music Education Association, the highest award conferred by the group.

Ms. Warner then shared a *New York Times* article on the Cleveland Orchestra, which turns 100 in 2018. Mr. Hanson, who served the orchestra for 28 years, restated his quote in the article—that the Cleveland Orchestra promotes itself not with its words, but with its performances.

Ms. Warner next invited board members to share news:

- Mr. Hankins highlighted increased collaboration between tourism and the arts in Stark County, made further possible through the county's recently increased bed tax.
- Mr. Johnson said Columbus Sister Cities had planned a visit to Genoa, Italy, in March to exchange ideas, develop cultural connections, and experience art.
- Mr. Cespedes shared that the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board Foundation had named its 2018 Great Ohioans—President William McKinley and author Virginia Hamilton.
- Ms. Kridler said Momentum would be livestreaming internationally its upcoming performance “We Are Stars” and is launching a program called Chance to Dance for children with disabilities.
- Caprice Bragg shared that the 2018 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony would take place in Cleveland in April, now occurring every other year in the city.

Darryl Mehaffie left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

THE YEAR AHEAD

Ms. Warner noted her interest in how the arts work across disciplines and her hope to remain forward-looking as an agency. Mr. Johnson mentioned the significant movement to incorporate the arts into therapy and addiction recovery.

Viewing the year ahead, Ms. Collins shared constituents' interest in convening at a conference to network and share best practices. She said the OAC planned to meet this need in late 2018 or early 2019. Ms. Collins discussed Creating Connection, a national movement to align arts messaging aimed at building public will. Ms. Collins said the OAC continued to meet with other state agency staff at ODRC on programming and the Ohio Department of Education on data collection and planning.

Bill White left the meeting at 12:12 p.m.


OHIO CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS (OCA) REPORT


OCA Executive Director Bill Behrendt thanked the OAC for continuing to incorporate OCA board member input into the Governor's Awards recommendation process. He listed eight new board members to OCA. He said National Arts Advocacy Day (NAAD) would be March 12-13, 2018 and detailed the latest short-term federal funding measure passed by the U.S.

Congress. He did not believe year-long federal fiscal year 2018 would be in place for the NEA in time for NAAD. Planning for the Arts Day kickoff event was well underway, as well as other portions of the day, through OCA's Arts Day Committee. He thanked the OAC for funding updated economic impact research through the OCA Foundation. He discussed the future changing political landscape, with all statewide offices, the entire Ohio House of Representatives, and half of the Ohio Senate up for election.

OCA Legislative Counsel Bill Blair reported that the Speaker of the Ohio House and President of the Ohio Senate had invited the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra and Youth Chorus to perform in the Statehouse Atrium on March 6. In addition, the Cleveland Orchestra has planned advocacy on that day. Mr. Blair briefed the board on the legislature's capital budgeting process. He promoted the importance of advocacy during an election year.

The meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.


Geraldine B. Warner
OAC Board Chair


Robert Hankins
OAC Board Secretary