

**OHIO ARTS COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING
JULY 25, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ginger Warner at 9:37 a.m. in the offices of the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) in Columbus. Board members in attendance: Ginger Warner, chair; Susan Allan Block; Robb Hankins; Gary Hanson; Tom Johnson; Monica Kridler; Darryl Mehaffie; Farid Naffah; Bill White; Neal Zimmers; and Sen. Michael Skindell. Board members not in attendance: Jim Dicke, vice-chair; Jane Foulk, secretary; Caprice Bragg; Juan Cespedes; Jon Holt; Rep. Mike Duffey; Rep. Teresa Fedor; and Sen. Matt Dolan. Staff attending: Donna Collins, Dan Katona, Justin Nigro, Dia Foley, Amanda Etchison, Katie Monahan, Jim Szekacs, Chiquita Mullins Lee, Jarred Small, Brianna Dance, Kathy Signorino, Janelle Hallett, and Mary Gray. Also in attendance: Greg Phelps, office of Sen. Michael Skindell; Dale Vitale, assistant attorney general; Caroline Delaney, 2018 Ohio *Poetry Out Loud* State Champion, and Michelle Delaney; Bill Blair, legislative counsel, Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA); Beth Graham, OAC fellow; and Alexa Demyan, OAC fellow.

Chair Ginger Warner welcomed board members; congratulated Darryl Mehaffie, Dr. Farid Naffah, and Neal Zimmers on their reappointments; and summarized the day's large agenda.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Warner reported on discussions at the Executive Committee's April meeting, where the committee's sole voting item was to unanimously approve the FY 2018 Individual Excellence Award grant recommendations in total.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Monica Kridler, to accept the Executive Committee report and ratify the FY 2018 Individual Excellence Award grant recommendations, as approved by the Executive Committee. **Motion carried without dissent.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Gary Hanson, to approve minutes from the board meeting of January 24, 2018 and committee meeting of April 25, 2018. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Tom Johnson joined the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

FY 2019 BUDGET ALLOCATION REVISIONS

Ms. Warner presented the agency's FY 2019 budget allocation revisions, reviewing the agency's financial position. She said the state's portion of the OAC's budget was essentially flat from the prior year due to the state's difficult fiscal environment. For the ninth year in a row, Ms. Warner shared that the OAC would receive the second-highest grant in the country from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). She noted that all of the agency's federal

funds are reinvested as grants, and peers at the federal and state level had taken note of the OAC's funding of all 88 counties.

Executive Director Donna Collins provided more detail on revisions to the FY 2019 budget allocations, highlighting their adjustments for program application levels, panel cut-off scores, and other factors. She noted that Creative Aging Ohio had been rolled into other Project Support categorical grant programs. Similarly, Artist Express and Artist in Residence were incorporated into TeachArtsOhio.

MOTION by Neal Zimmers, seconded by Monica Kridler, to approve the revised FY 2019 budget allocation. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Ms. Warner shared that Wisconsin Congressman Glenn Grothman had offered an amendment to cut NEA funding by 15 percent, or \$23 million, which Congress rejected. She shared the roll call listing the votes of all members of Congress, including the Ohio delegation.

QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE REPORTS

Ms. Warner reviewed the agency's quarterly expenditure reports covering the second and third quarters of FY 2018.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Neal Zimmers, to approve the quarterly expenditure report for the second quarter of FY 2018. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Gary Hanson, to approve the quarterly expenditure report for the third quarter of FY 2018. **Motion carried without dissent.**

GRANT RATIFICATION REPORT

Ms. Warner next reviewed the agency's quarterly ratification report.

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Bill White, to approve the quarterly ratification report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Sustainability for Large Organizations

Ms. Warner started consideration of grant recommendations with Sustainability for Large Organizations. She reminded the board that the recommendations are for the last year in a four-year cycle. Investment Office Director Dia Foley provided detail on the Sustainability funding formula.

In response to Ms. Warner, Ms. Foley also elaborated on operation of the bonus pool and sources of ineligible income for Sustainability award calculation. Responding to Robb

Hankins, Ms. Foley detailed the process for determining the top four awards, and Ms. Warner noted that those awards are capped at \$600,000.

MOTION by Bill White, seconded by Gary Hanson, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendations for Large Organizations, excluding the Toledo Museum of Art, Ballet Metropolitan, the Musical Arts Association (i.e., the Cleveland Orchestra), and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Bill White, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, 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.**

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Neal Zimmers, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendation for Large Organizations for Ballet Metropolitan. **Motion carried without dissent. Monica Kridler left the room for discussion and vote.**

MOTION by Bill White, seconded by Monica Kridler, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendations for Large Organizations for the Musical Arts Association and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. **Motion carried without dissent. Ginger Warner left the room for discussion and vote.**

Sustainability for Mid-Sized Organizations

Ms. Warner introduced the Sustainability grant recommendations for Mid-Sized Organizations, and Deputy Director Dan Katona elaborated on the Sustainability funding formula for this grouping of grantees. He anticipated the number of grantees in this pool would increase next year as organizations gain grant history with the OAC to become eligible or grow into the pool.

Responding to Ms. Warner, Mr. Katona explained that asterisks denoted Fund Every County grantees, and she complimented the initiative in response. Bill White asked about public university funding and their eligibility per the categories, and Ms. Foley explained how various universities segregate their income and arts entities. Gary Hanson clarified that an organization need not be a 501(c)(3) for the Mid-Sized category. Mr. Hankins asked how similar the OAC's process was to other states, and Mr. Katona said he believed there was general similarity with some differences across the states.

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Gary Hanson, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendations for Mid-Sized Organizations, excluding the Canton Ballet, Canton Museum of Art, Canton Symphony, Massillon Museum, Players Guild of Canton, Voices of Canton, Cuyahoga Valley Youth Ballet, Pomerene Center for the Arts, and Darke County Center for the Arts. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Gary Hanson, seconded by Bill White, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendations for Mid-Sized Organizations for the the Canton Ballet, Canton Museum of Art, Canton Symphony, 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 Tom Johnson, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendations for Mid-Sized Organizations for the Cuyahoga Valley Youth Ballet and the Pomerene Center for the Arts. **Motion carried without dissent. Monica Kridler left the room for discussion and vote.**

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

Arts Access

Ms. Warner introduced and Mr. Katona briefly described Arts Access grant recommendations. He again said he believed more organizations would be eligible for Arts Access next year having gained grant history in the last four years.

Ms. Warner asked about the agency's outreach to grantees who leave Arts Access or do not apply, and Ms. Collins confirmed that OAC staff does perform extensive outreach given the smaller organizational size in this category.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Neal Zimmers, to accept the Arts Access grant recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Arts Partnership

Ms. Warner invited Chiquita Mullins Lee and Jarred Small, OAC arts learning coordinators, to present the Arts Learning section recommendations, beginning with Arts Partnership, and Ms. Mullins Lee reviewed the recommendations for the program.

Tom Johnson asked about the timing of the next round and complexity of the application. Ms. Mullins Lee said the next deadline was March 1 and application complexity varies depending on experience. Ms. Collins noted that applications are aligned to *Guidelines* criteria, and OAC staff help applicants through the process.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Bill White, to accept the Arts Partnership grant recommendations, excluding the Canton Museum of Art, Stark County Educational Service Center (ESC), Momentum, and the Musical Arts Association. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Several board members questioned whether an individual working for an organization that also funds an OAC grantee actually constituted a conflict of interest for the individual.

Assistant Attorney General Dale Vitale indicated it did not seem to constitute a conflict. However, out of an abundance of caution, he advised, and board members continued, to observe extant conflict of interest protocol until further clarity could be provided.

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

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Gary Hanson, to accept the Arts Partnership grant recommendation for Momentum. **Motion carried without dissent. Monica Kridler left the room for discussion and vote.**

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, to accept the Arts Partnership grant recommendation for the Musical Arts Association. **Motion carried without dissent. Ginger Warner left the room for discussion and vote.**

TeachArtsOhio

Ms. Warner summarized the TeachArtsOhio grant program, an initiative which now encapsulates all teaching artist residencies. Mr. Small elaborated on the program's history, including its positive external evaluation, and presented the TeachArtsOhio grant recommendations.

Mr. Hanson asked whether teaching artists who appear multiple times were adjudicated separately. Ms. Collins said that if an artist was selected multiple times, he or she could work in multiple schools if recommended, or he or she could refer schools to another artist if the timing did not work.

MOTION by Bill White, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, to accept the TeachArtsOhio grant recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Darryl Mehaffie left the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

ArtsNEXT

Ms. Warner turned to the Project Support category, inviting Jim Szekacs and Brianna Dance, organizational program coordinators, to present the ArtsNEXT grant recommendations. Mr. Szekacs outlined the grant program and observed its growth, crediting several Fund Every County grantees who were recommended for funding.

Neal Zimmers confirmed with Ms. Dance that capital expenses were ineligible for funding. Responding to Tom Johnson, Ms. Collins said summary sheets for Fund Every County grantees would be provided in the future.

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Neal Zimmers, to accept the ArtsNEXT grant recommendations, excluding the Canton Museum of Art, Momentum, the Pomerene Center for the Arts, and the Piqua Arts Council. **Motion carried without dissent.**

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

MOTION by Gary Hanson, seconded by Bill White, to accept the ArtsNEXT grant recommendations for Momentum and the Pomerene Center for the Arts. **Motion carried without dissent. Monica Kridler left the room for discussion and vote.**

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Gary Hanson, to accept the ArtsNEXT grant recommendation for the Piqua Arts Council. **Motion carried without dissent. Darryl Mehaffie had already left the room for discussion and vote.**

Darryl Mehaffie joined the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

ArtSTART

Mr. Warner invited Ms. Dance to review the ArtSTART grant recommendations. Ms. Dance reported that, like other programs, applications had increased by 15 percent, a trend the agency thought would continue.

Responding to Mr. White, Ms. Dance clarified the breakdown of panelists. Mr. Hankins asked about the staff's process for summarizing panelist comments, and Ms. Dance shared that written comments tried to reflect relation to the criteria. Mr. Szekacs said they reflected the general tenor of the panel's conversation, and Mr. Katona added that comments were now written to be truer to the panelists' actual remarks.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Gary Hanson, to accept the ArtSTART grant recommendations, excluding Momentum, the Piqua Arts Council, the Greenacres Foundation, and Great Parks Forever. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Susan Allan Block, to accept the ArtSTART grant recommendation for Momentum. **Motion carried without dissent. Monica Kridler left the room for discussion and vote.**

MOTION by Neal Zimmers, 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 Bill White, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, to accept the ArtSTART grant recommendations for the Greenacres Foundation and Great Parks Forever. **Motion carried without dissent. Ginger Warner left the room for discussion and vote.**

Sen. Michael Skindell left the meeting at 11 a.m.

Ohio Artists on Tour (Fee Support)

Ms. Warner asked Mr. Katona to review the Ohio Artists on Tour grant recommendations. He noted that this year's recommendations included some of the lessons learned from the Main Stage to Main Street initiative.

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Neal Zimmers, to accept the Ohio Artists on Tour grant recommendations, excluding the Pomerene Center for the Arts and the Darke County Center for the Arts. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Bill White, to accept the Ohio Artists on Tour grant recommendation for the Pomerene Center for the Arts. **Motion carried without dissent. Monica Kridler left the room for discussion and vote.**

MOTION by Gary Hanson, seconded by Bill White, 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.**

Traditional Arts Apprenticeships

Ms. Warner invited Artist Programs Coordinator Kathy Signorino to present the Traditional Arts Apprenticeships grant recommendations.

MOTION by Bill White, seconded by Neal Zimmers, to accept the Traditional Arts Apprenticeships grant recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Ohio Heritage Fellowships

Ms. Signorino described the process of the Traditional Arts Advisory Committee and the selection of this year's Ohio Heritage Fellow, Hasu Patel, a sitarist from Westlake.

RECITATION BY 2018 POETRY OUT LOUD CHAMPION CAROLINE DELANEY

Ms. Warner introduced Ohio *Poetry Out Loud* State Champion Caroline Delaney, a recent graduate of Chaminade Julianne Catholic High School in Dayton planning to study neuroscience on the pre-med track at Miami University. Ms. Collins expressed her pride in Ms. Delaney, and Susan Allan Block observed that Ohio's first Poet Laureate was also in the medical field. Ms. Delaney recited "Planetarium" by Adrienne Rich, and the board applauded.

The board recessed at 11:19 a.m. and resumed business at 11:55 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS: ELECTIONS OF BOARD SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ms. Warner reported that Mr. Hankins had expressed interest in serving as board secretary and a member of the Executive Committee. She asked for other nominations. Only Mr. Hankins came forward.

MOTION by Neal Zimmers, seconded by Gary Hanson, to close nominations for board secretary and thus elect Robb Hankins as board secretary and name him to the Executive Committee. **Motion carried without dissent and one abstention.** Robb Hankins abstained.

Ms. Warner reported next that Juan Cespedes, Jon Holt, and Mr. Johnson had expressed interest in serving on the Executive Committee. She asked for other nominations. Only Messrs. Cespedes, Holt, and Johnson had come forward.

MOTION by Neal Zimmers, seconded by Gary Hanson, to close nominations for the Executive Committee and thus name Juan Cespedes, Jon Holt, and Tom Johnson to the Executive Committee. **Motion carried without dissent.**

NEW BUSINESS: SUSTAINABILITY THRESHOLD FOR FY 2020-2023

Ms. Warner introduced the policy issue of setting a threshold for the Sustainability cut-off between large and mid-sized organizations with the on-year approaching. She said the threshold, currently based on operating budget size, allowed panels to better assess organizations against their peers by grouping organizations with similar budget sizes together. In the past, the board had taken into account information on inflation, the growth of the arts, and other factors as it made determinations, she said.

Ms. Collins and Mr. Katona provided an overview of the history of the threshold, and Mr. Katona walked through the memorandum outlining the agency's history of funding major institutions. He detailed four options for setting the threshold—1) to do nothing and leave the threshold at \$1.75 million, 2) to raise the threshold to \$2 million, 3) to raise the threshold to \$2.5 million, and 4) to change policy to fund a consistent number of the largest organizations in the Sustainability-Large category regardless of their specific annual budgets (i.e., the top 40 organizations in terms of operating budget size). The funding model breakout showed the effects of these options if the agency's funds were held flat and anticipated grantees moved in and out of Sustainability based on the varying threshold options.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Johnson asked about the cliff effect between the top four grantees and those immediately following them, which was evident under any option. Mr. Katona responded that the formula sequences making the top four awards first before computing other effects; thus, their base awards stay the same and are unaffected, unlike the other grantees. Notably, the income of the top four ranged between \$45-53 million, with the next closest grantee at \$23 million—a wide gap—which justified their treatment. Mr. Zimmers liked

the fourth option (i.e., the top 40) for its consistency and to avoid resetting the threshold somewhat arbitrarily in the final offyear, and Mr. Hanson generally agreed.

Mr. Hanson believed the constraint imposed by the 50 percent set-aside of the agency's subsidy line item for the Sustainability-Large organizations also had an effect on the grantees' potential awards. He noted that this percentage, set in 1979, could also be altered in order to provide more balance between the large and mid-sized categories. Mr. Katona noted that the mid-sized pool did not have a hard percentage, so it was more flexible for the agency to meet its needs. He said viewing the mid-sized category with a flat budget would also show similar reductions with about 75 expected new entrants, and Mr. Hanson concurred. Mr. Hanson concluded by reinforcing his point that an increase in the 50 percent figure could help alleviate the issue where many in the large pool seem to lose funding to allow for new entrants.

Ms. Block opened the topic of whether funding the top four in this manner was equitable, and Mr. Hanson shared that, from his experience, opening the top four to similar criteria could result in them receiving even more—that, in effect, they receive less than they otherwise would. He thought funding the top four similarly to the rest of the pool could swamp it. Ms. Block observed that the largest organizations have a much easier time fundraising than others. She thought they might need less help and could still be funded separately, and Mr. Hanson stated that this philosophy was embedded in the agency's current policy. Ms. Block repeated a concern she had heard that Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati receive more funding compared to the rest of the state. Mr. Johnson also said he was cognizant of this concern and asked whether OAC funding was meaningful to the largest organizations, and Mr. Hanson confirmed that it was significant.

Mr. Hankins favored the third option because the negative impacts were lessened. Mr. White believed some organizations could tolerate a decline better than others, although this was difficult to measure. He said there was a broad range of ramifications that would be hard to solve, although the agency had to be aware of its impact. Mr. Johnson asked whether increasing the size of the bonus pool would help alleviate some of the effects, and Mr. Katona said the existing 5 percent bonus pool would have an effect when Sustainability applicants are rescored next year. Mr. Hanson calculated that most OAC grants constitute around 1 percent of an organization's budget at this level. Mr. Katona said that the agency intended to continue its grandfathering method of leaving grantees within their respective large or mid-sized categories over the four-year course of the grant, readjusting in the on-year only.

Responding to Mr. Hankins, Ms. Foley outlined other grants for which Sustainability grantees could apply. Mr. Johnson asked about the agency's confidence in its panel scores, thinking that if the scores do matter, then growing the bonus pool would make them more meaningful. Responding to Ms. Kridler, Ms. Warner said the top four were essentially self-isolated given the size of their budgets compared to the others. Mr. Katona added that in

some states, the largest organizations will circumvent their state arts agencies to get earmarks or line items from the legislature, which can have a deleterious effect on overall public arts funding and advocacy with the collective field competing against each other, rather than rising together. Ohio, he observed, was fortunate to have avoided this issue. OCA Legislative Counsel Bill Blair echoed Mr. Katona's remarks, also stating that segregating the top four was important to keep them from absorbing funding for other large organizations. Ms. Collins said staff did not have a recommendation.

Ms. Warner restated the options. Mr. Hanson saw the third and fourth options as the most viable. He continued that, although the fourth option seemed to obviate the board from facing this decision again, the count of 40 could be altered too. He acknowledged the logic of setting it at 40, as Mr. Katona demonstrated that the Large category seemed to center on 40 grantees within the last 20 years. Responding to Ms. Kridler, Mr. Katona elaborated that while many in the large category have OAC grants that constitute 1 percent of their budgets, toward the end of the category, OAC grants may constitute as much as 3 percent. By keeping more organizations in the mid-sized category, it may force funding in that category to grow to avoid reductions in a flat environment, although this would be at the sacrifice of other grants in arts learning and project support, Mr. Katona and Ms. Collins said.

Mr. Hankins asked how many large organizations experienced reductions through the process four years ago, and Mr. Hanson and Ms. Foley found that the number of organizations in the large pool actually shrunk from 42 to 35, leaving potentially more funding for a fewer number of grantees. Mr. Johnson explored the topic of how much of a funding increase would hold all harmless at these projections and also wondered about the impact on the mid-sized pool. Mr. Zimmers thought the fourth option provided predictability, and Ms. Collins also said she believed it could provide certainty if left unchanged.

Mr. Hanson observed that the threshold was raised by 16.5 percent in the last cycle, which would equate to \$2.1 or \$2.2 million in monetary terms, near the third option's range. He shared that he had begun to believe it was healthy for the board to face this decision every four years, so it may not be wise to obviate it, and Ms. Warner agreed. Mr. Mehaffie said he approached these types of policy questions by seeking to minimize negative effects, which led him to favor the third option. Ms. Kridler sought to explore the third option further—whether a figure between \$2 and \$2.5 million might be workable. She thought it would be good to evaluate the board's decision—whatever it may be—throughout its lifespan. Mr. Hanson added that considering the issue earlier in the process would be helpful too, in four years' time.

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Bill White, to accept the fourth option (i.e., the Top 40 approach) as the method by which to set the Sustainability threshold. **Motion carried on a 6-4 vote.** Robb Hankins, Tom Johnson, Monica Kridler, and Darryl Mehaffie dissented.

Mr. Johnson, Mr. Hankins, Ms. Warner, and other board members complimented the board's civil, healthy discussion and process on this difficult decision. Ms. Block clarified that her affirmative vote was solely because she wanted to keep the top four within the agency's funding umbrella and avoid the temptation for them to seek separate earmarked or line item funding—not because she believed it was necessarily equitable. Ms. Collins reminded the board that all potential Sustainability grantees will still need to go through the full panel and application process, and Mr. Johnson and Ms. Warner asked to explore the question regarding the appropriate size of the 5 percent bonus pool.

NEW BUSINESS: FIVE-YEAR RULE REVIEW

Ms. Warner presented staff-proposed rule changes. She said the board must review its rules every five years before submitting them to the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR). She explained the operation and limitations of state rules and observed that the OAC's rules are nonregulatory in nature. Operations and Public Affairs Director Justin Nigro characterized the proposed rule amendments as relatively minor, with staff recommending most rules be filed with no change. Mr. Katona explained one somewhat significant change to the rules concerning the appointment of panelists, and Ms. Collins detailed a change to have Executive Committee appointments coincide with the fiscal year, rather than calendar year.

Mr. Hankins asked about having more flexibility around quorum, and Mr. Vitale said board members must be physically present to count for quorum and vote, unless specifically stipulated otherwise in state law. Mr. Nigro observed that the Executive Committee provided some flexibility to manage some business without a full board quorum, given that the committee possessed and exercised many powers of the board between its full meetings. Mr. White confirmed that items relative to the immediately preceding Sustainability threshold discussion were not in the agency's rules.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Bill White, to approve the agency rules as recommended to be modified in the third column of the crosswalk document. **Motion carried without dissent.**

CHAIR AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Executive Director Donna Collins provided the board with significant future dates. Board meeting dates would occur on October 17 in 2018 and on January 30, March 13, and July 17 in 2019. The agency's biennial professional development conference, Arts Impact Ohio, would be held on December 5-6, 2018. The next Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio would be on May 15, 2019. The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies conference would be October 30-November 3, 2018. Finally, the next OAC Riffe Gallery exhibition, *Creating Identity from Place*, would open on July 26, 2018.

Mr. Nigro reported that for the first time in decades, the agency had increased its permanent staff with the hiring of an additional communications strategist (i.e., public information

officer 1), who would focus on executing agency events; managing special projects; and fulfilling some of the OAC's photo, video, and design needs. He then introduced Katie Monahan, a 12-year veteran of the Ohio Supreme Court and graduate of the Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University, to the board.

Ms. Warner invited Ms. Signorino and Communications Strategist Amanda Etchison to describe the OAC's involvement at the Ohio State Fair. Ms. Signorino discussed the agency's awards at the fair for amateur, professional, and young artists; for specific disciplines encouraged by the fair; and for special purchases. Ms. Etchison said the Fine Arts Exhibition at the fair was one of the largest in the state, attracting as many as 53,000 visitors, according to Ohio Expositions Commission officials. More than 2,000 artworks from 600 artists were submitted, with 249 pieces of art selected from 125 amateur and 235 professional artists, she said. Artists collectively earned 55 awards totaling about \$22,000, with the OAC sponsoring 16 awards, including the People's Choice Award.

OHIO CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS (OCA) REPORT

Mr. Blair discussed the importance of arts advocacy in an election year. He observed that greater funding for the arts in Ohio could alleviate some of the negative effects of flat funding evident in the Sustainability threshold options model. He was pleased to see Congress on the whole reject reduced funding for the NEA, but worried that a bare majority of the Congressional majority voted for the proposed reduction. He complimented the OAC's leadership at the board and staff levels as well as OCA Executive Director Bill Behrendt. In turn, Ms. Kridler praised Mr. Blair and OCA's efforts over the decades, and Mr. Hankins and the board applauded his work. Mr. Mehaffie thanked OAC staff for carrying and executing a tremendous workload, expressing his deep appreciation.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.



Geraldine B. Warner
OAC Board Chair



Robert Hankins
OAC Board Secretary