

**OHIO ARTS COUNCIL  
BOARD MEETING  
JULY 20, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Ginger Warner at 10:32 a.m. in the offices of the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) in Columbus. Board members in attendance: Ginger Warner, chair; Robb Hankins, secretary; Tina Husted; Tom Johnson; Darryl Mehaffie; Adam Shank; Beth Waldren; Bill White; and Rep. Tavia Galonski. Board members not in attendance: Jim Dicke, vice chair; Jon Holt; Rita Mansour; Farid Naffah; Neal Zimmers; Rep. Sara Carruthers; and Sen. Matt Dolan. Staff attending: Donna Collins, Dan Katona, Justin Nigro, Carla Oesterle, Cat Sheridan, Chiquita Mullins Lee, Jarred Small, Brianna Dance, Jim Szekacs, Patrick Roehrenbeck, Chaz O'Neil, and Andrew Paa. Also in attendance: Ben Errig, Office of Sen. Teresa Fedor; Dale Vitale, assistant attorney general; Danny Eldridge, Hannah News Service; Anya Nelson, OAC marketing and exhibitions fellow; and Christopher Bowmaster, River Cities Symphony Orchestra.

Board Chair Ginger Warner welcomed all in attendance and provided an overview of the day's meeting agenda.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Warner invited Executive Director Donna Collins to provide her director's report.

Ms. Collins acknowledged the regional and national work of the agency's communications staff, which had participated in Arts Midwest planning calls and led two years of virtual peer group sessions for the National Assembly for State Arts Agencies (NASAA) through Operations and Public Affairs Director Justin Nigro. In September, Mr. Nigro would lead an in-person session at NASAA Assembly 2022 in Kansas City, Missouri, Ms. Collins said.

Reporting on other areas of the agency, Ms. Collins said *Watercolor Ohio 2022* would open on July 30, 2022, representing the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Exhibition by the Ohio Watercolor Society. In terms of the agency's grantmaking operations, members of the OAC Investment Office and all program coordinators stood ready to execute the board's decisions on grant recommendations following the meeting, having previously worked through the panel process. Coordinators were also processing final reports from the prior fiscal year's grants while fielding questions from constituents on the status of their active grant applications. Staff capacity remained very full, Ms. Collins said, as she looked toward the major grant on-year of FY 2024 where all multi-year grant programs would be open.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Warner asked the board to review minutes from its meeting held on March 30, 2022.

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Tom Johnson, to approve the minutes from the OAC board meeting of March 30, 2022. **Motion carried without dissent.**

#### **QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE REPORT**

Ms. Warner led review of the quarterly expenditure report for the third quarter of FY 2022.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Bill White, to approve the quarterly expenditure report for the third quarter of FY 2022. **Motion carried without dissent.**

#### **FY 2023 BUDGET ALLOCATION REVISIONS**

Ms. Warner turned next to begin consideration of the agency's FY 2023 grant recommendations, starting with revisions to the FY 2023 budget allocations. She said that Ms. Collins and Deputy Director Dan Katona developed the revised allocations based on the size of the OAC's budget, the needs of the OAC's constituents, the budget sizes of the nonprofit arts organizations served by the grants, and application levels for funding.

Ms. Warner noted that the agency's funding level remains at a historic high, allowing the OAC to make several achievements. She said the allocations represented the largest amount of money the OAC had ever invested into operating support for small organizations, via Arts Access, and into arts and cultural projects for newer organizations, via ArtSTART. Additionally, the OAC would more than quadruple its investment into in-school residencies for teaching artists compared to five years ago, funding \$1.5 million in TeachArtsOhio compared to \$340,000 in FY 2018.

Beth Waldren asked about changes to the funding for large and mid-sized organizations in Sustainability. Ms. Collins noted that the FY 2022 budget allocations included \$919,200 in one-time funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) via the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). With those funds unavailable for FY 2023, and incorporating the longstanding board policy in place to allocate half of the agency's subsidy budget to the Sustainability-Large pool, changes were made to recalibrate the funding pool for Sustainability overall. Mr. Katona added that federal funds were shifted away from mid-sized organizations and toward large organizations, who are generally equipped and have more staff to deal with the rigors and compliance of utilizing federal funds from the NEA. Robb Hankins clarified with Mr. Katona that the result was approximately \$239,000 less in the Sustainability Mid-Sized pool. Tom Johnson asked about the decrease in allocations for special initiatives and pilots, and Ms. Collins explained that this was also necessitated due to the NEA ARPA funding gap.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Tina Husted, to approve the FY 2023 budget allocation revisions. **Motion carried without dissent.**

#### **GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS**

### *Sustainability for Large Organizations*

Ms. Warner began consideration of grant recommendations with Sustainability for Large Organizations. She thanked agency staff and public panelists for their work during the process. This was the final year for the four-year Sustainability grant cycle, she said. At Ms. Warner's request, Mr. Katona elaborated on the Sustainability program, noting that it had moved to a four-year cycle a number of years ago, instead of two years, in order to simplify administrative burdens on grantees, utilize staff time more efficiently, and reduce bureaucracy overall. He explained that grant amounts in Sustainability fluctuate based on organizational budget sizes and their relation to each other each year, except for the largest four organizations. The largest four organizations do not experience fluctuations since their calculations are flat, stemming from board policy, as the exceptionally large sizes of the largest four organizations' budgets could ripple through and imbalance the pool of Sustainability funding if treated like the others. Mr. Katona thanked Investment Director Dia Foley and Investment Associate Kim Turner for aiding in addressing Sustainability fluctuations due to the unique challenges presented by the many varieties of governmental coronavirus relief funding.

*Adam Shank joined the meeting at 11 a.m.*

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Tina Husted, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendations for Large Organizations without the Musical Arts Association (i.e., the Cleveland Orchestra). **Motion carried without dissent.**

Mr. Hankins assumed the chair for the next motion and vote.

MOTION by Beth Waldren, seconded by Bill White, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendations for the Musical Arts Association (i.e., the Cleveland 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, defined as organizations whose budgets fall below those of the largest 40 organizations but exceed \$50,000. She noted that this was the final year of the four-year grant cycle for these organizations as well, with next year being an on-year. Because of the agency's work to reach out to new grantees, particularly in counties that were historically underserved, Ms. Warner observed that many organizations will be newly eligible for Sustainability and Arts Access funding in FY 2024. Given the growth she anticipated, she said the agency will need to explore how its budget can accommodate a potentially major influx of grantees. She then asked Mr. Katona to provide an overview of the program.

MOTION by Beth Waldren, seconded by Bill White, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendations for Mid-Sized Organizations without the Darke County Center for the Arts. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Tina Husted, to accept the Sustainability grant recommendation for the Darke County Center for the Arts. **Motion carried without dissent. Darryl Mehaffie left the room for discussion and vote.**

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

Ms. Warner next presented Arts Access grant recommendations. She reminded the board that the Arts Access program is similar to Sustainability in that it provides general operating support, but for small organizations with budgets less than \$50,000. Arts Access grants are two-year awards, and this is the second year for the current cycle, she said. Ms. Warner invited Mr. Katona to elaborate on the recommendations.

MOTION by Tina Husted, seconded by Adam Shank, to accept the Arts Access grant recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

#### ***Statewide Arts Service Organizations***

Ms. Warner introduced the Statewide Arts Service Organizations (SASO) grant recommendations. She said the grant program recognizes the unique role these organizations perform in supplementing the work of the OAC. The grants require certain partnership opportunities with the agency, such as leading professional development opportunities, accommodating regional meetings, and sharing their expertise with the OAC and others in the arts community. Ms. Warner then invited Mr. Katona to provide additional information about the SASO grant recommendations.

Mr. Hankins asked about the work of OhioDance, and Mr. Katona responded that it offered a major professional development conference for dance organizations in addition to other duties. Ms. Collins noted that OhioDance provides pre-professional learning opportunities; manages the Virtual Dance Collection, which has attained both national funding and a regional Emmy Award; and brings together organizations whose missions range from arts education for youth to professionals.

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

#### ***Arts Partnership***

Ms. Warner began the board's consideration of arts learning grants with the Arts Partnership program. She noted that Arts Partnership was also a multi-year grant, with recommendations again being in their last year of the two-year cycle. She invited Mr. Katona to elaborate.

Tom Johnson inquired about how the agency's restriction on earmarked funding from the Ohio General Assembly works, and Mr. Katona said the funding restriction applies to organizations who elect to receive line item or earmark funding in the state's main biennial operating budget. Ms. Collins noted that organizations with earmarks or line items then decide whether to accept the OAC's award or the other source of funding. Bill White asked whether organizations sought earmarks due to unfamiliarity with this restriction, and Ms. Collins affirmed that this was often the case. Ms. Warner remarked that the restriction is in place to prevent double dipping by organizations and aid the legislature in managing arts funding by making the OAC largely a single point of contact. Mr. Hankins thanked public officials, panelists, and board members for ensuring public funding for the arts via the OAC is a steady and reliable investment, believing the strength of the arts community comes from staying together.

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Tina Husted, to accept the Arts Partnership grant recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

### *TeachArtsOhio*

Ms. Warner introduced consideration of the TeachArtsOhio grant recommendations, reminding the board that the program began as an initiative of the OAC under Ms. Collins to improve the way the agency conducts teaching artist residencies. She shared that the grant program has grown consistently, even in the face of remote learning at the onset of COVID-19 and the complexities of returning to school buildings in the immediately past year. She complimented the ways teaching artists have found to continue their work despite the pandemic and reported that there is lasting interest in TeachArtsOhio program among arts educators across Ohio, particularly in underserved communities. She asked Jarred Small, arts learning coordinator, to provide an overview of the grant recommendations.

Mr. Hankins asked about the typical length of teaching artists' residencies, and Mr. Small estimated that the majority were for the full school year, covering multiple days a week. Ms. Warner was excited to see the program develop and residencies lengthen, and Mr. Small credited the board for carrying the mantle of building TeachArtsOhio. Mr. Johnson wondered how to increase residencies in rural areas and asked if lodging or travel were factors, and Ms. Collins responded that many teaching artists were willing to travel and/or rent lodging in rural areas to conduct residencies. She said the agency works with OhioDance, the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education, Art Possible Ohio and others to ensure that its Teaching Artist Roster has geographic diversity, agreeing that there is always room to improve. Mr. White asked if applicants from certain areas of the state might lack motivation to apply, and Mr. Small said more often capacity was an issue, sometimes finding success with approaching educational service centers and superintendents.

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

### ***ArtsNEXT***

Ms. Warner led discussion of the ArtsNEXT grant recommendations. She explained that the program funds innovative activities to help encourage new, creative projects in the arts. She invited Organizational Program Coordinators Jim Szekacs and Patric Roehrenbeck to present the recommendations.

Mr. Hankins asked for an estimation of how many grant recommendations sought disruptive innovation, and Mr. Szekacs said about a third were classified in that category. Ms. Collins added that applicants note the type of innovation they intend to pursue, which panels then adjudicate. Mr. Katona noted that the grant program is not designed to favor one innovation type over another, but rather whether an applicant fits the innovation criteria it has selected in its application. Ms. Waldren asked whether the Sustainability funding formula is applied to ArtsNEXT, and Mr. Katona said that it is a different formula based on applicants' requests and panel scores, rather than organizational budget size and panel scores.

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Beth Waldren, to accept the ArtsNEXT grant recommendations without the Piqua Arts Council. **Motion carried without dissent.**

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

### ***ArtSTART***

Ms. Warner introduced ArtSTART, the OAC's general project support grant program. She said many arts organizations first apply for OAC funding through the program, making the agency's record investment into ArtSTART even more meaningful. Mr. Hankins invited Organizational Program Coordinators Brianna Dance and Mr. Roehrenbeck to share more about the program. Ms. Collins remarked that there was major interest in the program this cycle, with 34 more applicants funded this year compared to the prior year.

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Tina Husted, to accept the ArtSTART grant recommendations without the Piqua Arts Council. **Motion carried without dissent.**

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

### ***Ohio Artists on Tour***

Ms. Warner next presented the Ohio Artists on Tour grant program, which covers fee support for organizations who use artists in the Ohio Artists on Tour directory, and invited Mr. Katona

to elaborate on the recommendations. Mr. Katona noted a record number of applicants, as arts presenters had returned to more normal operations.

In response to Mr. Hankins and Mr. Johnson for more detail, Mr. Katona explained that organizations can request up to one-third of an Ohio-based artist or ensemble's fee, with certain maximums in place. Organizations submit information on public engagement, community components, and any artist contracts, and they must apply in conjunction with another grant program, Mr. Katona concluded.

MOTION by Tina Husted, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, to accept the Ohio Artists on Tour grant recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

#### *Traditional Arts Apprenticeships*

Ms. Warner led consideration of the Traditional Arts Apprenticeships grant recommendations, which focus on preserving Ohio's unique folk and cultural heritage. She invited Artist Programs Coordinator Chaz O'Neil to share more about the program. Mr. Hankins remarked that it would be interesting to invite one of the grantees to perform at a board meeting.

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

The board recessed at 12:05 p.m. and resumed business at 12:33 p.m.

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

Ms. Warner ended grant recommendations review by noting that Athens-based mandolin luthier Don MacRostie would be the 2022 Ohio Heritage Fellow. She also directed the board's attention to the FY 2023 Multiple Application Report, listing organizations applying for OAC grant awards in multiple programs, and the Fund Every County Report, which listed awards made in targeted counties.

#### *Award Adjustment*

Ms. Warner said that it is possible that grant award amounts may need to be adjusted by the executive director following the board's action due to unforeseen circumstances, such as across-the-board state agency budget cuts stemming from recessions or returned grants.

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

*Potential for Additional ARPA Funds*

Ms. Warner asked the board to reaffirm the position it adopted at its meeting of July 21, 2021, should additional ARPA funds be entrusted to the agency. She reminded the board that it had empowered its Executive Committee to consider how an infusion of dollars through the State of Ohio's funds from ARPA to the OAC would be used to support the arts in Ohio.

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

**NEW BUSINESS: FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES AND ETHICS TRAINING REMINDER**

Ms. Warner announced that the OAC board would plan to meet on October 26, 2022; January 25, 2023; March 29, 2023; and July 26, 2023. She also asked board members to complete required state ethics training by the end of the year.

**NEW BUSINESS: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF STATE ARTS AGENCIES (NASAA) 2022 ASSEMBLY**

Ms. Collins reported that the 2022 NASAA Assembly would take place the week of September 19, 2022, in Kansas City, Missouri. Subject matter experts and peers at state arts agencies would gather to solve problems and learn from other states, she said. Several of the OAC's staff had been asked to make presentations or facilitate discussions at the conference, which reflected the esteem in which the OAC is held at the national level, she concluded. Ms. Warner added that the NASAA Assembly is a valuable opportunity to engage with similarly situated colleagues across the nation and learn about other states' sources of income and various programs. Mr. White asked if NASAA sessions would be available for viewing later, and Mr. Nigro responded, saying that session materials were often made available online, although not necessarily recordings, as some sessions may not be conducive to video format.

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.



Ginger Warner  
OAC Board Chair



Robb Hankins  
OAC Board Secretary