

**OHIO ARTS COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING
MARCH 30, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Ginger Warner at 10:12 a.m. in the offices of the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) in Columbus. Board members in attendance: Jim Dicke, vice chair; Robb Hankins, secretary; Jon Holt; Tina Husted; Tom Johnson; Rita Mansour; Darryl Mehaffie; Farid Naffah; Beth Waldren; Neal Zimmers; and Rep. Sara Carruthers. Board members not in attendance: Adam Shank; Bill White; Rep. Tavia Galonski; Sen. Matt Dolan; and Sen. Teresa Fedor. Staff attending: Donna Collins, Dan Katona, Justin Nigro, Dia Foley, Carla Oesterle, Cat Sheridan, and Chiquita Mullins Lee. Also in attendance: Dale Vitale, assistant attorney general; Jane D'Angelo, executive director of OhioDance; Jarrod Hartzler, executive director of the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education; and Allie McAfee, member services coordinator of Ohio Citizens for the Arts.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Warner asked the board to review minutes from its board and committee meetings held from October 2020 onward.

MOTION by Robb Hankins, seconded by Tom Johnson, to approve the minutes from the OAC board meeting of October 27, 2021 and committee meetings of October 1 and 27, 2021 and February 8, 2022. **Motion carried without dissent.**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Warner led a report out of the Executive Committee's actions from its February 8, 2022 meeting and referred members to the committee's meeting minutes for a detailed written report. She reminded members that the committee had met due to the board's inability to meet in January due to weather and pandemic-related issues. She said that, acting between board meetings, the committee reviewed and approved the agency's Arts Resiliency Initiative Awards, panelist recommendations, and Individual Excellence Awards. Those three agenda items would be considered next by the full board for ratification, she said.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RATIFICATION: ARTS RESILIENCY INITIATIVE AWARDS

Ms. Warner directed members to review the Arts Resiliency Awards for ratification, pursuant to the Executive Committee's prior approval.

MOTION by Darryl Mehaffie, seconded by Robb Hankins, to approve and ratify the Arts Resiliency Initiative Awards. **Motion carried without dissent.**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RATIFICATION: FY 2023 PANELIST RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Warner directed members to review the FY 2023 panelist recommendations for ratification, pursuant to the Executive Committee's prior approval.

MOTION by Beth Waldren, seconded by Jon Holt, to approve and ratify the FY 2023 panelist recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RATIFICATION: FY 2022 INDIVIDUAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Ms. Warner directed members to review the FY 2022 Individual Excellence Awards for ratification, pursuant to the Executive Committee's prior approval.

MOTION by Jon Holt, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, to approve and ratify the FY 2022 Individual Excellence Awards. **Motion carried without dissent.**

QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE REPORTS – FY 2022, FIRST QUARTER

Ms. Warner turned next to lead review and consideration of two quarters of financial matters, beginning with the agency's quarterly expenditure report covering the first quarter of FY 2022.

In doing so, she highlighted that there was additional activity in paying portions of previously-approved grants in the first quarter of FY 2022. She said this was due largely to the agency's continued practice of making automatic partial payments to operating support grantees, a procedure first undertaken in CY 2020 to alleviate cash flow issues at the onset of the pandemic and thereby expedite funds and economic relief to grantees. Although this required extra work for staff, both Ms. Warner and Executive Director Donna Collins recognized the importance of the work and appreciated staff's diligence on the matter.

MOTION by Neal Zimmers, seconded by Beth Waldren, to approve the quarterly expenditure report for the first quarter of FY 2022. **Motion carried without dissent.**

QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE REPORTS – FY 2022, SECOND QUARTER

Ms. Warner then began review and consideration of the agency's quarterly expenditure report covering the second quarter of FY 2022.

MOTION by Jon Holt, seconded by Darryl Mehaffie, to approve the quarterly expenditure report for the second quarter of FY 2022. **Motion carried without dissent.**

RATIFICATION REPORT – JANUARY 26, 2022

Ms. Warner reviewed the ratification report dated January 26, 2022, noting that the report contains activity on the OAC's smaller grant programs where the board has authorized staff to issue grants between board meetings. The board then reviews and ratifies these items, and as with the quarterly expenditure reports, there were two quarters of reports to review, she said.

MOTION by Rita Mansour, seconded by Beth Waldren, to approve the ratification report dated January 26, 2022. **Motion carried without dissent.**

RATIFICATION REPORT – MARCH 30, 2022

Ms. Warner next led review of the ratification report dated March 30, 2022.

MOTION by Neal Zimmers, seconded by Tom Johnson, to approve the ratification report dated March 30, 2022. **Motion carried without dissent.**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Ms. Collins began by noting that Johnneen Griffin, spouse of the late artist William "bc" Collins, would join the board at lunch to share information about the artist and his work. Mr. Collins, unrelated to Ms. Collins, created a large, three-panel painting of the Columbus skyline, which Ms. Griffin offered to display on an exterior wall of the OAC's office.

Ms. Collins proceeded to highlight a wide-ranging variety of work and projects underway by OAC staff and partners, including the following items:

- Planning and logistics were proceeding for both the Governor's Awards for the Arts luncheon on May 11, 2022 as well as the Arts Impact Ohio Conference to take place in Akron in October 2022.
- The National Endowment for the Arts had been appropriated an historic budget of \$180 million by the United States Congress, of which 40 percent would be distributed to state arts agencies.
- Support work continued on the Creative Forces partnership project centered on military healing for both active-duty and veterans.
- The Ohio Intensive Creative Aging Training Initiative would culminate in a summit on May 10, 2022, and an additional round of national-level funding might be possible.
- Arts Learning Coordinator Jarred Small has continued participation in the Crisis Analysis and Mitigation coaching program for arts responders through the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Coalition of Arts' Preparedness & Emergency Response (NCAPER).
- After nearly five years of service, OAC Communications Strategist Amanda Etchison had left the agency to take a communications position with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. The hiring process for her successor was ongoing, and additionally, hiring for an open investment associate position would begin soon.
- In the area of grantmaking, federal government regulations required OAC grantees and potential applicants to transition to receiving and using Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) numbers, as DUNS numbers were scheduled to be outmoded in April 2021. Agency staff had fielded numerous calls to help with the federal transition. Separately, panelist trainings were in process to prepare for spring grant panels.

In addition to her own updates, Ms. Collins invited OAC Riffe Gallery Director Cat Sheridan to provide an update on the gallery's current and upcoming exhibitions. Ms. Sheridan said *Quilt National '21: The Best of Contemporary Quilts* remained on display until April 8, 2022. The next exhibition, *Black Life as Subject Matter*, would be curated by Willis "Bing" Davis, a former OAC board member and 2009 Governor's Awards Irma Lazarus winner and would be traveling from the Springfield Museum of Art. The current lobby exhibitions included one by the National Association of American Pen Women as well as a collection of Ukrainian Easter eggs, known as pysanky. The pysanky, collected by artist Christina Pereyema and created by the artist and her family, were presented in conjunction with the Ohio Statehouse Museum Education Center and also on display in the Ohio Statehouse Rotunda, Ms. Sheridan said.

Ms. Warner added that she and Ms. Collins had attended a poetry reading and performance at the Mercantile Library in Cincinnati featuring Appalachian poets from Ohio Poet Laureate Kari Gunter-Seymour's newest anthology, "I Thought I Heard A Cardinal Sing." Publication of the anthology was funded a grant from the Academy of American Poets, an opportunity only open to state poets laureate, Ms. Collins noted. Ms. Warner encouraged the board to attend future events relative to promoting the anthology and had such a list produced for members.

NEW BUSINESS: FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE AND ETHICS TRAINING REMINDERS

Ms. Warner reminded board members to complete required financial disclosure filings by the deadline of May 16, 2022 as well as ethics training by December 31, 2022.

Representative Sara Carruthers left the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

FY 2023 APPLICATION UPDATE

Ms. Warner asked Deputy Director Dan Katona to update the board on application levels for the main round of FY 2023 organizational funding. Mr. Katona obliged, reporting that applications have returned to their highest levels overall, exceeding pre-pandemic levels in some cases. Of note, TeachArtsOhio applications were at an all-time high and had steadily climbed throughout the pandemic, despite COVID-19's impact on schools moving to remote or hybrid learning. In addition, Traditional Arts Apprenticeship levels had risen to a recent high. ArtsNEXT applications were also rising despite a recent dip, although not quite reaching pre-pandemic levels, he said. Finally, Mr. Katona remarked that ArtSTART applications were still open, so no final conclusions could be made.

Tina Husted joined the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR THE ARTS IN OHIO UPDATE

Ms. Warner invited Operations and Public Affairs Director Justin Nigro to inform the board on the Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio. Mr. Nigro said that both Ohio House of Representatives Speaker Bob Cupp and Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman had tentatively agreed to co-preside over the ceremony, although Governor Mike DeWine was unable to

attend. Registration was open and on pace with prior years, with all 2022 winners and a number of 2020 winners agreeing to be present, he said. Mr. Nigro reflected that the winners displayed Ohio's diversity in many dimensions, including geography, race, gender, artistic discipline, and more.


POETRY OUT LOUD UPDATE

Ms. Warner asked Arts Learning Coordinator Chiquita Mullins Lee to update the board on the recent Ohio *Poetry Out Loud* State Finals. Ms. Mullins Lee said that the program was in its 17th year. Pius Edzie, a senior at St. Francis DeSales High School in Columbus, won the 2022 State Finals and would represent Ohio at the virtual National Regional Semifinals on May 1, with hopes to advance to the National Finals on June 5, she said. Ms. Warner thanked Ms. Mullins Lee and staff for the wonderful work accomplished on the program and underscored that Ohio champions had performed remarkable well at the national level historically.

NEW BUSINESS: OHIO COMMISSION ON THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

Ms. Warner informed the board that Gov. DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly had established the Ohio Commission on the United States Semiquincentennial, in line with a parallel effort in several states and the federal government. The commission was charged with celebrating the 250th anniversary of the country's founding, and the OAC Chair was named in state law as a member of the commission owing to the agency's centrality to the commission's charge, she said. In conclusion, Ms. Warner challenged board and staff members to think about unique ways the OAC could contribute to the endeavor, finding ways to incorporate all 88 counties, recalling the agency's work and impact on originating and expanding the barn quilt movement nationally in the 2000s.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.


Ginger Warner
OAC Board Chair


Robb Hankins
OAC Board Secretary