

**OHIO ARTS COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ginger Warner at 11:05 a.m. in the offices of the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) in Columbus. Board members in attendance: Ginger Warner, chair; Jim Dicke, vice-chair; Robb Hankins, secretary; David Barber; Susan Allan Block; Gary Hanson; Jon Holt; Tina Husted; Monica Kridler; Farid Naffah; Neal Zimmers; Rep. Tavia Galonski. Board members not in attendance: Juan Cespedes; Tom Johnson; Darryl Mehaffie; Bill White; Rep. Sara Carruthers; and Sen. Matt Dolan. Staff attending: Donna Collins, Dan Katona, Justin Nigro, Kathy Signorino, Amanda Etchison, Katie Monahan, Cat Sheridan, Chiquita Mullins Lee, and Jim Szekacs. Also in attendance: Chelsea Golterman, Office of Sen. Teresa Fedor; Hilary Damaser, principal assistant attorney general; Tara Smith, OAC arts administration fellow; Kayla Gifford, OAC intern; Jarrod Hartzler, executive director, Ohio Alliance for Arts Education; and Philip Kim, Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA) marketing and communications director.

Chair Ginger Warner welcomed board members and called attention to the ethics training memorandum and conflict of interest statements for signature, both found in board members' meeting materials. She asked Executive Director Donna Collins to request the Ohio Ethics Commission to present at the board's January 29, 2020, meeting regarding conflict of interest laws. Lastly, Ms. Warner congratulated Susan Allan Block, Juan Cespedes, and Bill White upon their reappointments to the board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

MOTION by Monica Kridler, seconded by Gary Hanson, to approve minutes from the board meeting of July 17, 2019. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Before reviewing the Executive Committee meeting minutes, Ms. Warner reported on the committee's activity. She reminded the board of its action in July to have the Executive Committee study the Governor's Awards for the Arts further and determine any changes necessary to ensure the event's continued success. She said the committee convened twice and had broad conversations about the event's attendance, timing, expenses, and outreach.

She reported that the committee unanimously agreed on a few items: to move the event to March 25 from mid-May to better fit 2020's legislative calendar; to move the time of the luncheon earlier in the day, to 11 a.m. instead of noon, to accommodate legislative caucuses and House session; to have the OAC directly handle legislative outreach to try to improve attendance from elected officials; and to split out the Governor's Awards luncheon event from the Arts Day events held by Ohio Citizens for the Arts. On this latter change, she said the committee believed this division would achieve a clearer separation of responsibilities, roles, and accounting for the Governor's Awards. As a result, she reported that a motion unanimously carried for the OAC to solely present its own Governor's Awards luncheon. Ms.

Warner concluded by stating that OCA could still consider holding Arts Day events on that day, but that OCA would not be involved in the Governor's Awards event; she and Ms. Collins had both communicated this decision to OCA leadership.

Vice-Chair Jim Dicke asked about the decision's impact on OCA, and Ms. Warner affirmed that the OAC and OCA would meet again to discuss it. Gary Hanson asked whether Arts Day participants also attended the Governor's Awards, and Ms. Collins was unsure about any direct correlation. She noted that luncheon attendees often correlate to the award winners, whereas Arts Day morning briefings tend to be attended by student advocates and their chaperones. Ms. Warner observed that OCA could still have Arts Day activities on March 25. Responding to Mr. Dicke, Ms. Warner also clarified that OCA had previously received registration revenue, and Ms. Collins estimated this to provide a net benefit of anywhere from \$10,000 to \$30,000. Going forward, Ms. Warner noted that the event's revenue would defray the event's costs borne by the OAC, with the OAC's event ledger expected to nearly break even. Monica Kridler asked about the impact on OCA's budget as a percentage, and Ms. Collins said it could be reviewed at the next OAC-OCA meeting. Robb Hankins reported that he discussed these issues recently with OCA Legislative Co-Counsel Bill Blair, and Mr. Hankins believed the OAC was focused on increasing efficiencies, not seeing any symbolism in the separation of duties beyond this. Mr. Dicke thanked Ms. Warner and Ms. Collins for the clarifications on these questions.

MOTION by Susan Allan Block, seconded by Neal Zimmers, to accept the Executive Committee's report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Monica Kridler, seconded by Jon Holt, to approve minutes from the Executive Committee meetings of July 17, 2019, and August 5, 2019. **Motion carried without dissent.**

CHAIR AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Ms. Warner reported on the Ohio Poet Laureate Committee's activities to review nominations for the next laureate. She thanked members of the committee as well as the current Poet Laureate Dave Lucas for his service and extensive appearances across Ohio.

Ms. Collins reported on her work participating in the Appalachia Funders Network, ArtPlace America Assembly, and AIR:Shift, which may help to bring more resources to Ohio's Appalachian counties given the state's presence in these groups. She also led a small staff team's attendance at the latest RecoveryOhio meeting convened by Governor DeWine's administration. Ms. Collins noted that the next Arts Impact Ohio conference will be held May 7 and 8 in Akron, and Deputy Director Dan Katona elaborated on the plans coming into place. Ms. Collins said she was continuing to gather information on potential diversity, equity, and inclusion training. Lastly, she recognized Kathy Signorino as the newly promoted Artist Programs and Percent for Art Director, replacing Josh Coy, and noted that Ms. Signorino's prior position had been posted.

Ms. Warner invited Ms. Signorino to report on the two latest, significant Percent for Art dedications. Ms. Signorino reviewed the dedications of Albert Paley's work "Progression" at the University of Cincinnati's College of Allied Health Sciences, and Roy Lichtenstein's *Modern Head* at the Ohio State University's North Academic Corridor. Mr. Dicke observed that one of the fabricated *Modern Head* pieces served as an impromptu message board following the September 11, 2001, attacks in New York City and was later relocated to the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice-Chair Jim Dicke joined Ms. Warner in reviewing the agency's quarterly expenditure reports for the fourth quarter of FY 2019 as well as the grant ratification report, as previously considered in the morning's Finance Committee.

MOTION from the Finance Committee (via Jim Dicke) to approve the quarterly expenditure report for the fourth quarter of FY 2019. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION from the Finance Committee (via Jim Dicke) to approve the quarterly ratification report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

PANELIST RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Warner opened review of the agency's panelist recommendations for six upcoming on-year grant programs. She noted that the staff had worked to build panels reflective of Ohio's diversity and reminded the board of the panel's role in the board's consideration of the agency's grants. She invited Mr. Katona to elaborate briefly on the panel process. He highlighted the inclusion of a few out-of-state panelists—mainly in contiguous states to remain budget-conscious—to continue to diversify panels' perspectives. Ms. Collins invited board members to submit any ideas they had for changes to the agency's *Guidelines* in coming months, given that the next update would be in fall 2020.


MOTION by Jim Dicke, seconded by Gary Hanson, to approve the panelist recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**


OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Warner next asked Mr. Katona to review the agency's constituent satisfaction survey, and he reported on the broadly positive results, which had generally improved from the prior year's already high marks. In response to the survey results, he noted that the agency had begun to explore areas where improvement could be made to the online grants system (ARTIE). Mr. Hankins asked about the number of applications made through ARTIE, and Mr. Katona reported it to be approximately 1,200. David Barber asked if satisfaction was improving with ARTIE overall, and Mr. Katona said it had improved since its rollout; issues now were focused on smaller refinements.

In terms of board member updates, Mr. Hankins marveled at the artistry and inclusion of creative professionals on large and small scales at BLINK Cincinnati. Neal Zimmers related his experience at the most recent National Assembly for State Arts Agencies Leadership Institute in Providence, Rhode Island, where he was proud of the OAC—both the esteem with which their national peers held Ms. Collins and Mr. Katona and the agency’s unique focus on Fund Every County.

The meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.


Geraldine B. Warner
OAC Board Chair


Robert Hankins
OAC Board Secretary