

**New York State Council on the Arts**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

**November 9, 2022, 1:40PM- 4:00PM**

**Held at the NYSCA Office: 300 Park Ave South, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10010**

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**Present:** Monica Angle, Lisa Baker, Scott Eberle, Carolee Fink, Aaron Flagg, Joan Hornig, Janet Kagan, Eric Latzky, James Lemons, Andrea Louie, Mahnaz Moinian, Katherine Nicholls (Chair), Adriana Trigiani

**In-Person Quorum present:** Yes

**Others in attendance:**

Mara Manus, Executive Director, NYSCA

Megan White, Deputy Director of Programs, NYSCA

Abigail Young, Deputy Director of Operations and General Counsel, NYSCA

Abby Adler, Executive Assistant, NYSCA

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*Before the meeting was formally called to order by the Chair, Abby Adler (NYSCA Executive Assistant) conducted a roll call of the Council to determine if a quorum was present. Following the roll call and confirmation that a quorum was present, the meeting of the NYSCA Council was called to order at 1:40PM by Chair Katherine Nicholls.*

**CHAIR'S WELCOME**

KATHERINE NICHOLLS (Chair): Good afternoon and welcome to the New York State Council on the Arts' November 9, 2022 meeting. I am Katherine Nicholls, the Chair of the New York State Council on the Arts. As we have a quorum of 11 Council Members present, I hereby call this meeting to order.

To remind all in attendance; this is a public meeting that is being recorded. A recording and transcript of the meeting will be made available on the NYSCA website.

Yesterday, New Yorkers delivered an historic election result in returning Governor Kathy Hochul to office. This marks the first time a woman was elected Governor since the office was established 245 years ago in 1777.

Governor Hochul believes in the power of the arts and what our sector contributes to the health of New Yorkers and the vitality of our communities. She has delivered historic capital funding of \$150 million for FY2023, the results of which will have an economic and organizational impact that will make a difference for decades to come. New York's arts and culture sector plays a powerful role in our state's economy, attracting visitors from across the globe. We are a driver of the tourism economy and fuel sectors such as hospitality, transit, and

Main Streets across our state. Congratulations to Governor Hochul, we are grateful for your leadership. It is a significant day for the arts in New York.

At today's meeting, Council will review and vote on the FY2023 Support for Organizations, Support for Artists, Special Opportunities, and State-wide Community Regrant Partner Contract migration grant recommendations - totaling \$45 million in grantmaking for all 10 regions of our state.

Council will also review and ratify thirteen grants that were approved on an advisory basis due to conflicts at our last Council Meeting on October 13, 2022. These grants include 3 Statewide Community Regrant Partner grants and 10 Regrowth and Capacity Enhancement grants.

The materials for today's meeting were sent to Council on November 2, 2022.

The application portal for the opportunities we are reviewing today opened May 9, 2022, and closed July 12, 2022, at 4PM. Between August 23 and October 20, NYSCA staff conducted 18 peer review panels and welcomed over 130 panelists from all 10 regions of the state. I would like to take this moment to thank Council Members who were able to attend one or more panel sessions and applaud the incredible cohort of FY2023 peer review panelists for their time, insights, and commitment to this most important part of our grant making process.

On behalf of Council, I also want to thank NYSCA's Executive Director Mara Manus, Deputy Director of Programs Megan White, Director of Operations and General Counsel, Abigail Young, and the NYSCA Staff for their leadership in conducting our panels and providing another year of phenomenal guidance for our applicants. Your professional stewardship of the FY2023 process is what gives us confidence in our role as Council in reviewing your recommendations today.

A reminder that in-person attendance is material to conduct the business of this Council and ensure the timely distribution of vital funding across our state. We greatly appreciate your attendance at our next meeting on March 15, 2023. Please inform us as soon as possible of any conflicts you may have so that we may plan appropriately.

We would also like to acknowledge New York State's artists and arts organizations, who, in the face of innumerable challenges, have continued to create and ensure that arts and culture are present in every corner of our state. We remain inspired by your dedication, perseverance, and ingenuity. Council Members, New Yorkers, and our visitors are thrilled to be back enjoying in-person experiences all over the state, and we highly encourage everyone to visit the NYSCA website and our grantee events calendar to remain up to date on the exciting experiences happening across New York!

I am pleased to turn this meeting over to Mara Manus, Executive Director of NYSCA, who will share some agency updates.

MARA MANUS: Thank you, so much, Katherine! I want to echo your sentiments and offer congratulations to Governor Hochul and her incredible team on her election last night. Our sector is grateful for Governor Hochul's profound understanding of the critical role the arts play in our state throughout her many years of service to New York State.

From day one of assuming office in August 2021, Governor Hochul and her administration have been vocal advocates for the arts – manifesting in both the historic FY23 appropriation and her recent Capital commitment of \$100 million

We look forward to our ongoing engagement with her and her team to advance the arts and cultural sector during this vital time of recovery and revitalization.

### **Capital Project Opportunities**

I am pleased to share with Council that our FY23 Capital Project funding opportunity is well underway. NYSCA is immensely grateful for the opportunity to fund small, mid-size, and large capital projects through our FY23 Capital Appropriation of \$50 million, as well as Governor Hochul's historic \$100 million multi-year capital commitment this past September.

This unprecedented level of capital funding will impact New York and our visitors for decades to come and recognizes that the arts are a critical driver of the health of our people and our economy.

As we continue our multi-year recovery, capital projects remain a key priority for the State. NYSCA is keenly aware of the ongoing needs of cultural organizations across New York, especially as organizations continue to work to meet evolving health and accessibility protocols.

Previous rounds of capital funding have illuminated the incredible demand from the arts and culture sector for capital resources for organizations of all sizes. Capital investments affirm the pivotal role arts and culture play in our state's economic prosperity, drive employment, and have a wide ripple effect on Main Street stores, restaurants, and hotels across our state.

These projects create opportunity for sustainable growth and ensure the longevity of vital cultural anchors across the state for all New Yorkers and our visitors.

NYSCA has awarded \$50 million in capital funding through 204 grants to 199 organizations between FY2018 and FY2022. To-date, 40 projects have been completed, including:

- At Playwrights Horizons in New York City: their elevator modernization makes critical improvements to the only elevator that serves artists, staff, and over 30,000 audience members annually. If anyone has been to Playwrights – their space is incredibly vertical!
- At Hubbard Hall in the Capital Region: The installation of ADA compliant restrooms as part of their restoration and renovation of the hall, ensuring the continuation of high-quality arts and education opportunities to over 8,000 participants and 200 artists each year.

- The Roycroft Campus Corporation in Western NY: for the restoration of the historic copper shop, a designated National Historic Landmark that is visited by over 250,000 annually.

We are proud to offer this vital funding for FY2023. Our current capital opportunity launched on September 30 and will close on January 12, 2023 at 4PM. The capital recommendations will be reviewed at our March 2023 meeting.

On October 19, NYSCA Capital Projects Director Katie Steger and I hosted a live Capital Opportunity webinar and welcomed over 600 attendees from all 10 regions of the state! Katie will continue to host virtual office hours every week through January to provide high-touch support for applicants.

To-date, our virtual information sessions and office hours for the FY2023 applications have drawn 3,700 attendees and viewers from across the state. A huge round of applause to our staff members who have hosted live webinars and pre-recorded our technical webinars, and to Abby Adler and Sana Colter for producing and managing all of our virtual offerings!

### **Surveys**

In an effort to ensure that our process and opportunities are meeting the evolving needs of the field, NYSCA will be surveying our FY23 panelists and applicants in December. We look forward to sharing the results of those with you at our March meeting.

### **NYSCA Move**

As we discussed, this will be our last council meeting in our current space! NYSCA will be moving to a new office at 411 Fifth Avenue next year! We are moving out of this office next week on November 16 and have a temporary sublet at 250 Broadway next to City Hall until our new permanent space is ready.

We look forward to welcoming Council in our new space at 411 Fifth Ave hopefully by our March 2023 meeting. Back to you, KATHERINE!

### **Deferred FY2023 Partnership and Regrowth and Capacity Enhancement Grants from October 13, 2022 Council Meeting**

KATHERINE NICHOLLS (Chair): Thank you Mara! Our next agenda item is to review the FY2023 grants that were approved on an advisory basis at the October 13, 2022 Council Meeting. MEGAN WHITE, NYSCA's Deputy Director of Programs, will now review these grants.

MEGAN WHITE: Thank you, Katherine. At the Council Meeting on October 13, 2022, 3 Partnership grants and 10 Regrowth and Capacity enhancement grants were approved on an advisory basis to be ratified at today's meetings due to Council Member Conflicts. As reported at the October 13 meeting, the Council conflicts for those grants are as follows:

Application Type	Organization	Conflicts
SCR / Partnerships	Lake Placid Association of Music Drama and Art	James Lemons
SCR / Partnerships	Poets and Writers	Andrea Louie
Regrowth and Capacity Enhancement	Albany Symphony Orchestra, Inc.	David Alan Miller
Regrowth and Capacity Enhancement	BELLEVUE LITERARY PRESS, INC.	Andrea Louie
Regrowth and Capacity Enhancement	Burchfield Penney Art Center	Monica Angle
Regrowth and Capacity Enhancement	Lake Placid Association of Music Drama and Art	James Lemons
Regrowth and Capacity Enhancement	The Little Orchestra Society/Orpheon, Inc.	David Alan Miller

KATHERINE NICHOLLS (Chair): Thank you, Megan. Are there any questions or comments from Council at this time? We will vote to ratify these approvals following our review of all FY23 grant recommendations today.

*A motion is made and seconded to enter into Executive Session per Section 105(1)(f) of the Open Meetings Law to discuss: "...the ... financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation." The meeting continues in Executive Session for Council members and invited guests until **3:55PM**.*

KATHERINE NICHOLLS (Chair): Welcome back to the public portion of the Council meeting for the New York State Council on the Arts. I am Katherine Nicholls, Chair of the New York State Council on the Arts. Thank you all for joining us. To remind all in attendance; this is a public meeting that is being recorded.

*At the request of Chair Katherine Nicholls, a motion is made and seconded to ratify the 3 FY2023 Partnership and 10 FY2023 Regrowth and Capacity Enhancement Grants that were approved on an advisory basis and deferred for ratification at the October 13, 2022 Council Meeting due to Council Member conflicts. The motion is unanimously approved by all present Council Members.*

*At the request of Chair Katherine Nicholls, a motion is made and seconded to bring the FY2023 NYSCA Support for Organizations, Support for Artists, and Special Opportunities grant recommendations to a vote. The following conflicts are noted for the record:*

Application Type	Organization	Council Member Conflicts
Support for Organizations	American Symphony Orchestra League	Aaron Flagg
Support for Organizations	Asia Society	Mahnaz Moinian
Support for Organizations	Buffalo Fine Arts Academy	Monica Angle
Support for Organizations	Burchfield Penney Art Center	Monica Angle
Support for Organizations	Carnegie Hall Corporation	Mahnaz Moinian
Support for Organizations	Cornell University	Lisa Baker
Support for Organizations	FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION	Joan Hornig

Support for Organizations	Lake Placid Association of Music Drama and Art	James Lemons
Support for Organizations	Poet & Writers, Inc.	Andrea Louie
Support for Organizations	Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation	Lisa Baker
Support for Organizations	The Governors Island Corporation	Carolee Fink
Support for Organizations	The Jewish Museum	Mahnaz Moinian
Support for Organizations	People’s Theatre Project	Carolee Fink
Support for Artists	Buffalo Fine Arts Academy	Monica Angle
Support for Artists	Burchfield Penney Art Center	Monica Angle
Special Opportunities	Lake Placid Association of Music Drama and Art	James Lemons

*Following the reading of the recusals, the motion to approve the FY2023 NYSCA Support for Organizations, Support for Artists, and Special Opportunities grant recommendations is unanimously carried by all present Council Members.*

**ADJOURN**

KATHERINE NICHOLLS (Chair): Thank you NYSCA Panelists, staff, leadership and Council for your ongoing service and commitment to our state! Today in doing our civic duty we have approved over \$45 million in vital funding for arts and culture organizations across our state, ensuring that all New Yorkers and visitors continue to experience and benefit from our dynamic and world-renowned sector!

Over the coming weeks NYSCA is hosting virtual office hour sessions to assist applicants with preparation for Capital Opportunities. NYSCA's dedicated staff will answer questions to prepare applicants for submissions due by January 12, 2023.

We New Yorkers are incredibly blessed to have a thriving arts and culture ecosystem with vast opportunities to experience exceptional, meaningful and inspiring work. The sector attracts millions of visitors from across New York, the United States and around the globe. Our museums, cultural centers, workshops, and performance venues have capably adapted to mitigate health risks allowing us to safely experience their offerings, at the same time as growing audience with new and innovative virtual offerings that have expanded reach globally!

On behalf of Council, we are deeply grateful to the Artists and arts and culture organizations who continue to produce the work that inspires us! We look forward to experiencing your work in the weeks and months to come!

Again, we celebrate Governor Hochul's historic win, and wish her success in the years to come. To all other candidates who were successful last evening, we congratulate you and thank you for your service to our state! The best is yet to come! As this is our last Council Meeting of 2022, I wish everyone good health and a peaceful and happy New Year.

*At the request of Chair Katherine Nicholls, a motion for the Council to adjourn the meeting is made and seconded. The motion carries unanimously by the Council members.*

*Meeting adjourns at 4:00PM*

***End of Council Meeting Minutes.***

***All grants approved at this meeting are available on the NYSCA [website](#).***