

## **New York State Council on the Arts Council Meeting Minutes**

300 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10010

December 6, 2018

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Present: Katherine Nicholls (Chair), Lisa Baker, Scott Eberle, Joan Hornig (WebEx), Janet Kagan (WebEx), Eric Latzky, Jayne Keyes (WebEx), Richard Mittenthal, Naze Moinian, John Morning, Rita Paniagua, Hal Payne, Elsie McCabe Thompson (WebEx)

Quorum Present: Yes

Others in attendance: Mara Manus (Executive Director), Megan White (Deputy Director of Programs), Abigail Young (Deputy Director of Operations and General Counsel)

---

Meeting called to order by Chair, Katherine Nicholls.

### CHAIR'S WELCOME

KATHERINE NICHOLLS: Good afternoon and welcome to the New York State Council on the Arts December Council meeting. 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.

At today's meeting, we will vote on the Committee funding recommendations for three NYSCA Programs: Individual Artists, Presenting, and State and Local Partnerships; as well as review the funding recommendations for the Regional Economic Development Initiative, or REDC. These recommendations represent 18.5% of NYSCA's FY19 Budget.

Before we get started, we have a few strategic planning updates. We are close to the end of Phase One of the process: research and robust stakeholder reach out. During this phase, the Lord Cultural Resources team conducted interviews with all NYSCA staff, 23 stakeholders were identified to participate in the process, and surveys are being sent out to all grantees and panelists to reflect on their experiences with NYSCA. We have received over 100 responses to our surveys. Many thanks to the Council members who completed our Council member survey.

We have completed 7 constituent workshops across the state, engaging almost 450 members of the NYSCA field so far. At these workshops, attendees are asked to reflect upon the evolving needs of the field and the impact of the arts in their region. Attendees are also prompted to look towards to future of their region. Tomorrow, we will host a live webinar workshop to engage constituents who cannot join us in person, and next week, we will host workshops in Manhattan at the Sugar Hill Children's Museum on December 10<sup>th</sup> from 1-3PM, and in Long Island at the Long Island Museum on December 12<sup>th</sup> from 1-3PM. By the end of phase one, we are expecting to have reached over 700 constituents through our workshops. Thanks to Council Members who have joined us at the workshops in their regions. We hope they provided you with a more robust understanding of our process.

While developing the 10 constituent workshops, the idea for an opportunity to engage with young professionals under the age of 35 was brought forward by Mara and the executive team. I am excited to announce that they recently completed the first young professional workshop in Buffalo on December 3, and will be holding the second at Sugar Hill on the 10<sup>th</sup>, resulting in the engagement of over 70 young professionals.

Many thanks to Mara, the executive team, and the strategic planning team for recognizing this unique opportunity and working to include it in the process. Hearing from future leaders will play critical part in our planning process.

Our team at Lord Cultural resources will continue to engage with NYSCA staff, stakeholders, workshop participants, and members of the steering committee throughout this process. They will also be developing further council member engagement, so we ask you to stay tuned!

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the over 150 individuals serving on our advisory panels this year. Our panelists' expertise spans every discipline represented in NYSCA's grant programs as well as many facets of non-profit management. They travel from all over the state to provide valuable insight and interminable support. They are integral members of our grant-making process and we thank them for their service to NYSCA and to the field.

Today, we will be reviewing three NYSCA program recommendations for which grant recipients will receive notice of funding within a week. A reminder: the REDC awards will be announced by the Governor on December 18th. Any materials relating to the REDC awards will be shared only during this meeting, and will only be available for council members on our new iPads. All information shared at this meeting will be embargoed until December 18<sup>th</sup> and should be considered confidential. The REDC award information will be communicated to the public immediately following the Governor's meeting.

### MULTI-DISCIPLINARY ARTS COMMITTEE GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

KATHERINE NICHOLLS: The Council will now review and vote on the Multi-Disciplinary Arts Committee grant recommendations for Fiscal Year 2019.

Multi-Disciplinary Arts co-chairs, RICHARD MITTENTHAL and RITA PANIAGUA, and NYSCA's Deputy Director of Programs MEGAN WHITE will review the committee's recommendations.

RICHARD MITTENTHAL AND RITA PANIAGUA: The Multi-Disciplinary Arts Committee reviewed 649 requests in the Individual Artists, Presenting, State and Local Partnerships, and Regional Economic Development categories; 293 of these have been recommended for funding for a total dollar amount of \$17,492,459.

#### Individual Artists

The Individual Artists panel reviewed 209 requests. Funding is being recommended for 85 organizations for a total dollar amount of \$1,326,275.

Individual Artists (IND) offers support for the creation of new work by New York State artists through artist-initiated projects in electronic media (video, sound art, installations, and new technologies) and film production, and the creation of new work by composers, choreographers and theatre artists. Artists at various career stages are welcome to apply.

Funding Categories include

- Composer Compositions
- Dance Commissions
- Theatre Artist Commissions
- Film, Media and New Technology Production

Please see the requests that were reviewed and discussed in detail at today's Committee meetings. *[Council members were able to review the materials on individual iPads or in materials sent by email.]*

Next is the Regional Economic Development Initiative, or REDC

### Regional Economic Development (REDC)

In REDC, 354 requests were reviewed by panel, 164 of which are being recommended for funding for a total dollar amount of \$14,800,000.

The Corning Museum of Glass received REDC funds in both FY17 and FY18 towards GlassBarge. GlassBarge, an innovative outreach program from The Corning Museum of Glass, celebrated the Bicentennial of the Erie Canal as well as the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of glassmaking by bringing the artistry and excitement of live hot glassblowing on a canal barge to waterfront communities throughout New York State, from Brooklyn to Buffalo. Please take a moment to learn more about GlassBarge.

*The Council then watched a video about the Corning Museum of Glass.*

Thank you.

### State and Local Partnerships

The State and Local Partnerships program reviewed **2** partnership requests that amounted to a total of **\$463,684** dollars. Both will facilitate the delivery of important training and information to a significant number of organizations and their administrative staff across the state.

### Presenting

The Presenting panel reviewed 84 applications, recommending 42 applications for funding for a total dollar amount of \$917,500.

Highly rated applicants include the New Victory Theatre and The Jazz Gallery in General Support, and the Skirball Center and Rochester Fringe Festival in Project Support.

The Rochester Fringe Festival was recommended for funding in the project support category. The Rochester Fringe Festival is a 10-day, multi-disciplinary arts festival drawing 67,000+ people annually into the heart of downtown Rochester, generating significant local revenue and paid work and/or exposure for 1,000+ artists through 500+ performances—a third of them with no admission fee. Please take a moment to learn more about the Rochester Fringe Festival.

*The Council then reviewed a video about the Rochester Fringe Festival.*

*Council members were able to review the detailed recommendations on individual iPads or in materials sent by email.*

Thank you. This concludes the programs presented by the Multi-Disciplinary Arts Committee.

KATHERINE NICHOLLS: Thank you all. I would like to ask Deputy Director of Programs **Megan White** to notify the council of any recusals. Those with a conflict will be deemed recused on their vote for the applicable application.

MEGAN WHITE: We are aware of the following recusals that I will now read for the record.

Individual Artists	Art Services of Western NY, Inc.	Hal D. Payne
	Carnegie Hall Corporation	Mahnaz (Nazee) Moinian
Presenting	Henry Street Settlement	John Morning
REDC Initiatives	CNY Arts, Inc	Rita Paniagua
Facilities Improvement – Large Capital Projects	Saratoga Performing Arts Ctr	Jayne Keyes
	Strong Museum	Scott Eberle
Facilities Improvement- Mid-Size Capital Projects	The Jewish Museum	Mahnaz (Nazee) Moinian

*Motion to approve the recommendations of the Multi-Disciplinary Arts Committee for grant awards Programs is requested by the Chair and is made and seconded. (One Council member on WebEx joined on audio only.) The motion then carries unanimously, with no objections or abstention votes, and subject to applicable recusals.*

Thank you. The motion carries unanimously.

#### ADJOURN

KATHERINE NICHOLLS: Thank you all for your ongoing service and commitment to NYSCA. I would like to take this opportunity to announce that our next Council Meeting will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 2-4PM. At this meeting we will vote on panelist recommendations, FY18 Appeals, and Multi-year reviews. We expect the meeting to only run about 2 hours, so we encourage any Council Members who typically travel from upstate to join the meeting via Webex. The executive team is also finalizing our FY19 calendar, which will include the Council Meeting dates. Please expect the calendar the first week of January.

Thank you all for a wonderful and exciting year. I move to adjourn our meeting for today.

*Motion to adjourn is made, seconded and carries unanimously.*

Meeting adjourns.