

New York State Council on the Arts Committee Meeting Minutes

300 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10010

September 25, 2018

1:00PM-4:45 PM

Present: Katherine Nicholls (Chair), Lisa Baker, Estrellita Brodsky (am), Scott Eberle, Joan Hornig (pm), Janet Kagan (WebEx), Eric Latzky, Richard Mittenthal (pm, WebEx), John Morning, Rita Paniagua (am, WebEx), Hal Payne, Deborah Ronnen, Laudelina Martinez (Ex. Session, 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)

Arts Education: Christine Leahy (Program Director), Kavie Barnes (Program Officer), David McGillan (Panel Representative; Deputy Director, Salvadori Center, NYC)

Folk Arts: Robert Baron (Program Director), Catherine Schwoefferman (Panel Representative; Executive Director, Hoyt Foundation, Binghamton)

Special Arts Services: Arian Blanco (Program Director), Kavie Barnes (Program Officer), Jan Hanvik (Panel Representative; Executive Director, PAMAR NYC)

Dance: Leanne Tintori Wells (Program Director), Deborah Lim (Program Officer), LaRue Allen (Panel Representative; Executive Director, Martha Graham Dance Company)

Electronic Media and Film: Karen Helmersen (Program Director), Fabiana Chiu-Rinaldi (Program Officer), Zainab Saleh (Panel Representative; Buffalo Arts Studio, Buffalo)

Literature: Kathleen Masterson (Program Director), Kyle Semmel (Panel Representative; Executive Director, Writers and Books, Rochester)

Museums: Kristin Herron (Program Director), Fabiana Chiu-Rinaldi (Program Officer), Shannon Murphy (Panel Representative; Head of Education, Noguchi Museum, Queens)

Music: Robert Barron (Program Director), Rita Putnam (Program Officer), Liz Player (Panel Representative; Founding Director, Harlem Chamber Players, NYC)

Theatre: Kathleen Masterson (Program Director), Deborah Lim (Program Officer), Kathy Evans (Panel Representative; Founding Executive Director, Rhinebeck Writers Retreat)

Meeting called to order by Chair Katherine Nicholls

Chair's Welcome

KATHERINE NICHOLLS: Good afternoon and welcome to a joint session of the New York State Council on the Arts' Performing, Literary & Visual Arts and Multidisciplinary Arts Committees. 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. Today we will be holding a joint committee meeting to review the funding recommendations for nine programs: Arts Education, Folk Arts, Special Arts Services, Dance, Electronic Media and Film, Literature, Museums, Music and Theatre.

Before we get started, I would like to highlight the innovative initiative brought forth by Kristin Herron and Fabian Chiu-Rinaldi, the Program Director and Officer for the Museum Program, to make iPads available to our panelists during meetings. By utilizing iPads, panelists can deepen their engagement with each application and visual submissions. I attended the Museum panel and note that this use of technology aided the process and was very much appreciated by panelists and observers alike. We also hope to utilize the iPads during our next Council meeting. Thank you, Kristen and Fabiana.

I would also like to acknowledge the Panelist representatives joining us here today. Each panelist is an expert in their respective field and provides great insight into the grant review process. Over the summer, dozens of field experts served as NYSCA panelists, and our process depends on you. Thank you for your service and welcome.

Committee and Council members: Open Meetings Law of New York State requires that meetings of public bodies like the Council be open to the public, unless there is a basis for the body to approve a motion for entry into an executive or closed session. First, the subjects that may properly be considered in executive session are set out in paragraphs (a) through (h) of section 105(1) of the Open Meetings Law. Because those subjects are limited, a public body cannot conduct an executive session to discuss the subject of its choice. Second, the motion must be sufficiently specific to inform the public that the topic or topics for discussion fall under one of the permitted options.

At the advice of counsel, NYSCA has determined that the Committees gathered today have a basis to enter into executive session under section 105(1)(f) of the Open Meetings Law. This provision permits a public body to enter into an executive session to discuss: "...the...financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation." The sole proposed agenda of our Committee meetings today is the presentation of the specific panel review ratings and resulting staff funding recommendations for nine program areas. We are reminded that one of the three core ratings criteria used by all NYSCA programs for all applications is fiscal and managerial competence. Our agenda will therefore require us to consider and discuss the financial, credit and managerial history of the particular applicants.

I would therefore like to request a motion and second for a vote to: (1) enter into an executive session to review and discuss the panel ratings and resulting funding recommendations of the particular applications for this year in the program areas of Arts Education, Folk Arts, Special Arts Services, Music, Electronic Media & Film, Literature, Museums, Dance, and Theatre; and (2) return to open session at the end of the day to vote on the proposed funding recommendations for these particular applications for presentation at the Council meeting tomorrow.

Motion to enter into an executive session is made, seconded and carries unanimously.

We respectfully ask all non-invited guests here with us to leave the meeting. We will invite the public to rejoin us in the afternoon when we return to an open meeting and take the vote on the funding recommendations of NYSCA for the nine program areas. Our Council meeting will be held tomorrow in open session at 10:00 am where the funding recommendations discussed today will be voted upon by Council.

[Executive Session]

KATHERINE NICHOLLS: Welcome back to the public portion of the meeting for the New York State Council on the Arts Committees. 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.

Approval of Recommendations

I would like to ask for a motion to accept the funding recommendations made by the Arts Education, Folk Arts, Special Arts Services, Music, Electronic Media & Film, Literature, Museums, Dance and Theatre programs.

Motion to accept the recommendations is made and seconded.

I would like to ask Deputy Director of Programs Megan White if there are any conflicts.

Megan White reads the following recusals:

For Arts Education: CNY Arts, Inc. (Rita Paniagua); Henry Street Settlement (John Morning); Punto de Contacto- Point of Contact, Inc. (Rita Paniagua); Saratoga Performing Arts Ctr (Jayne Keyes); Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling (Estrellita Brodsky); The Vivian Beaumont Theater, Inc. (John Morning).

For Electronic Media and Film: Cornell University (Lisa Baker); Dia Center for the Arts (D/B/A Dia Art Foundation) (Estrellita Brodsky); Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Laudelina Martinez); The American Friends of the Ludwig Friends of Cuba (Elsie McCabe Thompson).

For Folk Arts: CNY Arts, Inc. (Rita Paniagua).

For Museums: Americas Society, Inc. (Estrellita Brodsky); Amigos del Museo del Barrio, Inc. (Estrellita Brodsky; Laudelina Martinez); Dia Center for the Arts (D/B/A Dia Art Foundation) (Estrellita Brodsky); Fashion Institute of Technology Foundation (Joan Hornig), Metropolitan Museum of Art (Estrellita Brodsky), Museum of Arts and Design (Joan Hornig), National Parks of New York Harbor Conservancy (Elsie McCabe Thompson), Rensselaer County Historical Society, Inc. (Laudelina Martinez), Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation (Lisa Baker, Estrellita Brodsky), Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling (Estrellita Brodsky).

For Music: Carnegie Hall Corporation (Mahnaz (Nazee) Moinian), The Symphony Space, Inc. (Richard Mittenthal).

For Special Arts Services: Carnegie Hall Corporation (Mahnaz (Nazee) Moinian).

For Theatre: Women's Project & Productions Inc (Janet Kagan).

Motion to adopt the motion carries unanimously subject to applicable recusals.

Adjourn

KATHERINE NICHOLLS: Thank you all for your ongoing service and commitment to NYSCA. I move to adjourn our meeting for today.

Motion to adjourn is made, seconded and carries unanimously.

Meeting adjourns.