

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

300 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10010

July 25, 2018

1:30PM-3:30PM

Present: Katherine Nicholls (Chair), Rita Paniagua, Lisa Baker, Scott Eberle, Joan Hornig, Janet Kagan, Richard Mittenthal, John Morning, Hal Payne, Deborah Ronnen, Laudelina Martinez, Jayne Keyes, Nazee Moinian

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)

Architecture + Design Program: Kristin Herron (*Program Director*), Aidan O'Connor (*Panelist Representative*)

Facilities Program: Christine Leahy (*Program Director*), Bevin Savage-Yamazaki (*Panelist Representative*)

Visual Arts Program: Karen Helmerson (*Program Director*), Rita Putnam (*Program Officer*), Alan Michelson (*Panelist Representative*)

State and Local Partnership: Leanne Tintori-Wells (*Program Director*), Liz Reiss (*Panelist Representative*)

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Meeting called to order at 1:30PM 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.

I would like to introduce Abigail Young, Deputy Director of Operations and General Counsel. Abigail joins NYSCA from the Charities Bureau at the Attorney General's office. Abigail is an important member of our Leadership Team, together with Megan White, Deputy Director of Programs, and Mara Manus. Welcome!

Additionally, we are welcoming 5 new members to the NYSCA Council: Lisa Baker, Scott Eberle, Joan Hornig, Janet Kagan, and Nazee Moinian. Welcome to all!

Today we will be holding a committee meeting to review the work that has been completed in four programs: Facilities, Visual Arts, Architecture + Design, and State and Local Partnerships. At this point, I would like to turn the meeting over to the Performing, Literary & Visual Arts Co-Chairs John Morning & Laudelina Martinez.

### **PERFORMING, LITERARY & VISUAL COMMITTEE GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS**

KATHERINE NICHOLLS welcomes JOHN MORNING and LAUDELINA MARTINEZ, co-chairs of the Performing, Literary & Visual Arts Committee, as well as MEGAN WHITE, NYSCA's Deputy Director of Programs to review the grant recommendations for FY2019.

## Architecture + Design Program

JOHN MORNING & LAUDELINA MARTINEZ introduce KRISTIN HERRON, Architecture and Design Program Director, and AIDAN O'CONNOR, Panelist Representative and Design Curator/Cultural Consultant.

KRISTIN HERRON:

For Fiscal Year 2019 the Program reviewed 106 applications - 38 represent institutional requests and 68 were sponsored individuals in this program's "artist" category - Independent Projects. The overall A+D budget is just under \$1.2 million. Funding available for FY 2019 is \$442,750 which is fully allocated to 30 applications. That represents an overall success rate of 28%. Additionally, there are another 17 applications on multi-year support which the Council approved earlier this year.

AIDAN O'CONNOR: Provided highlight of Troy Architectural Program (TAP Inc.), the community design center for the Capital Region, that returns with an application after 6 years. Celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019 TAP offers affordable fee-for service architectural and preservation work, and it has renewed a commitment to place-making, using public art and participatory design to reclaim blighted public space and celebrate a neighborhoods' character defining features.

KRISTIN HERRON: GOS recommendations are based on an organization's budget size and rating, for requests rating between 6.8 and 5.7. Larger organizations are recommended for smaller percentages than more modest organizations. Project Support is being recommended for those requests scoring between 7.6 and 5.6. Based on the rating, the recommended awards are between \$25,811 and \$16,000 – unless the applicant requested less. Independent Projects category is particularly competitive, many scores are "1." The panel discussed all 68 applications on day one, moving forward 1/4 of the requests for deeper discussion. Those with a "1" did not move forward.

The attending Council members were given an opportunity to ask questions.

MEGAN WHITE reads Council member recusals to be entered for the record: Lisa Baker (Cornell University), Joan Hornig (Fashion Institute of Technology)

*Motion to accept the recommendations made by the Architecture + Design Program carries unanimously.*

## Facilities Program

JOHN MORNING & LAUDELINA MARTINEZ introduce CHRISTINE LEAHY, Facilities Program Director, and BEVIN SAVAGE-YAMAZAKI, Panelist Representative and Senior Associate and Firmwide Leader for Arts and Culture at Gensler.

CHRISTINE LEAHY: The Facilities budget for FY 2019, level from last year, is \$1,095,591. After a multiyear award of \$116,993 to the Preservation League of New York State, to administer our regrant/technical assistance program, there was a balance of \$978,598.

A total of 46 applications were completed in the Grants Gateway. Of those, 10 were ineligible, three withdrew to instead apply for one of this year's new capital opportunities offered through the Consolidated Funding Application, and 33 moved forward for review. Of these, 20 are recommended for funding, which is 60%, a

success rate that is comparable with previous years, but slightly higher than FY18. Those recommended for support scored 5.8 or above. The Program funds the full eligible request of those organizations scoring high enough, up to the Facilities cap of \$49,500.

This year, one reason the numbers are a little lower is because of the two other capital funding opportunities being offered. Applicants were not allowed to apply to both this Facilities program and one of the new initiatives for the same project. It is recommended that the balance of the program's money be redistributed to other NYSCA programs.

Organization highlight: Urban Glass, which applied for funding to purchase a high volume oxygen system. This specialized equipment will help keep this Brooklyn glassblowing studio at the cutting edge of its craft.

The attending Council members were given an opportunity to ask questions.

MEGAN WHITE reads Council member recusals to be entered for the record: Scott Eberle (Strong Museum), Laudelina Martinez (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)

*Motion to accept the recommendations made by the Facilities Program carries unanimously.*

### Visual Arts Program

JOHN MORNING & LAUDELINA MARTINEZ introduce KAREN HELMERSON, Program Director, and ALAN MICHAELSON, Panelist Representative, artist, curator, and a Mohawk member of the Six Nations of the Grand River.

KAREN HELMERSON: The Visual Arts Program received 100 applications in Grants Gateway for FY19. 14 applications were deemed ineligible, with 82 applications moving forward to panel. Of those, 12 applications were new. Overall there were 17 applications from upstate that moved forward for review. 67 applications have received panel recommendation for support.

Visual Arts Panel thoroughly discussed "transition funding" for one-year vs providing a technical zero on a case by case to determine clear messaging and fairness across all applicants. Additionally, Panel discussed and clarified the distinction between commissions, artist fees and other forms of support.

There is a remarkable number of new applicants to the Visual Arts Program in FY19. Over the past 5-10 years, a new generation of non-profit organizations has evolved, bringing a new generation of artists, whose art is deeply engaged in socially conscious work, which resulted in a major discussion at Panel, forming a guiding principle for clarification and rigorous policies on artist fees going forward.

Organization highlights: Pioneer Works Art Foundation (New this year, an important cultural anchor in Red Hook, Atlantic Basin / NY Harbor), and Alfred University - No. 72 in Allegany County, for consistent, high-quality artist residency facilities.

The attending Council members were given an opportunity to ask questions.

MEGAN WHITE reads Council member recusal to be entered for the record: Joan Hornig (Museum of Arts and Design).

*Motion to accept the recommendations made by the Visual Arts Program carries unanimously.*

### **MULTI-DISCIPLINARY ARTS COMMITTEE**

KATHERINE NICHOLLS welcomes RICHARD MITTENTHAL and RITA PANIAGUA, co-chairs of the Multi-Disciplinary Arts Committee, and MEGAN WHITE, NYSCA's Deputy Director of Programs to review the grant recommendations for FY2019.

RICHARD MITTENTHAL and RITA PANIAGUA introduce LEANNE TINTORI-WELLS, Program Director of State and Local Partnerships. LEANNE introduces Panelist Representative, ELIZABETH REISS, Chief Executive Officer of the Arts Center of the Capital Region who provided information her experience serving as a panelist this year.

LEANNE TINTORI-WELLS: SLP's total budget is just over \$7.3 M in total this year and approximately \$3.8M administered through the DEC program. (66 grantees are on MY funding in a total of \$4,725,630). For FY2019, a total of 41 applications from 34 organizations were reviewed; 36 are returning applicants along with 5 first time applicants. 36 of the 41 applications are recommended for funding for a total dollar amount of \$2,253,662.

The funding recommendations are based on a rubric that considers the application's final score, the category, and the project budget. Percentage caps, scaled by rating and budget, serve as a ceiling for the maximum grant amount that can be recommended. The rationale is structured to reward the most highly rated organizations with a higher award amount and allow for organizations with smaller budgets to receive a greater percentage of their budget. While previous funding history is one factor, it is not the baseline on which funding is predicated.

DEC sites serving communities in under-resourced regions with limited access to other funding sources and with a services-to-the-field score of 7.0 and above are given a higher funding priority.

Ms. Wells also highlighted an organization that was being recommended for funding for a year but with a mandate for technical support and organizational targets. The attending Council members were given an opportunity to ask questions.

MEGAN WHITE: There are no Council member conflicts to report.

*Motion to accept the recommendations made by the State and Local Partnership Program carries unanimously.*

### **Adjournment**

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

*Motion to adjourn carries unanimously.*

Meeting adjourns at 3:30PM.