

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF THE ARTS

Connecticut Arts Council
February 22, 2016
One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor
Hartford, CT

MINUTES

Present: Mimsie Coleman, Philip Eliasoph, Karen Osbrey, Amy Wynn, Jan Dilenschneider, Ted Yudain, Lisa Scails, Mary DeCroce

Absent: Fritz Jellinghaus, Jimmy Greene

Staff: Kristina Newman-Scott, Rhonda Olisky, Bonnie Koba, Tamara Dimitri, John Cusano

Guest: Sharon Lyle, Public City

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

The approval of the minutes were tabled for next month.

III. Cultural Strategy Update

Sharon Lyle from Public City gave an update on the Cultural Strategy plan for the State of CT. Public City uses a Design Thinking approach for this process. We are hoping to elicit opinions, ideas and reflections from those who will ultimately use and benefit from the design of the strategic plan through sessions called charrettes – community driven meetings. The Designated Regional Service Organizations will be trained to facilitate and host these charrettes across the state. The feedback of these sessions will be utilized to develop the Cultural Strategy.

IV. Chairman's Report

No report.

V. Director's Report

Kristina Newman-Scott reported that the FY17 Arts Grant applications and guidelines have been posted on our website. Due to time constraints, COA will not be able to host grant information sessions this year. Staff will discuss alternatives.

The current Governor's proposed budget cuts all line items including the Arts Commission by a little over 5%. The Arts Commission line has been put into DECD's operating budget and the Commissioner will be making decisions on how this funding will be distributed including salaries and fringe services. Ms. Newman-Scott will be submitting to the Commissioner a budget with the priority expenses for COA. All the other line items have been collapsed across departments, cut by 25% and proposed to be put in the Comptrollers budget.

Ms. Newman-Scott also reported that we are approaching 350 people registered for Connecticut Arts Day. We have been receiving some positive feedback and excitement around this event. The day is shaping up quite nicely. We gotten some really good promo on NPR, and a press release has been sent out. Rhonda Olisky is coordinating the logistics and will be contacting our DRSO's to assign tasks.

The Percent for Art program has been selected to go through a LEAN process. This process is a plan to make it more efficient by revisiting it how it is managed. Tamara Dimitri will be the point of contact.

The newly published marketing sheet for the CT Office of the Arts has been completed and will be email to our arts council members.

VI. Action Items for Recommendations

It is recommended that the Connecticut Arts Council approve Kate Callahan of Hartford as Connecticut's 16th State Troubadour for a two-year term from 2016-2018 and receive an annual stipend of \$2,500.00.

Motion: Lisa Scails

Second: Mimsie Coleman

(Y-8; N-0)

VII. Other Business

No other business.

VIII: Adjournment

A motion was made by Ted Yudain to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:33 pm.

The next arts council meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 18, 2016.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lu Rivera
Administrative Assistant

