

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF THE ARTS**

**Connecticut Arts Council
Monday, October 19, 2015
One Constitution Plaza
Hartford, CT**

MINUTES

Present: Fritz Jellinghaus, Amy Wynn, Mimsie Coleman, Mary DeCroce, Ted Yudain, Philip Eliasoph

Absent: Jimmy Greene, Lisa Scails, Karen Osbrey, Jan Dilenschneider, Catherine Smith

Staff: Kristina Newman-Scott, John Cusano

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes were tabled for next Arts Council meeting.

III. Chairman's Report

No report.

IV. Director's Report

Kristina Newman-Scott reported that a press release has gone out announcing the 20 nonprofit organizations recipients of the Good to Great bond funded grant, a total of \$1.9m, to fund capital improvements at their institutions that will transform the visitor experience.

Ms. Newman-Scott gave an update on the 5% rescission to the budget for FY16. Adjustments have been made to our internal budget. We have made an effort so that the field does not get affected by the reduction; rather we have made cuts to our internal administrative costs. However, we anticipate that the state appropriation for FY17 will be at a lower amount, which will then affect all our grant programs.

Ms. Newman-Scott reported that the CT Office of the Arts has posted an RFP to seek a consulting firm that will lead us in the development of a Cultural Strategy Plan for the State of CT.

Lu Rivera reported that the Line Item grant contract language has been approved by the Attorney General's office. We have 58 organizations in FY16 that are receiving line item funding in comparison to 50 organizations last fiscal year. We expect to email out grant documents by the end of this week.

John Cusano gave an update on the Regional Initiative Grant program. This is the pilot year for this program. Each of the nine Designated Regional Service Organizations (DRSOs) conducted their panel reviews and have sent to our office a list of the applications and final recommendations. There were 74 awards recommended with a total of \$303,200 distributed. The DRSOs will be meeting next week to evaluate and give input on the process as a whole.

V. Marketing

Jill Adams, from Adams & Knight Marketing Firm, informed us that they will be creating an overarching flyer that really helps make the economic and impact case in CT. This will be a tool that our art champions can use with a wide variety of audiences: press, legislators, funders, etc. In addition, it will include other benefits that the arts have in our communities: recruiting and retention, workforce, attractions, etc. The idea is to make this visually attractive. It will also include a brief description of the mission of the CT Office of the Arts.

VI. Action Item for Recommendation

No action items.

VII. Other Business

No other business.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mimsie Coleman.

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm.

The next Arts Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 14, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lu Rivera
Administrative Assistant