

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF THE ARTS

Connecticut Arts Council
Monday, April 18, 2016
One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor
Hartford, CT

MINUTES

Present: Fritz Jellinghaus, Mimsie Coleman, Philip Eliasoph, Karen Osbrey, Amy Wynn, Ted Yudain, Lisa Scails, Mary DeCroce, Helen Klisser During, Catherine Smith

Absent: Jimmy Greene, Jan Dilenschneider

Staff: Kristina Newman-Scott, Bonnie Koba, John Cusano

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

The approval of the minutes were tabled for next month.

III. Chairman's Report

Fritz Jellinghaus introduced and welcomed our new Arts Council member Helen Klisser During. Ms. During is the artistic director emeritus of the Westport Arts Center and a WestportNow contributing photographer.

IV. Director's Report

Kristina Newman- Scott gave an update on the Cultural Strategy Plan. Charrettes have gone very well and Public City is gathering input from the DRSOs regarding process and is also reviewing the data gathered through the Charrettes which will guide the development of the plan. On May 25th COA will conduct a Charrette that will include business leaders, municipal and state officials, and folks working in the arts and culture sector.

John Cusano gave an update on the Assets for Artists. With the state grant of \$13,000 leveraged \$25,000 in USDA funding. With great outreach by our regional partners and the Office of the Arts, 49 applications were received from rural artists state-wide to enroll in the match-grant savings program, with three participants eligible for \$2,000 of matching funds and seven who are receiving \$1,000, for a total of \$13,000 in direct matching funds. Five training sessions were held in four different areas of the state, totaling 30 hours of professional development workshops. A total of 58 artists were served in those 5 workshops, including most of the original 49 applicants.

Bonnie Koba reported that the 23rd HOT Schools Summer Institute will be held on July 11-15, 2016 at the Hartford Hilton Hotel. The theme is "Storytelling – An Artful Journey". Ms. Koba encouraged the arts council members to attend any portion of this national event.

Commissioner Smith gave an update on the current status of the Governor's proposed budget for FY17 which calls a 5% cut on all line items including the Arts Commission. The Arts Commission line has been put into DECD's operating budget. The Commissioner will be meeting with DECD's senior managers to discuss the priorities of each department within DECD. All the other line items have been collapsed and cut by 25%; and it has been proposed to put them in the Comptrollers budget. Budget discussions have just begun, so we will most likely see changes or other proposals coming from the Governor's office and/or the Legislature. Hopefully, a budget will be fully in place by the beginning of the new fiscal year, July 1st 2016.

V. Action Items for Recommendations

No action items.

VI. Other Business

No other business.

VII: Adjournment

A motion was made by Catherine Smith to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lu Rivera
Administrative Assistant