

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

**Connecticut Arts Council
February 10, 2015
One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor
Hartford, CT**

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Fritz Jellinghaus, Mimsie Coleman, Ann Sheffer, Lisa Scails, Amy Wynn,
Mary DeCroce, Karen Osbrey, Ted Yudain (arrived at 1:43 pm)

Absent: Jimmy Greene, Philip Eliasoph

Staff: Dan Forrest, John Cusano, Rhonda Olisky, Bonnie Koba, Michael Price

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:11 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion by Amy Wynn, seconded by Ann Sheffer, was made to approve the minutes of December 15, 2014.

(Y-6; N-0; Abstain: Karen Osbrey)

III. Chairman's Report

Fritz Jellinghaus reported that Commissioner Smith will follow-up with the Governor's office in regards to possibly conduct the Governor's Arts Awards at the Governor's mansion.

For the next Arts Council meeting scheduled for February 23, 2015, the majority of the meeting will be dedicated to discuss the CT Arts Council Foundation.

IV. Director's Report

Dan Forrest reported on the changes currently unfolding at DECD and the CT Office of the Arts. Kip Bergstrom has left DECD to spearhead the state's effort to revise the Amistad organization.

There is a restructuring simultaneously occurring at DECD with Kip's departure. Tim Sullivan, a senior manager at DECD has been promoted to Deputy Commissioner. Tim will take over the responsibilities of Tourism and Branding. Randy Fiveash and Christine Castonguay will now be reporting directly to Tim. Art and Historic Preservation will be brought under a new manager with the title of Head of Cultural Programs. That position will report directly to Commissioner Smith once it's filled. Dan will be reporting to the new manager, his position will remain unchanged. The responsibilities for the new manager are just for arts and historic preservation. It is an appointed position so there will not be an open call for application. Commissioner has requested that Dan reach to a number folks particularly in the arts community to solicit names and suggestions for folks who could serve in this capacity. Arts Council members are encouraged to make recommendations as well.

It is the hope within the office that this new manager will help us mend relationships with our key partners across the state and spend more time working directly with our constituents in the field and keep up with more regular communication with everyone. We are looking to conduct interviews in mid March for this position.

Regarding the FY16 arts grants, one of the problems we have had over the last few months is trying to force everything into the creative placemaking framework as the central focus on all of the elective funding to the field. Dan has directed the arts staff to make some changes to the grant guidelines and applications and where it is not a natural fit to back off on that explicit placemaking framework.

Although it's a bit awkward to be coming into new leadership and putting out the grant programs for the entire next fiscal year, holding them back will not allow our funding to align with the state's fiscal year.

Guidelines will be published by the end of next week. Information sessions will be scheduled with the Designated Regional Service Organizations (DRSOs) in the next two weeks.

Applications will be due in April. All potential applicants will be required to file an Intent to Apply by the end of March. Panel process will be in May. The Arts Council will make final approval in June.

Dan also reported that Rod Frantz' and Margaret Bodell's durational employment comes to a conclusion next week. We are unable to fund the proposals that they have submitted to COA for future projects at this time. Upon the arrival of the new Head of Culture, as an office we will discuss COA's efforts in setting priorities to address our responsibilities to underserved populations.

V. Action Items for Recommendations

A. Administration of FY2016 Regional Initiatives Grant Program by Designated Regional Service Organizations (DRSOs)

Motion by Ann Sheffer; seconded by Ted Yudain

It is recommended that the Arts Council approve an amount not to exceed \$90,000.00 as compensation to the state's nine Designated Regional Service Organizations (\$10,000.00 to each organization) for administration of COA's FY2016 Regional Initiative grant program.

(Y-6; N-0; Abstain: Amy Wynn and Lisa Scails)

B. FY15 Connecticut Arts Endowment Fund

Motion by Ted Yudain, seconded by Ann Sheffer

It is recommended that the Arts Council approve 117 Connecticut Arts Endowment grants totaling \$446,607.00.

(Y-5; N-0; Abstain: Ted Yudain, Amy Wynn, Lisa Scails)

C. FY2015 Exclusive Operating Support – 6 month Supplemental Grant

Motion by Mimsi Coleman, seconded by Lisa Scails

It is recommended that the Arts Council approve an amount not to exceed \$8,786.00 for two, six month supplemental Operating Support grants.

(Y-8; N-0)

VI. Other Business

No other business.

VII: Adjournment

A motion was made by Lisa Scails to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lu Rivera

Administrative Assistant