

Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

Arts Committee Meeting

October 4, 2010

Hartford, Connecticut

Present: Carolyn Cicchetti, Dick Allen, Paul Eliasoph, Betty Hale, Paul Pozzi, Ann Sheffer, Michael Price

Absent: Ted Yudain, Walter Fiederowicz, Clem Roy, Rita Schmidt

Staff: An-Ming Truxes, John Cusano, Cathy DeMeo, Lourdes Rivera (recording)

Call to Order

Carolyn Cicchetti called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 3, 2010 were approved.

Motion: Betty Hale

Second: Paul Pozzi

Unanimous approval

Report from Carolyn Cicchetti

Due to his work schedule, Daniel Heffernan has resigned from the Commission board.

Carolyn passed out Connecticut Arts Alliance's recently announced Arts Advocacy Platform – a key message is the critical role of the arts and creative businesses in Connecticut's local and state economies.

Joining by telephone, Ann Sheffer reported on the 50/50 event the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County recently hosted at her house in Westport. Over 100 arts advocates and artists came to hear from Congressman Jim Himes and his opponent Dan DeBicella – particularly to convey to them the importance of funding the arts. The Connecticut Arts Alliance has a scheduled meeting with gubernatorial candidate Dan Molloy this week and is working on getting an appointment with Tom Foley.

Carolyn commented on the success of the Culture & Tourism summit held at the Convention Center on September 28. Over 1000 people came to show support for culture and tourism in the state.

The next Arts Committee meeting will be on November 2nd at 10:30 am at the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce in Middletown – before the Executive Committee meets.

The December 6th Arts Committee meeting will be at 12:00 noon before the full board meeting.

Report from the Arts Division Director

A reminder that NASAA recently launched its new website which is more intuitive and user-friendly and easier to connect to information. There is a wealth of advocacy resources such as the new policy brief *Why Government Should Support the Arts?* and the latest NASAA Advocate *Elections 2010: Campaigning for Public Arts Support*. Both are accessible on NASAA's homepage www.nasaa-arts.org. *Why Government Should Support the Arts* provides talking points as well as links to research supporting those points.

We submitted our full-scale partnership agreement application to the NEA on October 1st. A full-scale application, required every three years, includes a 14-page narrative, the strategic plan, and support material. Thanks go to all Arts staff for their assistance.

Upcoming Arts Division programming changes:

- We are combining the Directory of Performing Artists and Directory of Teaching Artists into a single roster. This is the year that new artists can apply to join the Directory. All current performing artists will need to reapply.
- We will be consolidating the two fee-support grant programs - Arts Presentation and Creative Collaboration - into one program.

CCT's Programs and Services have been consolidated on a single webpage. They are no longer separated by divisions.

Action Item Recommendations

FY2011 LAA Cultural Leadership Grants – John Cusano

20 grants = \$379, 330

Motion: Paul Pozzi

Second: Betty Hale

Unanimous approval

Grant to Young Audiences of CT – An-Ming Truxes

\$2,500.00 - to support the implementation of the CHANGE Exhibition at Cornwall Public Library and Fairfield Arts Council

Motion: Betty Hale

Second: Ann Sheffer

Unanimous approval

Program Staff Reports

John Cusano presented the new Peer Advisor Network brochure. PAN is administered by five local arts agencies which operate as CCT PAN field offices. In the spring, CCT recruited, selected, and trained 15 new advisors, bringing the current PAN roster to 32 advisors, including several experts in the heritage and humanities fields. The new PAN brochure will soon be available on CCT's website.

Cathy DeMeo reported on the General Operating Support program, noting that both GOS and Arts Project Support are no longer under the umbrella of “Organizational Support” but are separate and distinct programs with different application deadlines and grant activity periods.

We received 132 applications for FY11 GOS by the August 12th deadline. 21 applications were submitted by organizations in Group C, requiring a panel review and assessment, and 111 interim applications were filed by organizations in Groups A and B applying for a second or third year of support in a 3-year cycle. GOS grant recommendations will go before the Arts and Executive Committees on November 2nd.

An overview of current GOS grantees revealed that their organizational budgets total just under \$140 million. Individual budgets range from \$25,000 to nearly \$17 million annually; thirty organizations have budgets over \$1 million and 24 organizational budgets are under \$100,000. These grantees (which include neither Local Arts Councils nor organizations receiving direct legislative funds) employ approximately 800 individuals in full-time jobs, and many more part-timers. Organizations spent on average 43% of their income (over \$60 million) on staff salaries, and another 18-20% (over \$25 million) on fees for artists and other outside professionals.

Michael Price commented that it would be useful to capture data on “full-time equivalent” jobs in the field. Cathy noted that CCT has begun asking for that information in FY10 GOS final reports.

Other Business

The meeting concluded with new poet laureate Dick Allen reading from a selection of his poems.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:23 pm

Motion: Philip Eliasoph

Second: Paul Pozzi

Unanimous approval