

Ann Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

Arts Committee Meeting

December 6, 2010

Hartford, Connecticut

Present: Ted Yudain, Dick Allen, Carolyn Cicchetti, Betty Hale, Walter Fiederowicz, Paul Pozzi, Ann Sheffer

Absent: Clem Roy, Rita Schmidt, Michael Price, Philip Eliasoph

Staff: An-Ming Truxes, John Cusano, Cathy DeMeo, Tamara Dimitri, Amy Freidman, Bonnie Koba, Karen Senich, Lourdes Rivera (recording)

Call to Order

Ted Yudain called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 2, 2010 meeting were approved.

Motion: Walter Fiederowicz

Second: Betty Hale

Unanimous approval

Report from the Committee Chair

Ted Yudain asked about the idea brought up at the November 2nd Arts Committee meeting of starting a grant program to help schools meet bus transportation costs for field trips [An-Ming will report].

Report from the Arts Division Director

An-Ming passed out information she compiled about school bus grant programs offered by six state arts agencies: Iowa Arts Council, Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs, Nebraska Arts Council, Rhode Island State Council on the arts, and Vermont Arts Council. Grant awards range from \$200 to \$500. Availability of funds is posted on SAAs' websites until all funds are spent. Program budgets range from \$12,000 to \$150,000. MCC's *Big Yellow School Bus Grant* has the largest budget – \$150,000 – of which \$125,000 is funded by Bank of America.

Karen commented that CCT cannot start a school bus grant program at this time due to lack of financial and staff resources. Ann Sheffer pointed out that the Westport Country Playhouse offers a program called Arts Access which provides access to programs for underserved students. It was suggested to survey arts organizations to determine if they offer programs similar to WCP's Arts Access.

In its latest release before Thanksgiving, the NEA announced 16 direct grants to Connecticut totaling \$305,000 – 15 grants to organizations and one \$25,000 grant to poet Randall Horton of West Haven.

The NEA has posted a preview of some changes to the NEA's guidelines for direct grants to organizations. Access to Artistic Excellence and Learning in the Arts Grant programs have been replaced with a new funding category called Artworks. When you apply for an Artworks grant, you now must choose from one or more of four outcomes – creation, engagement, learning, and livability. Final reports must provide evidence that the outcome was achieved.

Action Item Recommendations

FY11 Arts Project Grants – Cathy DeMeo

Approve 17 grants - \$105,000

Motion: Carolyn Cicchetti

Second: Ann Sheffer

Unanimous approval

FY11 Poetry Out Loud – Amy Friedman

Grant to Young Men's Institute Library – \$23,000

Motion: Walter Fiederowicz

Second: Betty Hale

Unanimous approval

FY11 Visual Arts Fellowship – An-Ming Truxes

Perry Obee - \$30,000

Motion: Carolyn Cicchetti

Second: Paul Pozzi

Unanimous approval

Other Business

Bonnie Koba reported on CCT's involvement with Connecticut's 375th Celebration.

- CCT teaching artist Mark Patnode created an original 6-foot-high oil painting of the Charter Oak in honor of the state's 375th Anniversary.
- Patnode worked with students from Lincoln Middle School in Meriden to paint ornaments for the National Christmas Tree Lighting on December 9th.
- Students from Jack Jackter Intermediate School in Colchester participated in the 375th celebration kickoff in the spring. Pictures of the day's events were put together in a book which was buried, among other objects, in a time capsule on the grounds of the Governor's residence in December.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 pm.

Motion: Walter Fiederowicz

Second: Carolyn Cicchetti

Unanimous approval