

Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

**Arts Committee Meeting
July 22, 2009
Offices of the CT Humanities Council
Middletown, Connecticut**

Present: Ann Sheffer, Rita Schmidt, Paul Pozzi, Philip Eliasoph, Walter Fiederowicz, Sandy Evoy, Betty Hale, Ted Yudain, Carolyn Cicchetti, Michael Price

Absent: Dan Heffernan, John Hollender, Clem Roy

Staff: Karen Senich, An-Ming Truxes, Cathy DeMeo

Call to Order

Ann Sheffer called the meeting to order at 10:12 am. Ted Yudain presided at 10:15 am.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 4th, 2009 meeting were approved.

Motion: Sandy Evoy

Second: Walter Fiederowicz

Unanimous approval

The minutes of the June 1st, 2009 conference call meeting were approved.

Motion: Ann Sheffer

Second: Walter Fiederowicz

Unanimous approval

A question was raised regarding the validity of conference call and email votes on action items when so few members are present on the call. It was determined okay as a rare occasion because the arts committee was not ratifying the item; they were recommending that board approve it at the June 8th meeting.

Report from the Committee Chair

The was no Arts Committee Chair report.

Report from the Arts Division Director

An-Ming reported that there are several new faces at the NEA appointed by the Obama administration – a new Director of Communications, Director of Government Affairs and new Deputy Chairman for Grants and Awards. The NEA no longer uses the tagline “A Great Nation Deserves Great Art.”

Rocco Landesman, nominated to be the new NEA chair, is waiting to be confirmed.

Four Connecticut organizations received \$150,000 in direct ARRA grants from the NEA, and today (July 22), NEFA is reviewing 7 applications from Connecticut organizations for salary and fee support. We hope that Connecticut organizations will receive \$500,000+ in total funds from all 3 sources (NEA, NEFA, and CCT).

Across the country, state arts agencies are reporting that the ARRA Arts Jobs grant process has been competitive and applicants are taking rejection hard. Whether because of the publicity about the stimulus funds, applicants seem to place a great deal of hope on receiving these funds to help them survive even though they know that the available pool of grant \$ is very small.

ARRA funds will be scrutinized for accountability and transparency. The federal government requires that quarterly reports be filed directly with OMB and the state requires monthly reports to the Governor's office. Connecticut agencies will not delegate reporting responsibility to sub-recipients. CCT will aggregate and report on our recipients both to the CT Recovery office of the Governor and to OMB.

It was suggested that in our publicity about these grants, we should highlight the fact that CCT is the conduit for these funds and that \$ is going out quickly because CCT was responsive and worked to put a system in place in an efficient and timely manner.

An-Ming next asked Cathy DeMeo to give background on the development and design of the Arts Jobs Preservation grant program following the NEA model. Cathy provided an overview of the applicant pool demographics and review process.

A question was asked about protocol regarding those organizations that will not be funded. Karen explained that all information is public. We will post/announce awardees (but not scores) on our website. Applicants can talk to Cathy if they want more information or panel feedback.

Action Item Recommendation

Arts Jobs Preservation Grant Program – An-Ming Truxes & Cathy DeMeo

Approve 18 grants totaling \$300,000.

Motion: Carolyn Cicchetti

Second: Ann Sheffer

Recuse: Ted Yudain, Curtain Call

Unanimous approval

Further discussion:

Members agreed that with fewer dollars available for CCT to disburse through grants, the most important thing we can do is be a clearinghouse for information and provide services for the field. Resources should be posted on the web site. This dovetailed with

the presentation/demo of the Heritage Resource Center, an online technical assistance tool developed by the Connecticut Humanities Council and funded by a CCT Special Initiative Grant. Members were very impressed and encouraged continued dialogue with CHC. A Commissioner suggested that CHC might consider integrating the word “culture” because arts constituents may not recognize themselves as “heritage” entities.

Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Motion: Paul Pozzi

Second: Walter Fiederowicz

Unanimous approval