

# CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON CULTURE AND TOURISM

## FULL COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, January 5, 2009

1:30 P.M.

One Constitution Plaza

Hartford, Connecticut

### MINUTES

**Present:** Chairman Michael Price, Karen Arnold, Anne Elvgren, Walter Fiederowicz, Bruce Fraser, Betty Hale, Helen Higgins, Greg Johnson, Larry McHugh, Ed McKeon, Paul Pozzi, Rita Schmidt, Ann E. Sheffer, Will K. Wilkins, and Ted Yudain

**Absent:** Nicholas Bellantoni, Charles Bunnell, Arthur Diedrick, Carolyn Cicchetti, Sandra Evoy, Fritz Jellinghaus, Daniel Heffernan, John Hollander, Harvey Hubbell V., Herbert Jay, Ed Marcus, Guy Ortoleva, Clem Roy, and Walter Woodward

**Staff & Guests:** David Bahlman, Randy Fiveash, Leigh Johnson (Recording), George Norfleet, Rhonda Olisky, Karen Senich and An-Ming Truxes

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the full Commission was held on Monday, January 5, 2009 at the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism and was called to order.

#### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*On a motion made by Karen Arnold, second by Larry McHugh, the minutes of November 10, 2008 were approved as circulated. (Y-13, N-0)*

#### III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Michael Price Reporting

The Chairman reported – during the last meeting of the Executive Committee on December 12<sup>th</sup>, the committee approved the following action items:

- a. Lara Herscovitch of Durham as Connecticut's State Troubadour for 2009 and 2010;
- b. John Bent as the Visual Arts Fellow for 2009;
- c. A supplemental Certified Local Government Grant in the amount of \$30,000 to the Town of Windham to create a Historic Resources Inventory; and,
- d. A grant in the amount of \$15,750.00 to the Town of Thomaston for ceiling restoration to the Thomaston Opera House.

#### IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Karen Senich Reporting

##### *Governor's Awards in Excellence*

Executive Director Senich reported the Governor's Awards in Excellence will be held on April 15, 2009 at the Legislative Office Building. Submissions for nominations are open until January 16<sup>th</sup> for the Governor's Awards and Distinguished Advocate Awards. In light of the budget crisis this year, the Commission will be scaling back on the ceremonial event.

##### **Legislative Session**

The legislative session commences on Wednesday, January 7, 2009. There are rumors and speculations circulating about the future of the Commission and the budget. The Commission is focusing on preserving what we have, and in particular, the film tax credits but also the funding and the existence of the agency. The Commission does not have any new legislative initiatives for this legislative session.

### **Governor's Budget**

The governor's second mitigation plan is scheduled to be presented to the legislature next Wednesday. The mitigation plan includes the remaining marketing carry-forward funds and also, the last three deposits for the Community Investment Act funds.

### **V. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. On a motion by Ted Yudain, second by Larry McHugh, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved 36 Artist Fellowship grants totaling \$122,500 in the categories of choreography, fiction, film/video, music composition, playwriting and poetry. (Y-13, N-0)
- B. On a motion by Ted Yudain, second by Ann Sheffer, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approve John O'Donnell as the 2009 Art in Public Spaces fellow. The annual stipend will be \$30,000 for 50 weeks at 30 hours per week. (Y-13, N-0)
- C. On a motion by Ted Yudain, second by Rita Schmidt, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved the 2009 Elizabeth L. Mahaffey Arts Administration Fellowship award in the amount of \$2,500 to Ann Shapiro, Executive Director of the Connecticut Storytelling Center in New London. (Y-12, N-0, A-1 Commissioner Johnson)
- D. On a motion by Larry McHugh, second by Ted Yudain, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved twenty-three Marketing Challenge Grant awards totaling \$473,082.00 (Y-13, N-0)
- E. On a motion by Ann Sheffer, second by Karen Arnold, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved a Strategic Initiative Grant in the amount of \$100,000 to Connecticut Public Broadcasting for the 2009 Positively Connecticut project. (Y-13, N-0)

### **VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN – a motion to adjourn was made, and so moved. All were in favor.

VIII. NEXT FULL COMMISSION MEETING – Monday, February 2, 2009, 1:30 p.m., One Constitution Plaza, main conference room.

### **Future Actions**

- None at this time.

### **Tabled Items**

- None at this time.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Leigh Johnson, Recording Secretary