

CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON CULTURE AND TOURISM

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, November 10, 2008

1:30 P.M.

One Constitution Plaza

Hartford, Connecticut

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Michael Price, Karen Arnold, Nicholas Bellantoni, Charles Bunnell, Carolyn Cicchetti, Anne Elvgren, Sandra Evoy, Helen Higgins, Greg Johnson, Ed Marcus, Larry McHugh, Guy Ortoleva, Paul Pozzi, Clem Roy, Rita Schmidt, Ann E. Sheffer, Will K. Wilkins, and Ted Yudain

Absent: Arthur Diedrick, Walter Fiederowicz, Betty Hale, Bruce Fraser, Fritz Jellinghaus, Daniel Heffernan, John Hollander, Harvey Hubbell V., Herbert Jay, Ed McKeon, and Walter Woodward

Staff & Guests: David Bahlman, Barbara Cieplak, Mary Donohue, 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, November 10, 2008 at the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism and was called to order.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Larry McHugh, second by Ted Yudain, the minutes of June 16, 2008 were approved as circulated. (Y-15, N-0)

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Michael Price Reporting

The Chairman welcomed Sandra Evoy a new Commissioner appointed by the Governor to the full Commission. Ms. Evoy introduced herself to the full Commission.

During the last meeting of the Executive Committee held on October 1st, the committee approved the following action items:

- 48 Arts Presentation grants totaling \$60,169.00,
- 4 Survey and Planning grants totaling \$110,695.00,
- 2 Supplemental Certified Local Government Grants totaling \$45,000.00,
- 1 Preservation Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$2,800,
- 1 Basic Operational Support Grant in the amount of \$34,942.00, and
- Sarah Barber as the Public Information Fellow in the Arts Division for 2008-2009, for an annual stipend of \$30,000.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Karen Senich Reporting

New Staff

Ms. Senich introduced David Bahlman as the new division director for the Historic Preservation & Museum Division, and Randy Fiveash the new division director for the Tourism Division. Mr. Bahlman joined the Commission last month and comes to the Commission from the Illinois Landmarks. Mr. Fiveash recently joined the Commission and was formally the director of tourism for the State of Kentucky.

Legislative Session

The Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism has not put forth any new legislative initiatives for the upcoming legislative session.

State Budget

Two weeks ago the Governor put forth her proposed mitigation plan for the state. The plan proposes carry-forward reductions, if the legislature approves the mitigation plan, this will have a direct impact on the agency's statewide marketing account.

Art Grants

The Commission will be shifting the payment release date for awards and grants to the end of September as opposed to July 1st. of each fiscal year. The review process for grants will remain the same. All grants will be scored, evaluated, and voted for approval after the start of each new fiscal year. All constituents will be notified of the new payment release date.

A request was made to provide Commission members with a copy of the agency's approved budget and expenditures to date.

V. ACTION ITEMS

- A. On a motion by Ann Sheffer, second by Carolyn Cicchetti, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved the following Strategic Initiative Grants: Hartford Children's Theatre for Family Tours in the amount of \$16,500; Hartford Stage Company for Connecticut Theatre Consortium CTheatreNow.com project in the amount of \$30,000; Hebron Historical Society for Testimonies of a Quiet New England Town documentary in the amount of \$50,000; Brookfield Craft Center, Inc., for Artisan Studio Trail in the amount of \$18,000; NW CT Arts Council, Inc., for Open Studio and Gallery Tour Pilot in the amount of \$17,000; and NW CT Arts Council, Inc., for Locally Grown History – "It's In Your Backyard" in the amount of \$16,500. (Y-15, N-0)**
- B. On a motion by Larry McHugh, second by Karen Arnold, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved 55 Arts Presentation grants totaling \$57,907. The grants provide funding to non-profit organizations and education institutions that present events featuring members of the CCT's Directory of Performing Artists and CCT's Director of Teaching Arts. (Y-15, N-0)**
- C. On a motion by Ted Yudain, second by Carolyn Cicchetti, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved five (5) Peer Advisor Network Field Service Agreements for \$3,000 each totaling \$15,000 for FY 2009. (Y-15, N-0)**
- D. On a motion by Ted Yudain, second by Paul Pozzi, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved a matching grant in the amount of \$8,000 to the Fairfield County Community Foundation to engage in the Nonprofit Finance Fund to provide a two-day financial advisory clinic to six Bridgeport arts organizations. (Y-14, N-1 - Ortoleva)**
- E. On a motion by Paul Pozzi, second by Ann Sheffer, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to the Housatonic Museum of Art for phase two of a cultural assessment project. (Y-15, N-0)**
- F. On a motion by Helen Higgins, second by Ted Yudain, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved an award of a Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant to the Town of Hebron in the amount of \$2,795.00. (Y-15, N-0)**
- G. On a motion by Larry McHugh, second by Clem Roy, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved the following Co-operative Marketing Grant awards: Bruce Museum of**

Arts and Science in the amount of \$7,285; Greater Hartford Community Foundation in the amount of \$30,000; New Britain Museum of American Art in the amount of \$50,000; Palace Theater Group in the amount of \$19,440; Rose City Renaissance in the amount of \$15,000; Sea Research/Mystic Aquarium in the amount of \$35,000; Stepping Stones Museum for Children in the amount of \$24,928; The Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk in the amount of \$43,516; The National Theatre of the Deaf in the amount of \$25,704; Eastern CT Regional Tourism District in the amount of \$29,187; Litchfield performing Arts in the amount of \$8,405 Lyme Historical Society, Inc./Florence Griswold Museum in the amount of \$10,200; New Britain Museum of American Art in the Amount of \$29,187; New England Carousel Museum in the amount of \$8,405; Quassy Amusement Park in the amount of \$3,104; Rose City Renaissance in the amount of \$15,00; the Sea Research/Mystic Aquarium in the amount of \$29, 187; The Children’s Museum in the amount of \$8,690; The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk in the amount of \$8,405, Yale University Peabody Museum in the amount of \$10,200; Ridgefield Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$2,500 and the Stepping Stones Museum for Children in the amount of \$1,500. (Y-13, N-0, Recusing – Cicchetti for Palace Theatre, and Schmidt for Eastern CT Regional Tourism District)

VI. **FULL COMMISSION 2009 MEETING DATES**

The proposed 2009 meeting dates for the full Commission were accepted as noted.

VII. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. ***Conflict of Interest Policy***

Last year during a full Commission meeting, it was discussed and decided to revert back to Office of State Ethics Conflict of Interest Policy language however; no formal action was taken. It is brought before the full Commission today for action.

On a motion by Chuck Bunnell, second by Carolyn Cicchetti, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved the Conflict of Interest Policy language with correction. (Y-14, N-1 Ortoleva)

Will K. Wilkins noted in the second paragraph, last sentence the word “by” is missing.

B. ***Statement of Personal Affiliations Forms***

A request was made to the Commissioners to complete the form and submit it to Leigh Johnson.

C. ***Committee Selection Form***

A request was made to the Commissioners to complete the form and submit it to Leigh Johnson.

D. ***Strategic Planning Update – Josh Borenstein***

Josh Borenstein from AMS gave a brief status update of the process for the strategic marketing plan, which is still in the information collection stage. Three visioning sessions were held with Commissioners and non-Commissioners to identify goals and objectives for the Commission. Depth interviews will be conducted – with 20 members of the executive and legislative branch of government. Five public input sessions will be conducted in December and January.

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

IX. **NEXT FULL COMMISSION MEETING** – Monday, January 5, 2009, 1:30 p.m., One Constitution Plaza, main conference room.

Future Actions

- Provide copies of the agency's approved fiscal budget to Commissioners

Tabled Items

- None at this time.

Respectfully submitted by:
Leigh Johnson, Recording Secretary