

CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON CULTURE AND TOURISM

Monday, March 31, 2008

1:30 P.M.

**One Constitution Plaza
Hartford, Connecticut**

MINUTES

- Present:** Chairman Michael Price, Karen Arnold, Charles Bunnell, Carolyn Cicchetti, Arthur Diedrick, Anne Elvgren, Bruce Fraser, Betty Hale, Helen Higgins, Fritz Jellinghaus, Greg Johnson, Larry McHugh, Guy Ortoleva, Paul Pozzi, Clem Roy, Rita Schmidt, Bruce Stave, Will K. Wilkins, and Ted Yudain
- Absent:** Nicholas Bellantoni, Jack Condlin, Walter Fiederowicz, Daniel Heffernan, John Hollander, Harvey Hubbell V., Herbert Jay, Ed Marcus, Ed McKeon, Ann E. Sheffer, and Walter Woodward (sabbatical)
- Staff & Guests:** Barbara Cieplak, Cathy DeMeo, Tamara Dimitri, Mary Donohue, Leigh Johnson (Recording), George Norfleet, Rhonda Olisky, and Karen Senich

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the full Commission was held on Monday, March 31, 2008 at the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism and was called to order.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Paul Pozzi, second by Fritz Jellinghaus the minutes of January 7, 2008 were approved with one correction, Karen Arnold's name was inadvertently omitted and should have been listed as present. (Y-16, N-0)

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Michael Price Reporting

Approved Executive Committee Action Items

Chairman Price reported – since the last full Commission meeting, two Executive Committee meetings were held. On January 18, 2008, the Executive Committee approved the CCT Co-Operative Marketing Grants totaling \$110,443.00, and on January 25, 2008, the committee approved the CCT Co-Operative Marketing Grants totaling 154,614.25; CCT Co-Operative Billboard Grant Awards for FY 08 totaling \$16,000; and a resolution to take greater cognizance of attendance at full Commission meetings. The committee voted and approved the minimum number of meetings Commissioners must attend is 55% of the scheduled full Commission and sub-committee meetings. If minimum is not met, the Commission will ascertain from the Commissioner if he/she wishes to continue serving on the Commission and sub-committees. At that time, the Commission may or may not inform the appointing authority for said Commissioner.

The Commission has re-established the Connecticut Artists Collection Advisory Committee who will make recommendations for the purchasing of new art for the Connecticut collection. Commissioner Wilkins has agreed to chair this committee.

Philip Johnson Glass House Tour

The Commission has purchased a number of tickets for the tour and there are six (6) remaining tickets. The 90 minute tour begins at Noon, and the 2 hour tour begins at 1:00 p.m. Commissioners who are interested

in attending are advised to contact Mary Donohue.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Karen Senich Reporting

Executive Nominations

Executive Director Senich reported she went before of the Executive Nominations Committee on March 13, 2008, and is expected to go before the Senate on April 3, 2008. Executive Director Senich thanked the Commissioners who wrote letters of support and testified on her behalf.

CCT Staffing

The Director of Tourism's position is posted on the DAS website, and has been publicized in the New York Times and sent to CCT's counterparts TIA, NTA, and DNE. The Historic Preservation and Museum Division Director's position will be posted in the near future and also publicized in the New York Times. Last week an offer was made to an interview candidate for the Secretary I vacancy in the history division.

In the film division, the positions for senior program associate and administrative assistant will be posted shortly on the DAS website.

CCT is working with the Department of Administrative Services and the Office of Labor Relations to reclassify position titles for tourism division staff in the A&R bargaining unit whose current title does not appropriately align with the agency's position titles.

Strategic Plan

The Committee comprised of Karen Senich, Ann Sheffer, Fritz Jellinghaus, and An-Ming Truxes reviewed proposals and selected the firm AWS to produce the Strategic Plan for the agency. The Committee met on March 28th to discuss contract deliverables. A Steering committee will be formed and will consist of staff members, Commissioners, and a representative from the Governor's office and the legislature.

Budget

The Governor's budget and the Appropriations budget looks to expand the agency's position count by three positions, two for tourism, and one for history.

There is a reduction of \$300,000 to the general operating account. The two film positions [totaling \$165,000] which were paid through other expenses line item has been moved to the salaries line item. The remainder of the reduction comes from the rent for the Amos Bull House, which the agency no longer pays for.

The Governor's budget proposes that the statewide marketing budget remain the same, and the Appropriations budget adds an additional \$2 million to statewide marketing. The Governor's budget has a Cultural Treasures component, which zeroed out basic cultural resources, cultural tourism, arts grants, and combined them with the \$3.6 million of new grant money. Essentially, the new money will be utilized in the same manner as the \$4 million in last year's budget – to create new programs and bolster existing programs. The Appropriations budget cuts the grant funds. Should the agency lose two (2) of the \$4 million, the agency will need to re-evaluate how the remaining funds should be allocated and for which programs.

The Governor's budget did not propose any changes to line items, except for placing the Science Center into CCT's budget the \$500,000 which is currently through the Department of Education. The Appropriations budget created six (6) new line items that total over \$1.7 million, and bolstered ten (10) of the existing line items with an increase of over \$2.3 million.

The Governor's budget did not propose any changes to the tourism districts funding, however, the Appropriations budget increases the districts budget by \$1 million – districts would have to apply and match 25% of the requested money.

Legislation

CCT's legislative bills authorized for action include: a technical correction to some historic preservation statutes, and to last year's tax credit language which was codified with technical errors.

In response to the State Auditors findings regarding public art accounting, CCT has pushed forth legislation to better clarify the account(s) to be used for the public art funding received.

There are a number of pieces of legislation this session that may impact the agency – among them the film and education legislation which is moving forward.

V. ACTION ITEMS

- A. *On a motion by Rita Schmidt, second by Ann Elygren, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved the change in scope of work project for the Art in Public Spaces at Henry Abbott VTS – cost associated with the change in scope is \$65,000. (Y-16, N-0)***
- B. *On a motion by Fritz Jellinghaus, second by Greg Johnson, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved artist Agnes Denes for the Art in Public Spaces at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich in the amount of \$510,000. (Y-16, N-0)***
- C. *On a motion by Karen Arnold, second by Guy Ortoleva, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved artist Tim Prentice for the Art in Public Spaces at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic in the amount of \$260,000. (Y-15, N-0, A-1 Commissioner McHugh)***
- D. *On a motion by Fritz Jellinghaus, second by Rita Schmidt, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved Chotsani Elaine Dean, Robert Haiko, Steven Kern, Tony Kirk and Nancy Stula to serve on the Connecticut Collection Advisory Committee (each for two terms). (Y-16, N-0)***
- E. *On a motion by Carolyn Cicchetti, second by Larry McHugh, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved full funding in the amount of \$153,000 to support the Underserved Youth and Early Learning Arts Pilot Grants for FY 2008. (Y-16, N-0)***
- F. *On a motion by Larry McHugh, second by Clem Roy, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved the Marketing Challenge Grant Awards totaling \$616,242.00. (Y-14, N-0, A-2, Commissioners' Cicchetti and Wilkins)***
- G. *On a motion by Larry McHugh, second by Ted Yudain, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved the 2008 Historic Preservation Activities Fund Grant Program to the City of Hartford in the amount of \$25,000 and City of Stamford - Historic Neighborhood Preservation Program in the amount of \$20,000. (Y-16, N-0)***
- H. *On a motion by Carolyn Cicchetti, second by Paul Pozzi, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved the Special Initiative Grants for: Wall of America - \$20,000; Hartford Jazz Society - \$20,000; Windsor Historical Society - \$24,500; Music for People - \$20,000; Aldrich Contemporary Art - \$15,000; Years in the Making (Westport Schools***

Permanent Art Collection) - \$50,000; Hill-Stead Museum - \$20,000; West Hartford Arts League - \$15,000; CPTV - \$100,000; and The Amistad Committee - \$50,000. (Y-14, N-O, A-2 Commissioner's Diedrick and McHugh)

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

None at this time.

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

VIII. NEXT FULL COMMISSION MEETING – Monday, June 16, 2008, 1:30 p.m., One Constitution Plaza, main conference room.

Future Actions

- Audit Committee to meet in May 2008.

Tabled Items

- None.

Respectfully submitted by:
Leigh Johnson