

**OHIO ARTS COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING
JUNE 29, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Susan Saxbe at 1 p.m. in the Gund Conference Room at the Ohio Arts Council (OAC), Columbus. Council members in attendance were: Vice-Chair Sheila Markley Black, Secretary Jeff Rich, Karen Bell, Martha Appel Burton, Louisa Celebrezze, Sara Jane DeHoff, Charlotte Kessler, Mary Lazarus, Charles McWeeny, Barbara Robinson, Tom Schorgl, Ginger Warner and Neal Zimmers. Absent: Barbara Gould, Sharon Howard, Speaker of the House Armond Budish, Representative Josh Mandel and Senator Kevin Coughlin. Also present were: Donna Collins, executive director, Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA); Bill Blair, legislative counsel, OCA; Todd Nist, assistant attorney general, Attorney General's Office; and Ursula Barrera, legislative aide, Senator Teresa Fedor. Staff members in attendance were: Julie Henahan, Mary Campbell-Zopf, Karine Aswad, Katherine Eckstrand, Ken Emerick, Dia Foley, Jami Goldstein, Mary Gray, Jeff Hooper, Susan dePasquale, Kathy Cain, Kim Turner, Pat Henahan, Shannon Ford, Joanne Eubanks, Jaclyn Reynolds, Stephanie Dawson, Dan Katona, Kathy Signorino and Carolyn McClaskey.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Susan Saxbe welcomed everyone to the OAC Board meeting and thanked the members for their tireless and dedicated work during the biennial budget process. Ms. Saxbe stated that in the history of the OAC, we have not faced a crisis like this one. The Board and staff have been asked to do a great deal of work and everyone stepped up to the plate. The budget for FY2010/2011 proposed by the governor is just over \$13 million. This figure takes the agency back to funding levels of the mid-1980s without accounting for inflation. If this budget figure does not change, the agency will dramatically change as a result of this significant drop in funding.

Ms. Saxbe thanked Executive Director Julie Henahan for her leadership and the staff for their heroic efforts throughout this budget process. The Board understands the emotional toll the recent events have taken. We all care deeply for the OAC and what it stands for, and we will find a way through this very tough time. She added that in addition to the budget process the staff has also had to address many requests from the Governor's Office, the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) and the Inspector General's office related to the federal stimulus funding while also managing the on-year for the Sustainability programs and other grant panels.

Given this context, Ms. Saxbe noted that today's meeting has taken on much greater significance. We cannot fully address the budget challenges until we know the outcome of the state's budget process. Once we do, we will schedule a special meeting of the Board to discuss what policy and operational changes will be needed and how the OAC will adapt as a result.

Ms. Saxbe welcomed Sara Jane DeHoff from Perrysburg to the Board. Ms. DeHoff for a long time and sits on the national board of the Alliance of Artists Communities. currently serves on the boards of the Toledo Museum of Art and the Toledo Symphony and is active in many other arts organizations. Ms. DeHoff added that she has been involved in the arts in Toledo

Ms. Saxbe opened the Board meeting with a reminder that all Board meetings are open to the public. She added that meetings are audio taped so that citizens can request a copy of those tapes to learn more about the OAC's work and the meeting's deliberations. To promote greater "transparency" in the agency's work, we also post the Board meeting's agenda on the OAC Web site under the tab "About OAC." After the meeting, we will add the minutes from the full Board meeting to the site, as well as send a copy of those minutes to the Governor's Office.

Ms. Saxbe reviewed that the main order of business today is to approve grant recommendations from the winter/spring panel meetings and ratifications that have occurred since the last Council meeting. The Board will also review the agency's FY2009 subsidy budget, the FY2010/2011 budget process and the FY2010/2014 payroll projections.

Members will hear reports from the Policy and Planning, Legislative, Finance and Executive Committees. Bill Blair, legislative counsel, OCA, will brief us on his recent activities. The Board will also hear an update on OCA activities from Donna Collins its executive director. Staff will report on the completion of the OAC *Strategic Plan 2006-2009* and the *Poetry Out Loud* program and competition for 2008-2009.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Henahan welcomed everyone to the summer Board meeting. She thanked Ms. Saxbe and the Board for their strong support and good spirits during this incredibly difficult budget process. The Board has received an enormous amount of information from the OAC and OCA over the last weeks. The time and attention given to these communiqués and the actions the Board has taken on behalf of the OAC and public funding for the arts in Ohio is greatly appreciated.

Federal Stimulus Money – *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)*

Ms. Henahan informed the members that the OAC received 149 applications to the Ohio Arts Jobs Preservation Grants program on its deadline of June 15th. The staff is working very hard to get the grant application packets out to the panelists later this week. The Executive Committee's panel orientation will be held on July 9th, and the panel meeting will be held on July 27 and 28 on the 31st floor of the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts in downtown Columbus.

The ARRA legislation recognized that the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is uniquely positioned to fund arts projects and activities that preserve jobs in the nonprofit arts sector threatened by declines in philanthropic and other support during the current economic downturn. As part of this important federal investment, the NEA expedited

distribution of these critical funds at the national, regional, state and local levels for projects that focus solely on the preservation of jobs in the arts. The NEA asked that ARRA projects result in making the arts and arts education widely available.

Cost-Saving Days (CSD)

The OAC staff will be taking mandatory CSD over the next two years as part of the negotiated contract between the State of Ohio and Ohio Civil Service Employees Association (OCSEA). The State of Ohio and the OCSEA incorporated money-saving ideas in the recently approved State of Ohio/OCSEA Agreement (April 16, 2009 – February 29, 2012). This Agreement included one article mandating that members take 10 furlough days, also known as Cost-saving Days (CSD) in each of the next two years. For parity, all appropriate articles in this Agreement will be written into law and applied statewide to all exempt employees. Other union contracts will include the same provisions as those approved by OCSEA—or the Agreement will not be honored. The OAC employees were given the opportunity to select 10 days in FY2010 that they preferred to take off as their CSD. Provisions were made to ensure that adequate staff will be on hand to maintain office operation.

NEA Partnership Agreement

The OAC received an increase in its Partnership Agreement award from the NEA for FY2010. The award is for \$1,023,600, an increase of \$52,100 from last year.

2009 Fall Board Meeting

The fall OAC Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, September 23 and 24, 2009 and will be held at the OAC offices in Columbus.

BOARD MEMBER PRESENTATION

Board member Tom Schorgl presented *Artists vs. Blight*, an article from *The Wall Street Journal*, to the Board. The article is about how some communities in Cleveland and around the country are actively turning to artists as buyers of vacant homes in an effort to revitalize neighborhoods and cities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Sheila Markley Black, to accept the minutes of the OAC Board, Education, Policy and Planning, Finance, Nominating, Legislative and Executive Committee meetings held on February 25 and 26, 2009. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Tom Schorgl, to accept the minutes of the OAC Legislative Committee meeting held on May 13, 2009. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Ginger Warner, to accept the minutes of the OAC Executive Committee meeting held on May 28, 2009. **Motion carried without dissent.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy and Planning Committee

Committee Chair Charlotte Kessler shared that the committee reviewed the listing of OAC accomplishments for 2006-2009 that was derived from the OAC *Strategic Plan 2006-2009*. The committee also reviewed the *OAC Guidelines 2010/2011* and recommended to the Board that they approve policy-related revisions to the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship and Ohio Heritage Fellowships guidelines.

MOTION by Jeff Rich, to approve the changes in the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship and Ohio Heritage Fellowships guidelines. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Ms. Kessler added that the committee also reviewed the OAC history of funding operating support for major institutions and asked Ms. Henahan to review significant milestones in that history.

Ms. Henahan began by reminding the Board that at their February Board meeting, several members broached the topic of OAC funding support for major institutions along with related policies including: 1) the allocation of 50 percent of the OAC subsidy budget to major institutions; 2) the special budget considerations given to the four largest arts organizations (Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Museum of Arts, Musical Arts Association, and Playhouse Square Foundation); 3) the formulas for calculating grant award amounts; and 4) the setting of budget levels for the eligibility requirement for the Sustainability program.

Then Ms. Henahan reviewed an abbreviated version of the significant policy shifts and other types of changes to the OAC operating support program for funding major institutions since the mid-1970s.

1976

A reading was received from the Attorney General of the State of Ohio that operating support was acceptable under the OAC's enabling legislation (ORC 3379).

- The General Operating Support (GOS) formula applied a direct percentage to the total funds available in the program for annual distribution. The direct percentage formula was applied to grants received by the September 15th deadline, and the OAC Board approved the GOS allocations at its November meeting.

1978

- A committee for revising the funding formula was selected to represent various points of view, including small and large organizations, in the areas of community arts, dance, museums, opera and orchestras.
- The Formula Revision Committee met in May and June of 1978 and with the help of a mathematician discussed a number of possible changes to the formula used to calculate operating support grant amounts for the major institutions. The

committee's main concern was the redistribution of funds so that smaller and mid-sized organizations would receive slightly more funds than when calculated under the direct percentage formula. The use of an exponent was applied to the formula at that point. By adding an exponent of 0.7 in the formula, a small portion of the grant budget was redirected to those smaller and mid-sized organizations.

1979

- The OAC Board approved a policy establishing that 50 percent of the OAC subsidy budget be allocated to GOS every year.

1980

- The Operating Income Base for eligibility to GOS program was raised from \$200,000 to \$300,000.
- A separate panel, consisting primarily of out-of-state panelists who were representative of the field, was established at the August 1980 OAC Board meeting and was used for the FY1982 funding review.

1982

- The OAC Board approved the Policy and Planning Committee's recommendation that organizations whose primary thrust is education and that award academic credits, e.g., colleges, universities, and other degree-granting institutions, be ineligible for GOS.

1991

- At its September 1991 Annual Meeting, the OAC Board adopted several recommendations including:
 - Eligible income figure would be adjusted upward by the compound annual inflation rate.
 - Creation of a bonus pool would be used to adjust the funding levels of those MIS organizations with income levels above \$10 million.

1994

- The OAC Board approved the policy of reducing Major Institution Support (MIS) grants by \$1,000 a day for every day an application or audited statement is received late to the OAC.
- Operating Income Base for organizations to be eligible for MIS was raised from \$500,000 to \$550,000.

1996-1997

- Operating Income Base for organizations to be eligible for MIS program is raised from \$550,000 to \$585,000.

1998-1999

- To address the resulting spike in an organization's annual operating budget caused by the new Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) standards, the

OAC began using the last three fiscal years of an organization's eligible income to determine an average figure to be used in the formula when calculating the organization's grant award amount.

FY2000-2001

- The formula to determine grant award amounts is analyzed by mathematician, Dr. Howard Fleeter, who proposed two new options in determining grant amounts that would take into consideration the score the Operating Support I (OS I) organizations received from the panel to determine a Merit Award. Option 1 provided a five percent set-aside, and Option 2 provided a 10 percent set-aside. Option 1 was chosen. Option 2 was seen as not a viable option because the 10 percent set-aside had such a dramatic effect on every organization's grant amount.

FY2004-2005

- Operating Income Base for organizations to be eligible for OS I program is raised from \$1 million to \$1.5 million.

Ms. Henahan then reviewed organizational implications of increasing the eligibility budget level from \$1.5 to \$1.75 and \$2 million. (The list of grant amounts is included in the Council Book.)

The committee reviewed the results from the Constituent Economic Impact Survey. The OAC will reissue the survey after the FY2010/2011 budget is finalized.

Ms. Kessler presented background information on the Ohio Arts Foundation, Inc. (OAF). OAF is a private nonprofit foundation formed to advance education in performing, visual, literary and dramatic arts; to advance knowledge and appreciation of the arts by giving support to performances and exhibitions; and to provide financial assistance to the charitable, literary, and educational activities of the State of Ohio, in particular, the OAC.

The OAF was founded in 1994 after the OAC suffered a significant budget cut of almost 24 percent in 1992-93. At that time Governor George Voinovich encouraged state agencies to develop other relationships and entrepreneurial solutions to subsidizing state programs. The OAC's former Executive Director Wayne Lawson surveyed other state arts agencies to determine how they were addressing similar challenges and found that many were creating foundations and building endowments. After meeting with a variety of potential funders, including private foundations, corporate partners, council members and individual arts patrons, he found that they would be interested in supporting specific OAC projects by making tax-deductible contributions to a nonprofit foundation, but would not contribute directly to a state agency or to an endowment fund.

Ms. Henahan added that the OAF board, after hearing an update on the OAC's FY2010/2011 budget outlook during their April 2009 meeting, inquired how they could help and what specific projects the OAC Board would like to see them support. (A list of possible projects and activities can be found under Tab 3 of the Council Book.)

Ms. Kessler reported that the first phase of the *Listening Tour*, which was completed with much success and garnered a great deal of information from citizens around the state, took place during the fall of 2008. Due to budget restrictions on travel, scheduling conflicts, time-sensitive work associated with the biennial budget process, and the additional work of managing the one-time federal stimulus funding program, the second phase of the tour will take place in late September and early October of 2009.

The Policy and Planning Committee also reviewed the funding practices of other state arts agencies (SAA) related to the support of colleges and universities. The research was conducted to answer the question of whether or not the OAC was operating in a similar fashion as other SAAs. (A summary of that research can be found under Tab 3 of the Council Book.)

MOTION by Martha Burton, seconded by Tom Schorgl, to approve the Policy and Planning Committee report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Legislative Committee

Committee Chair Louisa Celebrezze reported that the Legislative Committee met via phone on May 13, 2009 to discuss the FY2010/2011 budget. The committee's efforts have been to supplement and support the efforts of Ms. Henahan and the OAC and OCA staff as appropriate. Ms. Celebrezze thanked the entire Board for their efforts while advocating for the arts.

The Legislative Committee reviewed the history of funding major institutions report as well as the priority items from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies' (NASAA) advocacy check-list. Board member Jeff Rich suggested that the OCA put the advocacy check-list on their Web site.

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Martha Burton, to approve the Legislative Committee report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Finance Committee

Committee Chair Tom Schorgl noted that the Finance Committee met to discuss the FY2010/2011 budget process. The OAC's biennial budget has undergone significant changes since its introduction including: the FY2008/2009 budget reductions in April 2008, October 2008, December 2008; the governor's executive budget recommendation from February 2009; the House's budget recommendation from March; the Senate's recommendation from May; and the governor's budget recommendation to the Conference Committee from early June:

- In the governor's executive recommendation, the OAC was recommended \$18.8 million for the upcoming FY2010/2011 biennium.
- The House recommended \$22,090,827 for the biennium.
- In response to the worse-than-expected tax revenues that resulted in a \$2-3 billion shortfall in the proposed FY2010/2011 state budget, the Senate slashed \$1 billion from the state budget and issued a budget recommendation for OAC of \$14.1 million for the biennium.

- In the governor's framework budget to the Conference Committee, he proposed even deeper cuts to the state budget to address the growing shortfall in the FY2010/2011 budget, which resulted in the OAC budget being reduced by another \$1 million dollars for a final budget figure of \$13,188,580. The governor's proposal changed how funds were directed toward budget lines: he removed \$600,000 from the operating expense line and increased the subsidy line by \$143,508 per year. Ms. Henahan stated that the recommended \$13.1 million biennial budget is a 47 percent reduction from where the OAC budget was set two years ago at the beginning of FY2008.

Ms. Henahan noted that the OAC will not have sufficient funding to meet its payroll obligations in the new biennium, if the recommendation that came from the governor's office last week passes. The proposed federal budget for OAC payroll was originally set at \$400,000 and will now be increased to \$600,000 because of decreased general revenue funding (GRF). We will also receive a one-time grant of \$50,000 from the NEA through the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)* to support administrative work associated with the distribution of our federal stimulus funding.

The committee was updated on the: 1) federal stimulus funds, 2) the constituent economic impact survey and 3) the SAA funding on colleges and universities report.

The OAC sent a follow-up survey to more than 600 grantees from the past two fiscal years. The April survey was slightly revised from the first survey, which was conducted in December 2008, and was designed to gauge the effect of the national and state economic downturn and the recent state budget cuts on Ohio's arts and cultural sector, schools, colleges and universities. Nearly all participants noted that they were seeing a greater decline in contributions. Compared to the last five fiscal years, 83 percent of responding organizations were seeing a negative trend. In the survey's open-ended questions, grantees continued to highly rate both monetary support (83 percent) and state-level leadership (69 percent) as the most valuable OAC resources.

At the February 26, 2009 OAC Board meeting, the Board discussed the Wexner Center for the Arts' (The Ohio State University) request that the OAC Board change its eligibility policy for the Sustainability (over \$1.5 million) program. At that time, Mr. Schorgl requested that the staff look into how other state arts agencies (SAAs) fund colleges and universities and their divisions and what their restrictions and eligibility requirements are. Ms. Henahan posed this question to her colleagues around the country via the NASAA listserv for executive directors and received 14 responses (Arizona, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania). After reviewing all of the responses, it is clear that for the most part, the SAAs who responded have grant eligibility guidelines and funding philosophies for colleges and universities that are similar to the OAC's.

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Mary Lazarus, to approve the Finance Committee report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Executive Committee

Ms. Saxbe reported that the Executive Committee reviewed the final FY2009 budget figures, latest biennial budget for FY2010/011 and payroll projections for FY210/2011. The agency, once again, finds itself in a difficult payroll situation. We do not have enough revenue to cover payroll for FY2010/2011. A number of strategies are being considered to address this projected shortfall. The Board will look more closely at these strategies during their special Board meeting to be held later in the summer.

Since early spring OAC staff have completed several surveys related to the mitigation of risk associated with our federal stimulus funds. They have analyzed the risks and put into place internal controls to ensure that ARRA funds are carefully handled to prevent wasteful spending, fraud and abuse. The Board will play an important role in this oversight and will get regular reports of this work.

Ms. Saxbe stated that Carolyn McClaskey, director, Fiscal Office, reviewed a number of cost-saving ideas from the recent approved bargaining agreement, including one article mandating each employee take 10 days off without pay between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010 and 10 days off without pay between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011.

Ms. Henahan shared a request from the Ohio Arts Foundation regarding how they might help with specific OAC projects and activities at this difficult economic time. Ms. Saxbe added that the Board will look more closely at these strategies during the summer meeting.

Jim Szekacs, grants associate, highlighted findings from the OAC Constituent Satisfaction Survey that indicated a high level of constituent satisfaction with the OAC staff, its programs and technical assistance they receive. These findings are consistent with findings from the last three years.

Ms. Saxbe stated that the committee reviewed the agency's priority work through September 2009, which may change given the new budget. Also, the committee was briefed on the appeal letter from Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio (YANO) regarding their Arts Partnership panel review. The staff recommends that this appeal be accepted because of procedural irregularities and that \$2,500 be awarded to YANO from the OAC Special Programs and Services budget. Ms. Henahan added that this is an unusual circumstance and doesn't happen often.

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Martha Burton, to accept the staff recommendation of overturning the decision of the Arts Partnership program advisory panel based on the procedural irregularities presented and the Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio be awarded an amount of \$2,500 for FY2010. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Sheila Markley Black, to approve all grant awards on a provisional basis and that any two-year grants listed in the OAC Grant

Recommendation Report be no longer than one year in duration. **Motion carried with one abstention.**

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Ginger Warner, to accept the Executive Committee report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

OHIO CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS REPORT

Donna Collins, executive director, OCA, thanked the OAC Public Information Office and the Arts Day Committee for their great job in planning and hosting of Arts Day and the Governor's Awards for the Arts 2009. She added that Ann Birrer, loyal supporter of the arts, passed away in June after a long battle with cancer. Ms. Collins acknowledged the work of the Center of Regional Development at Bowling Green State University and OCA Board member Katerina Ruedi Ray, director, School of Art, in partnership with OCA on presenting the research report, *Ohio's Arts: A Foundation of Innovation, Creativity and Economic Strength*.

Ms. Collins reported that 2009 has been the year of advocacy. The phone lines, e-mail communications and work with advocates have been tremendous. Since February 2, 2009 through a couple of days ago, the legislature has received more than 22,805 messages from OCA members about the value of and need for public funding of the arts in Ohio. These messages were tracked through the OCA E-Advocacy Center. Ms. Collins thanked the OAC Board for their leadership and constant work to support the arts. The OCA and OAC Boards along with thousand individuals across the state have made their voices heard. OCA has posted updates on Facebook and reminders on Twitter. Ms. Collins added that there is much work to be done and we must continue to engage these active advocates and begin to mobilize them for the next necessary action. For the future, advocacy must be every day, all year round.

Ms. Collins acknowledged Bill Blair, legislative counsel, OCA, for his positive, upbeat, supportive and tireless efforts through this historic budget process. She congratulated Mr. Blair for being inducted into the Ohio Association of Commodores (Governor Rhodes established the Executive Order of the Ohio Commodores (which encompasses membership in the Association) to honor 60 Ohio businessmen who accompanied him on Ohio's first international trade mission. Since then, over 300 men and women have been appointed to the Executive Order of the Ohio Commodore as recognition of their contributions to economic development in their communities, and to the State of Ohio.)

Mr. Blair re-emphasized the historic nature of Ohio's budget crisis and process. A seven-day interim budget extension will be attached to the Bureau of Workers Compensation bill in the Senate. The Conference Committee will continue to meet as the bill and the budget extension passes from the Senate to the House. Mr. Blair added that we have had more people contacting the legislature and the governor than ever before. He noted that he has been hearing that there are people in the Senate and in the House who want to abolish the OAC, which he doubts will happen. He encouraged the members to continue their advocacy efforts on behalf of the OAC's budget.

GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Ginger Warner, that we, the Ohio Arts Council Board, approve the Sustainability (over \$1.5 million) panel and staff recommendations and authorize the Executive Director, Julie S. Henahan, to make such adjustments and alterations as are found necessary to accomplish the approved grants because of funding limitations or unforeseen factors directly effecting the subject of the grants, such adjustments and alterations not to constitute any change in the purpose of the grant nor the maximum amount that Council has granted. Further, be it resolved, that in cases of hardship or difficulty, where completion of the artistic endeavor is otherwise impossible, an advance partial payment of not more than fifty percent (50%) of the total grant may be awarded upon such terms as the Council may deem proper. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Mary Lazarus, that we, the Ohio Arts Council Board, approve the Sustainability (under \$1.5 million) panel and staff recommendations and authorize the Executive Director, Julie S. Henahan, to make such adjustments and alterations as are found necessary to accomplish the approved grants because of funding limitations or unforeseen factors directly effecting the subject of the grants, such adjustments and alterations not to constitute any change in the purpose of the grant nor the maximum amount that Council has granted. Further, be it resolved, that in cases of hardship or difficulty, where completion of the artistic endeavor is otherwise impossible, an advance partial payment of not more than fifty percent (50%) of the total grant may be awarded upon such terms as the Council may deem proper. **Motion carried with one abstention.**

MOTION by Tom Schorgl, seconded by Jeff Rich, that we, the Ohio Arts Council Board, approve the Arts Access panel and staff recommendations and authorize the Executive Director, Julie S. Henahan, to make such adjustments and alterations as are found necessary to accomplish the approved grants because of funding limitations or unforeseen factors directly effecting the subject of the grants, such adjustments and alterations not to constitute any change in the purpose of the grant nor the maximum amount that Council has granted. Further, be it resolved, that in cases of hardship or difficulty, where completion of the artistic endeavor is otherwise impossible, an advance partial payment of not more than fifty percent (50%) of the total grant may be awarded upon such terms as the Council may deem proper. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Mary Lazarus, that we, the Ohio Arts Council Board, approve the Arts Innovation panel and staff recommendations and authorize the Executive Director, Julie S. Henahan, to make such adjustments and alterations as are found necessary to accomplish the approved grants because of funding limitations or unforeseen factors directly effecting the subject of the grants, such adjustments and alterations not to constitute any change in the purpose of the grant nor the maximum amount that Council has granted. Further, be it resolved, that in cases of hardship or difficulty, where completion of the artistic endeavor is otherwise impossible, an advance partial payment of not more than fifty percent (50%) of the total grant may be awarded upon such terms as the Council may deem proper. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Martha Burton, seconded by Ginger Warner, that we, the Ohio Arts Council Board, approve the Arts Learning: Artist in Residence panel and staff recommendations and authorize the Executive Director, Julie S. Henahan, to make such adjustments and alterations as are found necessary to accomplish the approved grants because of funding limitations or unforeseen factors directly effecting the subject of the grants, such adjustments and alterations not to constitute any change in the purpose of the grant nor the maximum amount that Council has granted. Further, be it resolved, that in cases of hardship or difficulty, where completion of the artistic endeavor is otherwise impossible, an advance partial payment of not more than fifty percent (50%) of the total grant may be awarded upon such terms as the Council may deem proper. **Motion carried with one abstention.**

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Karen Bell, that we, the Ohio Arts Council Board, approve the Arts Learning: Arts Partnership panel and staff recommendations and authorize the Executive Director, Julie S. Henahan, to make such adjustments and alterations as are found necessary to accomplish the approved grants because of funding limitations or unforeseen factors directly effecting the subject of the grants, such adjustments and alterations not to constitute any change in the purpose of the grant nor the maximum amount that Council has granted. Further, be it resolved, that in cases of hardship or difficulty, where completion of the artistic endeavor is otherwise impossible, an advance partial payment of not more than fifty percent (50%) of the total grant may be awarded upon such terms as the Council may deem proper. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Ginger Warner, seconded by Jeff Rich, that we, the Ohio Arts Council Board, approve the Individual Artists: Traditional Arts Apprenticeships panel and staff recommendations and authorize the Executive Director, Julie S. Henahan, to make such adjustments and alterations as are found necessary to accomplish the approved grants because of funding limitations or unforeseen factors directly effecting the subject of the grants, such adjustments and alterations not to constitute any change in the purpose of the grant nor the maximum amount that Council has granted. Further, be it resolved, that in cases of hardship or difficulty, where completion of the artistic endeavor is otherwise impossible, an advance partial payment of not more than fifty percent (50%) of the total grant may be awarded upon such terms as the Council may deem proper. **Motion carried without dissent.**

RATIFICATIONS

MOTION by Martha Burton, seconded by Mary Lazarus, to ratify grants awarded in Percent for Art, Artists with Disabilities, Capacity Building and Special-Organizations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

Poetry Out Loud 2008-2009

Ms. Saxbe welcomed Mido Aly, Ohio's fourth annual *Poetry Out Loud* state champion, to the meeting. Upper Arlington High School student Mido Aly finished in the top five at the national finals in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Aly recited a couple of poems that he presented at the national finals ("Alabanza" by Martin Espada and "How to read a poem aloud" by Rose Buni).

Ohio Arts Council (OAC) Accomplishments 2006-2009

Deputy Director Mary Campbell-Zopf began her report by saying: three years ago, the world felt like a different place -- the economy was strong, unemployment was low and optimism about the future prevailed. In 2006, the OAC crafted a strategic plan to invest in Ohio's rich cultural resources while communicating the value of the arts, broadening participation, building partnerships and fostering more vibrant communities. The plan contained short- and long-term targets, and the OAC Board, staff and the agency's constituents across the state began the work to meet those performance targets. The agency was bolstered when it received an 11.1 percent increase to its budget at the beginning of the 2008-2009 biennium. Even though the agency was not able to hold onto this increase for very long, it did protect grantees from more severe cuts in FY2008, which unfortunately we are all experiencing right now in FY2009.

Ms. Campbell-Zopf and Dan Katona, director, Office of Organizational Services, highlighted notable successes and accomplishments the Board, staff and constituents made possible during the life of the plan.

- Investing in Ohio's Rich Cultural Resources
 - In January 2009, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) review panel described the OAC as "a national leader among the state arts agencies and in arts education" and "that the agency works consistently at a high level and is known for excellence."
 - Between January and October of 2008, cross-departmental teams successfully revised the OAC *Guidelines* with the assistance of Kelly Barsdate, chief program and planning officer, National Assembly for State Arts Agencies (NASAA). The new OAC *Guidelines* are easier for applicants and panelists to use and understand and they reflect the agency's thinking on cultural participation and public value; show clear alignment across each program's purpose statement, scoring criteria and application questions; and make a strong case for the arts.
 - The OAC applied for and received \$353,400 from the NEA through the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)*. This led to the creation of the *Ohio Arts Jobs Preservation Grants* program in April 2009.

- Communicating the Value of the Arts
 - Staff launched the *Making the Case* page of the OAC Web site, highlighting success stories from all over Ohio where the arts and OAC funding have been a "part of the solution."

- Governor Strickland appointed three artists to the OAC Board.
- The OAC Riffe Gallery celebrated its 20th anniversary March 17, 2009.
- The OAC continued to perform at a high level through staffing changes and a leadership transition.

- Helping Citizens of All Ages Learn and Thrive Through the Arts
 - The Office of Arts Learning organized a series of five information sessions in the fall of 2008.
 - The need for a comprehensive planning guide for arts professionals and others working in schools and nonprofit organizations at the state and local levels motivated the OAC to develop *Focusing the Light: the Art and Practice of Planning*, which was published in 2008.
 - The Office of Arts Learning and Ms. Campbell-Zopf and other state arts agency arts education managers across the country provided leadership for the development of the NASAA Research-Based Communication Tool Kit. The tool kit is a comprehensive resource that brings together several components that advocates can use at the state and local levels, including research summaries, bibliographies and examples of practical uses.

- Encouraging and Facilitating Widespread Participation in the Arts
 - In the fall of 2008 the OAC conducted 21 *Listening Tour* meetings in seven Ohio communities. Through the tour, the OAC staff sought to discover the aspirations of a broad range of Ohioans, including members of the business community, legislators and people associated with the arts and cultural communities. The tours will serve as a prelude to developing the next strategic plan for 2010-2013 and will inform the second State of the Arts Report.
 - The OAC conducted outreach activities in eight underserved counties in an effort to broaden the reach of OAC programs and initiatives to every part of the state.

- Fostering Vibrant and Healthy Communities Through the Arts
 - The first quilt barn trail in the United States started in Adams County, Ohio, in 2001 with support from the OAC. Since then, this groundbreaking community arts project has expanded to 19 Ohio counties and at least 22 other states across the U.S. and in Canada.
 - A new Folk and Traditional Arts staff team was established and the guidelines for the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship and Ohio Heritage Fellowship programs were revised and expanded; a major fieldwork project with an emphasis on the identification of Latino traditional artists was completed with the support of NEA funding.

- Sustaining and Cultivating Strategic Partnerships that Broaden Support for the Arts
 - During the last several years, the Riffe Gallery has continued to cultivate a significant long-term partnership with Ohio Government

Telecommunications (OGT). Since 2002 OGT has documented the Riffe Gallery exhibitions through video. Recently, OGT assisted the Riffe Gallery in expanding its Web site through *Spotlight: Riffe Gallery* that includes images and artist bios from past, current and upcoming exhibitions, and a media archive.

- Several professional development workshops have been held for OAC staff, and OAC and Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA) board members in 2008 and 2009. Kelly Barsdate, Jonathan Katz and Tom Birch of NASAA have all participated in workshops focused on advocacy, strategic messaging and legislative contact.
- The OAC participated in the formation of the Committee of Arts and Innovative Thinking (CAIT), a statewide arts advisory group sponsored by ODE. The purpose of the committee is to promote and advance the arts in the lives of all Ohio students through strategic actions, communications and policy recommendations.
- In response to repeated requests from communities for information regarding the restoration or operation of historic theatres, the OAC developed the Historic Theatres and Opera Houses Initiative advisory group in 2006.
- Begun in 1994, the Ohio River Border Initiative (ORBI) is a partnership between the OAC and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts that serves arts organizations and artists in the 21 counties in Ohio and West Virginia that touch the river.

OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

Advocacy

Ms. Saxbe asked the members for their thoughts about advocacy and whether it is beneficial to continue communications with the legislature. She wanted to know if anyone has experienced push back from the leaders downtown. This is a good time to continue advocating. On the other hand, are we seeing push back from the leaders downtown? Board member Neal Zimmers stated that he is noticing some push back from new legislative members. These members are not upset with the OAC, but with the organizations that are requesting an increase in funding. He added that it is beneficial to continue talking to the members with whom the OAC Board has good relationships. When talking to the members it is important to acknowledge the difficult situation they are in and offer help in whatever ways possible.

Ms. Celebrezze agreed with Mr. Zimmers that we must remain a strong presence. Ms. Kessler noted that the Board and staff have spoken with the legislature and they are aware of our position. Continuing to talk to them, at this point, will not change the outcome.

Ms. Collins expressed that we should not stop communication with legislators; there is more for everyone to do. If we stop and say that we cannot change the outcome we would be sending the wrong message to the field and to the constituents and citizens who

have fought on our behalf. We need to be thoughtful and offer our help. Ms. Kessler stated that we should not stop advocating but we need to be careful about how we do it. She added that our constituents should continue calling and e-mailing the legislators but it might not be a good idea for the OAC Board members to continue to do that, if it might be viewed in a negative light. This is a delicate situation that demands a thoughtful approach.

Mr. Zimmers encouraged the Board to communicate with J. Pari Sabety, director of the Office of Budget and Management.

OAC Special Board Meeting

Ms. Saxbe noted that to prepare for the special Board meeting this summer, the Board members will need to give staff direction on the kinds of information they will need. This information will generally fall into three areas: 1) funding policies, 2) program priorities and 3) constituent services.

Ms. Henahan discussed examples of those areas:

Funding Policies: The OAC only supports nonprofit organizations; 50 percent of our subsidy (grants) line goes toward funding major institutions; deadlines for each grant program; and out-of-state organizations are not permitted to apply for funding from the OAC.

Program Priorities: From the agency's earliest days, the OAC has supported artists, arts education and operating and project support for arts and cultural organizations.

Constituent Services: *Listening Tour*, grant workshops, professional development workshops, publications and resources that we produce, our Web site, etc.

A Special Board meeting will be convened to discuss what the agency will provide to the field and how we are going to do that under these economic circumstances.

Board member Karen Bell inquired about other entrepreneurial models that we should be looking at. She expressed the need to look at partnerships that will help us figure out different models. Ms. Henahan stated that she will work with colleagues across the country to identify other models, partnerships and funding opportunities. Mr. Rich added that we need to identify other models on the local level as well as the state level.

ADJOURNMENT

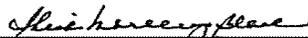
MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Karen Bell, to adjourn the Ohio Arts Council Board meeting. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Approved: September 24, 2009

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.



Susan Saxbe
OAC Board Chair



Sheila Markley Black
OAC Board Vice-Chair