

**OHIO ARTS COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING
JUNE 30, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Susan Saxbe at 1:05 p.m. in the Gund Conference Room at the Ohio Arts Council (OAC), Columbus. Council members in attendance were: Martha Appel Burton, Sheila Markley Black, Barbara Gould, Sharon Howard, Charlotte Kessler, Mary Lazarus, Martie MacDonell, Tom Schorgl, Barbara Robinson, Ginger Warner, Mary Wolfe, Neal Zimmers, Representative Tyrone Yates and Senator Capri Cafaro. Absent: Jeff Rich, Lois Rosenthal, 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; and Chiquita Mullins-Lee, *Poetry Out Loud* coordinator. Staff members in attendance were: Julie Henahan, Mary Campbell-Zopf, Karine Aswad, Kevin Cary, Susan dePasquale, Katherine Eckstrand, Jodie Engle, Shannon Ford, Irene Finck, Jami Goldstein, Pat Henahan, Jeff Hooper, Dan Katona, Carolyn McClaskey, Jaclyn Reynolds, Kathy Signorino and Kim Turner.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Susan Saxbe welcomed everyone to the OAC summer Board meeting and thanked the staff for their hard work since the last meeting in February. She then welcomed and introduced new Board member Mary Lazarus. Ms. Lazarus has always been involved in her community and is a tireless advocate for women and children. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Women's Fund of Central Ohio. She has previously served as a trustee and president of the board of Action for Children; was trustee and Capital Campaign chair of Planned Parenthood of Central Ohio; trustee and president of the Thurber House; and was a founder, trustee and chair of the Columbus Metropolitan Club. She was also a trustee of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Lazarus received the YWCA Women of Achievement award, the Democracy in Action award from the League of Women Voters and the Champion of Children Award from the Columbus Montessori Education Center.

On behalf of the Board, Ms. Saxbe expressed that she deeply regrets the layoff of four highly valued OAC staff members in May. While the times are difficult, we really must look forward and focus on fulfilling our mission. It is what the governor expects and it's what the people of Ohio deserve. Ms. Saxbe added that there are challenges ahead and we will meet them. To advance our work, we must stay positive and we must advocate. She encouraged the Board members to read, if they had not done so, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) "Advocate: Strategies for Building Arts Support." Senator Capri Cafaro asked if, statutorily, the OAC has the ability to raise funds independently from the general revenue funds (GRF) line item. Executive Director Julie Henahan explained that the OAC is able to seek funds outside the GRF line. We have received funding from not only the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), but

also from the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Department of Education. We are allowed to seek private foundation support. The problem for the OAC, in terms of seeking foundation support, is that we do not want to put ourselves in competition with our constituents.

Ms. Saxbe reminded the Board members that our meetings are open to the public and that the press is often in attendance. Additionally, we audio tape all meetings so that citizens can request a copy of our tapes if they so desire. Since our last meeting, the agency has added a new page entitled, "OAC Board Meetings" to its Web site where the Board's meeting agendas and minutes will reside for public review.

The main order of business today is to approve grant recommendations from our panel meetings and ratifications that have occurred since our last Council meeting. We will also review the agency's revised budget for FY2009 based on our final budget reduction directive for the FY2008/2009 biennium that was issued by the Office of Budget and Management (OBM). Ms. Saxbe stated that the Board will hear reports from the Policy and Planning, the Legislative, the Finance and the Executive Committees. Bill Blair, legislative counsel for OCA will brief us on his activities. We will also have a report on Arts Day and other activities from Donna Collins, executive director of OCA. The OAC staff will report on program activities including the OAC Strategic Plan 2006-2009 and *Poetry Out Loud* 2008.

OHIO CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS REPORT

Donna Collins, executive director of OCA, distributed a printed copy of her report. She stated that OCA consists of two staff members and Legislative Counsel Bill Blair. An advocacy plan has been designed, in partnership with OAC staff, to address important advocacy goals. OCA is dedicated to ensuring that the members of the legislature, through the Arts Day activities, are aware of all the good things that the state has been doing through the OAC. OCA has participated with individuals and organizations across the state to increase the voice of all arts supporters. The Renaissance Performing Arts Association, in Richland County, had their first arts and action day last week. She added that they credited the OAC and OCA for inspiring them to have a local arts advocacy day. Mr. Blair attended the event and introduced the keynote speaker Jane Alexander (actress and former chair of the NEA).

Last week, Ms. Collins attended the Americans for the Arts conference in Philadelphia. She presented two workshops and facilitated an arts venture.

Ms. Collins expressed that she and Ms. Henahan have discussed ways to begin working on the budget process and what needs to be done.

Board member Tom Schorgl met with the OCA board in April to discuss the ballot initiative process in Cleveland that led to Cuyahoga County – County Amendment/Issue 18: Arts and Culture. From that meeting, Ms. Collins stated that the OCA Board charged

her with creating a template that community members can use while seeking local funding. That template is now on the OCA Web site.

The OCA Board meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2008, at 10:30 a.m. at the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts.

Mr. Blair thanked the OAC Board and staff for what they have done to advance the advocacy process that led to the governor and the legislature increasing the OAC's budget in the past budget cycle. The governor just signed a capital improvement budget that has money for arts institutions across the state. Nonetheless, there are some storm clouds building because of the downturn in the state's economy. We have been through these downturns in the past, and with the recent budget reductions, we need to be strong advocates in order to preserve the strength of OAC and the arts in Ohio. We must continue to build our constituency and help them understand the politics of advocating. There is going to be new leadership in the House. If the Republicans take control, it is either going to be Representative Matthew Dolan or Representative William Batchelder. Mr. Blair added that it appears the Democrats have solved their leadership issues and it looks like it is going to be Representative Armond Budish should the Democrats take control. Since the House is up for re-election, the new legislators need to understand what the OAC does and its importance to their constituents. We know who the less-supportive leaders are, but it is all of the members who influence the leadership. We need for the governor to understand that by cutting an agency the size of the OAC, he seriously undermines the arts infrastructure of Ohio and reduces the agency's ability to carry out its mission. A cut to the OAC's budget, in terms of saving the state money, is incredibly small but it is very large to the agency, which is in fact helping the governor and legislature solve many of the problems that they want to solve, for example, problems with education and the economy. We, as advocates, have to convince the governor and the legislator that they need to take a long view of what the OAC can do and treat us differently. Mr. Blair added that OCA pledges to the OAC Board to work with them and advocate for the arts.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Budget Update

Ms. Henahan explained that in order to address a projected budget shortfall that is predicted to range from \$733 million to \$1.9 billion by the end of June 2009, Governor Strickland directed state agencies to implement more than \$733 million in cost savings, management strategies, program reductions and efficiencies. Cuts are required because the Ohio Constitution mandates a balanced budget at the end of each fiscal year. After many negotiations with OBM and much wrangling, in April we were notified of a 10 percent reduction that was to be taken across the FY2008/2009 biennium. The reduction was actually a 9.8 percent cut in FY2008 and a 10.2 percent cut in FY2009 because we were permitted to take the reduction unevenly across the two years since the notification came late in the fiscal year. The actual reduction to FY2008 grants was 7.68 percent because we took the cut from other sources before we reduced grants. Ms. Henahan directed the Board's attention to the Council book to review the detailed report of the

current FY2008/2009 budget. She stated that the Board will hear more about the budget as the Finance and Executive Committees report out later in the meeting.

Staff Layoffs

As referenced already, Ms. Henahan stated that Nancy Vincent, receptionist; Donna Sue Groves, southern Ohio field representative; Lacey Luce, Riffe Gallery marketing specialist; and Sally Winter, northern Ohio field representative were laid off at the end of May due to significant insufficiencies in our payroll line. Ms. Henahan added that it is always difficult for an agency, let alone one as small as we are, to lose any staff and we were especially sorry to lose two, long-term, highly valued employees like Donna Sue Groves and Sally Winter. They did a great deal of work in the field to raise the profile of the agency in northern and southern Ohio and we are, and always will be, very grateful for all that they did for the OAC. While Lacey Luce and Nancy Vincent were not with the OAC as long, they too were integral to the agency's success and well-roundedness. We will miss them and wish them the very best. On Monday, the OAC will begin using an automated phone system.

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies *Assembly 2008*

NASAA's "Assembly 2008" will take place in Chattanooga, Tennessee, September 10-13, 2008. Ms. Henahan strongly encourages any Board members who are able to attend this meeting or one of NASAA's future meetings to do so. It is an excellent opportunity to learn up-to-date information on the arts and its role in civic life and how state arts agencies play an integral part in the cultural vitality of this country.

NASAA Executive Director Leadership Retreat

On June 9-11, 2008, Ms. Henahan attended an annual retreat that NASAA held for executive directors of state arts agencies (SAA). The retreat was in Denver, Colorado this year and was attended by 30 executive directors from around the country as well as NASAA staff. Topics covered during the two-day meeting included:

- State and local relationships – how those are changing and how government support from the state level is distinctly valuable to the arts.
- Relevance of state arts agency in a changing environment.
- Changing roles of SAA executive directors.

The directors also heard from two guest speakers – Sandra Ruppert, from the Arts Education Partnership, who briefed them on state-level arts education policy and how it is, or is not, implemented across the nation, and also from Corina Eckl – the director of Fiscal Affairs at the National Conference of State Legislatures. Ms. Eckl gave a state budget forecast and policy briefing.

NEA Partnership Agreement Grant Award

Ms. Henahan informed the Board members that the OAC saw a rather significant increase in its FY2009 award from the NEA. The award increased by \$154,500, from \$817,000 to \$971,500. This increase in funding was fortuitous; it will enable the OAC to increase federal funding to the Arts Access program, and to direct some Underserved funds to the

Building Cultural Diversity Initiative (BCDI). It will also help the agency meet its payroll obligations for FY2009. Details of the disbursement of FY2009 NEA funding can be found in the Council Book.

Riffe Gallery Presents Midwestern Visions of Impressionism: 1890-1930

The OAC's Riffe Gallery will present *Midwestern Visions of Impressionism: 1890-1930*, July 31 through October 12, 2008. The exhibition opens on July 31 with a business and media preview followed by a public tour by curator Christine Fowler Shearer from 5-6 p.m. followed by a reception from 6-8 p.m. Ms. Shearer will lead a second tour of the exhibition August 1, from noon to 1 p.m. Ms. Henahan stated that this exhibition takes a fresh look at the American Impressionism movement through the paintings of 31 artists born or raised in the Midwest and working between 1890-1930.

Ken Emerick Update

Ms. Henahan reported that Ken Emerick, director of the Individual Creativity Office, has been dealing with a serious health challenge since the end of January. He is on the mend but does face a bit more surgery and recuperation. At this time, his hope is to be back with the OAC by some time in September. We are looking forward to his return.

Staff Retiring

Ms. Henahan notified the members that two staff members will be retiring at the end of August 2008. Kevin Cary, director of the Office of Grants and Constituent Services (OGACS), who has been with the OAC for over 20 years and has served the OAC in many capacities. Mr. Cary started in the grants office then worked as the music coordinator, dance coordinator, theater coordinator, the performing arts coordinator, and also worked with the presenting and touring program, before becoming the director of OGACS for the last five years. It has been a pleasure to work with him over the years and the agency has benefited from him being here.

Also retiring is Irene Finck, Traditional Arts Apprenticeship and Percent for Art program coordinator, who has been with the OAC since 1986. Ms. Finck started in the grants office and then became the coordinator for the Percent for Art program. She also took on responsibilities for the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program in 2004. Ms. Henahan thanked Ms. Finck for all her years of hard work at the OAC.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Tom Schorgl, seconded by Martie MacDonell, to accept the minutes of the Council Board meeting held on February 28, 2008. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Barbara Robinson, seconded by Charlotte Kessler, to accept the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting held on February 28, 2008. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Mary Wolfe, seconded by Tom Schorgl, to accept the minutes of the Nominating Committee meeting held on February 28, 2008. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Tom Schorgl, seconded by Barbara Robinson, to accept the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on February 28, 2008. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Barbara Robinson, seconded by Mary Wolfe, to accept the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on February 28, 2008. **Motion carried without dissent.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy and Planning Committee

Board member Barbara Robinson stated that a tremendous amount of work has been accomplished through the OAC's Strategic Plan 2006-2006 this past year. There have been a couple of items in the plan that were put on hold but generally, the agency has made significant progress in achieving its goals and meeting its performance targets. Almost every staff member has been involved in carrying out the plan's actions and/or tracking and documenting progress. The committee was given a SOAR II update. The SOAR II committee conducted an online survey of arts and cultural organization and artist constituents to gauge their level of awareness of the first SOAR and to seek their advice on the design of SOAR II. The information from the survey will be shared with the OAC Board and the selected research firm to assist in the research design. A request for proposals (RFP) has been developed and will be sent to research firms in early July, after it receives approval from the Attorney General's office. Ms. Robinson reported that the staff has been working on revising/rewriting *Guidelines 2010/2011*. The *Guidelines* working group has sought to strengthen and clarify all grant-related materials based on the concepts and materials presented by Kelly Barsdate, chief program and planning officer, NASAA, during her professional development session last February. Ms. Barsdate will be visiting the OAC on August 7 and 8, 2008, to lead staff in critiquing their in-process work.

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

Legislative Committee

At the end of January 2008 Governor Strickland instructed state agencies to reduce expenditures in order to keep the state budget balanced for the FY2008/2009 biennium. On February 19, 2008, the OAC learned that the projected budget cut was 10 percent each year. Board member Charlotte Kessler reported that the OAC staff has been working hard to make the necessary cuts. The grim reality is that this is not an organization with a lot of fat to begin with and to do what we had to do is very painful. The staff layoffs were very difficult on everyone involved and we need to appreciate what management and the OAC staff has been through over the last few months. What

we have to look at now is going forward. Ms. Kessler noted that on August 6, 2008, Jonathan Katz, CEO, NASAA, will be coming in to talk to the OAC and OCA Board and staff about making the case for the arts, public funding for the arts, and the agency and its work. Ms. Kessler strongly encouraged everyone to attend the session. The Legislative Committee has a lot of work to do coordinating the appropriate advocacy for the arts.

Ms. Henahan added that this has been a tough six months. The process began around January 7, when memos started coming out of OBM and culminated on May 31, 2008, which was the last day for the employees that were laid off. Since then, we have been putting a lot of effort into figuring out how to distribute the work load of the four staff plus the two employees who are taking the early retirement. As difficult as it has been, the staff continued to perform at a high level and will continue to do so. Ms. Henahan informed the members that the budget proposals for FY2010/2011 are due to OBM on September 15, 2008. Through the OBM instructions, all agencies are informed that they are subject to limits on what can be requested for their FY2010/FY2011 budgets. Limitations are set at the fund level but there are no limitations on specific appropriation line items. Ms. Henahan stated that this will allow flexibility across administration and subsidy lines. The base figure to work from, as the budget proposal is prepared, is set at the FY2009 level after the reduction. We are allowed to submit budget figures based on a 90-percent and a 95-percent adjustment of those FY2009 figures. As a result we start this budget process with a 5- to 10-percent cut to the current FY2009 budget. OBM has also informed us that there will be no cost-of-living adjustments in FY2010 and FY2011. As Ms. Kessler also stated, we are crafting a solid strategy for working with our constituents, legislature and the OCA Board and their membership over the next year. On August 6, 2008, Mr. Katz will be coming to the OAC to talk about making the case for the arts and in November we plan to bring Ms. Barsdate back to talk about advocacy and strategic messaging. We strongly encourage the OAC and OCA Board members to attend these advocacy training sessions. Ms. Henahan added that in a few weeks, we will be sending out, via e-mail, a state and national legislative survey to the OAC Board members to ascertain the relationships they have with particular legislators and how best to use those relationships in the upcoming year. It will be helpful to OAC and OCA to know more about the legislative relationships each Board member has at the state and federal level. OCA will be sending the same questionnaire out to their Board members.

MOTION by Marti MacDonell, seconded by Mary Lazarus, to approve the Legislative Committee report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Finance Committee

Board member Tom Schorgl reported that the OAC was audited by the Auditor of the State of Ohio for fiscal years 2007 and 2008. The Board will receive a hard copy of the audit by the end of August. Three recommendations came out of the audit: 1) Segregation of duties – they asked that we add a third check and balance person to the receivership of checks. Right now we only have two but we will add a third person soon. 2) Depositing checks in a more timely fashion – the auditor recommended that we need to be more timely when depositing checks. In particular, there was a check from the Ohio Building Authority (OBA) that was held because at that time of the year the state

was in the midst of year-end fiscal closeout. 3) Oversight of grant payments – the auditor would like us to send staff members on-site to conduct an internal audit that would verify how funds were spent. The Finance Committee suggested that the OAC implement a pilot program where we randomly select 15 organizations to audit, which would demonstrate that we take the auditor’s recommendations seriously and document just how much time it takes to conduct these audits. Mr. Schorgl stated that the committee also reviewed the FY2009 budget. The NEA grant award figures are now final and the agency received an increase for the coming year, which is wonderful and will help us get through 2009 and 2010. However, it is important for the Board to understand that we need to maintain our staff, 27 FTEs, and we need to work with OBM, the governor and the legislature to increase the general revenue funding. The agency has been using 30 percent of its federal funding for payroll and this cannot continue. The danger we face, if we lose more staff, is that we will not be able to function at the same high level as we have in the past, thus we could see a decrease in our competitive funding award from the NEA. That will cause a ripple effect; we need to show the correlation between the loss of four OAC positions and reductions in grant awards and a loss in local jobs.

The Finance Committee members think that it is time to review a long-standing OAC policy - that 50 percent of our subsidy budget goes to the Sustainability (over \$1.5 million) program. The committee discussed that by suspending the policy, the OAC would have some flexibility in its overall budget during these economically difficult times, but also force the possibility of losing the advocacy of these organizations.

MOTION by Mary Wolfe, seconded by Neal Zimmers, to approve the Finance Committee report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Executive Committee

Ms. Saxbe reported that Ms. Henahan walked the committee members through the revised FY2009 budget, which the Board will need to approve. She also presented the new organizational chart for the agency. The chart depicts a number of changes including the closer working relationships between and among offices; four new standing committees for Percent for Arts, Folk and Traditional Arts, OLGA-related work, and Diversity and Outreach; and a change in the reporting structure of the Office of Organizational Services and Community Development (OSCD). Ms. Saxbe added that at the last Board meeting in February, a couple of Board members wanted to see the grant awards for Sustainability organizations from FY2007-FY2009. In our committee meeting, we looked at those awards to see how the increase and, later, the decrease in our FY2008/2009 budget effected those organizations. The good news is that many organizations still had a positive net gain in funding, even after the budget cut. The Executive Committee also reviewed the panel recommendations for the fall Arts Access panel, which we will need to approve. Ms. Saxbe said that Ms. McClaskey provided an overview of the FY2007/2008 audit process. Ms. McClaskey also walked the members through the agency’s payroll projections through 2012. Ms. Saxbe stated that Jim Szekacs, grants associate, OGACS highlighted the key findings of the Constituent Satisfaction Survey. As we would expect, the OAC received high ratings for their customer service from constituents. She added that Ms. Campbell-Zopf reviewed the

new language for the Governor's Awards' Arts Patron category so that family foundations can be nominated, which, again, we will need to approve. The Executive Committee members reviewed the agency's priority work from July to September.

MOTION by Tom Schorgl, seconded by Barbara Robinson, to approve the Executive Committee report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Ms. Saxbe would like the Board to accept the following recommendations:

1. Approve the OAC's FY2009 revised budget.
2. Approve the Arts Access panel recommendations for the fall panel meeting.
3. Approve the new language for the Arts Patron category for the Governor's Awards for the Arts program.
4. Approve the Sustainability funding for the Columbus Symphony Orchestra based on the following two provisions: 1) a grant will not be issued until a season is established, and 2) a debt reduction plan is in place.
5. Approve the "grandfathering" of the Akron Civic Theatre and the Greater Akron Musical Association into the Sustainability (over \$1.5 million) category so that they can receive their second-year of funding even though their budgets have fallen below the threshold of \$1.5 million.

MOTION by Marti MacDonell, seconded by Barbara Robinson, to approve the Executive Committee recommendations as listed above. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Board Member Barbara Gould wanted to know if we have had any further discussion about the Irma Lazarus Award, and if we made changes to the criteria. She wanted to know if we can give the award to someone else, who would be in attendance, if the original winner is not available to accept it. Ms. Campbell-Zopf stated that the OAC did some research on how other SAAs handle particular aspects of their Governor's Awards for the Arts programs. Ms. Henahan noted that we specifically researched whether award winners had to be present during the ceremony to accept their award and found out that 73 percent of the SAAs do require the winner to be present. At the November meeting, staff will provide additional background information. Ms. Henahan suggested that since we have a full meeting agenda today that this discussion be tabled and discussed during the November Awards Committee meeting.

GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Sustainability (Over \$1.5 million)

Kevin Cary, director, OGACS, explained that in the Council Book under the Sustainability (over \$1.5 Million) tab, there are four different options for funding the FY2009 applicants in this program. Descriptions of the four options follow:

Option 1--Includes ALL current grantees.

Option 2--Excludes the Columbus Symphony Orchestra (CSO) (The orchestra is currently experiencing severe financial difficulties and it is not clear how much longer they may be in operation.)

Option 3--Excludes the CSO, the Akron Civic Theatre (Community Hall Foundation), and the Greater Akron Musical Association. The Akron Civic Theatre and the Greater Akron Musical Association are excluded because their base operating income for their last fiscal year, as confirmed by their audit, was below the required eligibility level of \$1.5 million. CSO is excluded in this option for the reason explained above in option 2.

Option 4--Excludes the Akron Civic Theatre and the Greater Akron Musical Association for the reason cited in Option 3; includes CSO.

Mr. Cary stated that, in past years, when a major institution's base income has fallen below the eligibility level in the second year of a two-year funding cycle, the OAC Board has been given options to choose from when approving grants. These options have always included an option to “grandfather” the organizations, which have slipped below the eligibility level, into the program for the last year of the biennium.

Ms. Henahan affirmed that the Board has already approved the Sustainability funding for the Columbus Symphony Orchestra based on the following two provisions: 1) grant will not be issued until a season is established, and 2) a debt reduction plan is in place. The Board also approved the grandfathering of the Akron Civic Theatre and the Greater Akron Musical Association into the Sustainability (over \$1.5 million) category so that they can receive their second-year of funding even though their budgets have fallen below the threshold of \$1.5 million.

MOTION by Tom Schorgl, seconded by Marti MacDonell, 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 great 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.

Sustainability (Under \$1.5 million)

Mr. Katona reported that 229 organizations are being recommended for funding in the Sustainability (under \$1.5 million) program.

This year, staff shared a concrete example of these types of exemplary work being carried out through our funding categories. For the Sustainability program, Mr. Katona highlighted The Kenyon Review. The Kenyon Review is among the most respected literary journals in the world. It is housed in Kenyon College in Mount Vernon, Ohio.

During this grant year, in addition to publishing the Kenyon Review, it will be presenting workshops and hosting the Kenyon Review Literary Festival. The Kenyon Review will collaborate locally with the Knox County Arts Council to host KNOX READS this fall and will also work with the Mount Vernon Library. They will offer local community programs, teacher resources and numerous educational opportunities to teens and adults who want to become writers.

MOTION by Mary Wolfe, seconded by Barbara Robinson, 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 great 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.**

Arts Access

Mr. Katona stated that 88 applications are being recommended for funding in the Arts Access program.

Mr. Katona then highlighted the Chagrin Foundation for Arts & Culture, that began in 2007 as collaboration among the Village of Chagrin Falls, Chagrin Falls Township, and area arts organizations to explore restoration of the historic 1847 Chagrin Falls Township Hall and the formation of a vibrant arts and entertainment district. This is their first time applying to the Arts Access program but they did receive a Capacity Building grant in 2007. In July/August 2008, the Chagrin Foundation for Arts & Culture will present Chautauqua-in-Chagrin 2008, in partnership the Chautauqua Institution of New York. This is an out-of-the-box design that weaves together the arts, politics, science, and humanitarian issues of relevance. The series will include four evenings featuring three lectures, one classical music performance and an informal concert in the park.

MOTION by Tom Schorgl, seconded by Charlotte Kessler, 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 great 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.**

Arts Innovation

Mr. Katona noted that 16 applications are being recommended to the Arts Innovation program.

Mr. Katona then described “Arts Gone Wild”, a four-day cultural festival in August, hosted this first year by, the Toledo Zoo. This unique, collaborative project will join together 13 cultural organizations into a true partnership. It will offer free artist demonstrations, theater, music and dance performances, and the opportunity to create a community mural or participate in other activities throughout the zoo. More than 125 artists will participate. The partners include: the Toledo Symphony, the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo, Metro Parks-Toledo Area, the Toledo Ballet, the Toledo Botanical Gardens, the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, the Toledo Museum of Art, the Toledo Opera, the Toledo Repertoire Theatre, the Toledo School for the Arts, the Toledo Zoo, the Valentine Theater, and WGTE Public Media. Mr. Katona added that “Arts Gone Wild” will introduce visitors to the cultural offerings of the city and invite them to participate in events and activities at the home sites of the partner organizations at a later date.

MOTION by Marti MacDonell, seconded by Barbara Robinson, 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 great 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 passed with one abstention.**

Arts Learning: Artist in Residence

Joanne Eubanks, program coordinator, Artists in Residence program, reported that 47 applications are being recommended for funding in the Artist in Residence program.

Ms. Eubanks spoke about one of the applicants, Life Enriching Communities – Twin Towers & Twin Lakes at Montgomery. Life Enriching Communities from Cincinnati is applying for a grant to host a two-week residency in creative writing. This senior living retirement community embraces a wellness philosophy that includes residents and key stakeholders in program planning. A desire for a writing residency emerged after the success of a series of poetry workshops. The sponsor believes that a professional writer will “inspire, guide and unleash creativity of participants.” The residency will provide opportunities for self-expression, increased social interaction and cognitive stimulation. Council funds will be wisely invested in support of this collaboration to benefit the participants comprised of seniors, family and other interested community members, and the artist who will help participants give voice to this often underserved group.

MOTION by Martha Burton, seconded by Mary Lazarus, 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 great 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.**

Arts Learning: Arts Partnership

Shannon Ford, program coordinator, Arts Partnership program, noted that 43 applications are being recommended for funding in the Arts Partnership program.

Mr. Ford highlighted an application from Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACEnet). Mr. Ford said that he selected this application to talk about because it demonstrated the interconnectedness of the arts' cultural, educational and economic benefits. ACEnet is working to establish a series of online workshops at three different partner sites for professional visual artists and artisans in Athens, Belmont, Noble, Monroe, Perry, Morgan, Gallia, Meigs, Vinton and Hocking counties. These professional development opportunities are designed to strengthen participants' artistic skills and abilities, as well as to provide training in e-commerce tools that help artists to compete in an economy that is increasingly electronically based. Further, ACEnet is committed to not only developing relationships with participating artists but also among them, by building a peer-learning network of emerging, youth and established professional artists. By investing public funds in this project, the Council will assist ACEnet in carrying out its mission "to build the capacity of Appalachian communities to network, work together and innovate to create a dynamic, sustainable, regional economy with opportunities for all."

MOTION by Tom Schorgl, seconded by Charlotte Kessler, 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 great 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.**

Individual Creativity: Artists and Communities

Kathy Signorino, program coordination, Individual Creativity program, reported that one application is being recommended for funding from the Artists and Communities program.

Ms. Signorino stated that this year's Artists and Communities program received an application from Kelli Trinoskey for the Central Ohio Young Writers Literary Journal. The journal publication, which will showcase teen poetry, fiction, essays and artwork, was especially compelling because of its use of teens as editors. Five teen writers, with help from local publishers and the Thurber House staff, will learn the editorial process as they compile the journal. In addition to the publication a series of workshops will be held to help teens hone their craft in preparation for submission to the journal. Ms. Trinoskey's planning for this project was well-thought-out, from the development phase of seeing the need for this type of publication, to using the public school's literacy coordinators in outreach efforts, to tapping existing expertise within the community for the editorial board and workshops. This is the type of project that we hoped for when we created the Artists and Communities program; community members having an active role in art-making, creating something that they have ownership of and changing their lives through artistic experiences.

MOTION by Martha Burton, seconded by Barbara Robinson, that we, the Ohio Arts Council Board, approve the Individual Creativity: Artists and Communities 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 great 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.

Individual Creativity: Traditional Arts Apprenticeship

Ms. Finck stated that 10 applications are being recommended for funding in the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program.

Ms. Finck reported about master artist Eddie Brookshire and apprentice Stephen Wolkonowski. She stated that the master artist will undertake an apprenticeship in jazz with the apprentice to teach concept, the true feel of swing, drum improvisation and all other elements of a good jazz musician. This master artist is an educator, is active in his community and is an experienced jazz musician. Mr. Brookshire has studied with many jazz greats. There is music in his family, his father was a Delta Blues guitar player. Mr. Brookshire has received many awards over the years and has encouraged student musicians to attend performances and sit in on jam sessions. This is helping to preserve inner-city big bands and the jazz tradition in general. Jazz is a valuable art form born out of the everyday life experiences of African-Americans and is comprised of many

different music disciplines. Preserving this art form is important to the state and the country.

MOTION by Mary Wolfe, seconded by Barbara Robinson, that we, the Ohio Arts Council Board, approve the Individual Creativity: Traditional Arts Apprenticeship 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 great 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.**

Mr. Zimmers asked: Since there has been discussion about sun-setting the Artists and Communities grant category, is there going to be another category introduced where these types of projects can be funded? Ms. Henahan responded that the need for a project category for artists and organizations had been an ongoing topic of discussion among our staff and some of our grant review panels. She added that the Artists and Communities grant category evolved from an older program, Artist Projects. The Artist Projects category was quite popular when it was first introduced but over time the number of applications in this category began to decrease. Ms. Henahan felt that the staff would need to do some internal research to determine the feasibility of introducing an artists project grant category.

RATIFICATIONS

MOTION by Tom Schorgl, seconded by Barbara Robinson, to ratify grants awarded in Artists with Disabilities Access, Capacity Building, Percent for Art and Special-Organizations. **Motion passed without dissent.**

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

OAC Strategic Plan 2006-2009 Update

Ms. Campbell-Zopf informed the Board members that the OAC develops a strategic plan on a three- to four-year cycle. The OAC's plan is a touchstone and guide for all that the agency does. Having a well-articulated strategic plan is a critical component of our work in state government and in our work with the NEA. The NEA expects state arts agencies to have up-to-date and detailed strategic plans that are developed through inclusive planning, that are responsive to constituents, and that have strong evaluation of performance in relation to the plan. The upcoming *Listening Tour* is a prelude to the next OAC strategic planning process and will involve a wide range of stakeholders from across the state including: elected public officials, artists, arts educators, arts administrators, and the general public. Today, Dan Katona and I will walk the committee through the committee members through the OAC Strategic Plan 2006-2009

highlighting key accomplishments and reporting on the status of a sampling of actions and performance targets under each goal.

Mr. Katona explained that a tremendous amount of work has been accomplished this past year. The agency has made significant progress in achieving its goals and meeting its performance targets. Almost every staff member have been involved in carrying out the plan's actions and/or tracking and documenting progress. Ms. Campbell-Zopf added that this plan has a stronger focus on the results the agency is hoping to achieve. We are looking at established baselines and tracking the extent to which growth is occurring.

The following performance targets and their related actions were highlighted:

Goal 1: Invest in Ohio's Rich Cultural Resources

Performance target 1a: Between July 2006 and June 2009, increase the overall number of annual applications two percent each fiscal year. Fund at the same or greater levels during FY2008/2009 as compared to FY2007, barring any unexpected budget reductions.

Mr. Katona reviewed that applications from organizations decreased by three percent from FY2006-2007 and increased by 15 percent from FY2007-2008; overall, they increased by 12 percent. Applications from individuals increased by ten percent from FY2006-FY2007 and decreased by 13 percent from FY2007-2008; overall, they decreased by four percent.

Performance target 3b: By June 2009, arts organizations in eight of the OAC's least funded counties (as of 7/1/2006) will have resources and support to strengthen their arts infrastructure, as assessed by having a plan in place that addresses their interests and needs.

Mr. Katona reviewed that ten visits had been made to six of the eight least-served counties, with additional visits being planned in 2008 (including the Listening Tour and the IMPACT tour.)

Performance target 5a: Phase 1: By June 2008, citizens will have greater access to artists and arts organizations because ArtsinOhio.com (Ohio Event Finder) will have established three additional media partnerships and become the model for two statewide, online arts calendars in the Arts Midwest region.

Mr. Katona reviewed that there are three additional media sponsors on board and one state arts agency.

Goal 2: Communicate the Value of the Arts

Performance target 1c: By July 2008, 100 percent of OAC organizational grantees, with Web sites, will link the OAC Web site to their own Web site.

Ms. Campbell-Zopf reviewed that nearly 100% of grantees have completed the requirements; logo checks were conducted on FY2007 final reports and this process will be repeated on FY2009 final reports in the fall of 2009.

Goal 3: Help Citizens of all Ages Learn and Thrive through the Arts

Performance target 1c: By March 2009, Arts Learning grant requests that serve early learners and older adults will increase by three per year, as documented by grant applications. (Baseline – FY2006: one application serving early learners, 12 applications serving adults; zero serving older adults).

Ms. Campbell-Zopf reviewed that in FY2008, two applications successfully served early learners and 11 successfully served adults including two that served older adults.

Performance target 3a: By June 2009, 50 targeted users (across the nation and in Ohio) will pilot the research-based, communication tool kit, as assessed by the development of short articles, press releases and letters to the editors, etc., and interviews of users by an outside evaluator.

Ms. Campbell-Zopf reviewed that the toolkit is posted on the NASAA Web site and is being used. Since its posting, the toolkit is ranked second for items most frequently downloaded from the NASAA Web site.

Goal 4: Encourage and Facilitate Widespread Participation in the Arts

Performance target 3c: By December 2008, OAC staff will understand the needs and aspirations of at least 500 Ohio citizens from a wide variety of communities and constituencies, as assessed through tour transcripts, informal conversations with constituents and observations by OAC staff.

Mr. Katona reviewed that extensive work has been completed including site selections. The tour will be divided between two years (beginning in the fall of 2008) to lessen the financial burden in one year.

Goal 5: Foster Vibrant and Healthy Communities through the Arts

Performance target 1a: By June 2009, the OAC will have materials to use in future marketing campaigns to highlight the ways in which the arts impact community vitality and development.

Mr. Katona reviewed that the Community Development annotated bibliography has been completed and sent to Americans for the Arts (AFTA) for their review and input.

Performance target 2d: By June 2009, OAC's Public Value Report will be distributed to artists, arts organizations, and government offices throughout all 88 counties.

Mr. Katona reviewed that the team met with the Office of Grants and Administrative Services, Public Information Office and Arts Learning and the first report will focus on Arts Partnership activities and will serve as a pilot report. The report will be posted online due to limited funding.

Performance target 3a: By December 2007, all OAC staff will be better prepared to assist communities in techniques of inclusion and ADA compliance, as assessed by pre-and post-surveys.

Mr. Katona reviewed that two staff trainings have been held and the pre- and post-surveys are complete. Evaluations showed a positive gain in ADA knowledge.

Goal 6: Sustain and Cultivate Strategic Partnerships that Broaden Support for the Arts

Performance target 1b: By June 2009, 12 partner-based applications will be submitted to the Capacity Building program for projects.

Mr. Katona reviewed that six applications have been submitted in FY2008.

Performance target 3f: By June 2008, participating individuals and organizations in the *Andes Exchange* will express satisfaction with their professional development experiences and be able to cite specific examples of how those experiences are being applied in their work, as assessed through participant surveys and interviews.

Ms. Campbell-Zopf reviewed that the final report for the U.S. Department of State grant is due on June 30, 2008. At that time, the project will be 100 percent complete. At a future Council meeting, a project overview and evaluation findings will be shared.

Poetry Out Loud (POL)

Jeff Hooper, director of Arts Learning, explained that *POL* is a recitation contest for high school students. The program was started by the NEA and the Poetry Foundation in 2005 with the goal of rekindling an interest in poetry as an art form. Dana Gioia, chairman of the NEA and a poet himself, describes *POL* as "...taking the impulse of electric popular culture and linking it to the masterpieces of poetry." It builds on the popularity of slam poetry and hip-hop music, taking a trend that was already building among kids today and bringing that energy into the classroom.

Chiquita Mullins-Lee, *POL* program coordinator, explained how the program works. It is organized like a spelling bee with a pyramid structure that starts at the school level.

Teachers who want to participate get a free toolkit provided by the NEA and the Poetry Foundation that includes a teacher's guide along with a poetry anthology, a CD of spoken poetry, and posters; it is everything a teacher needs to organize a contest in their school. There are specific lesson plans and schedules as well as tips on how to find judges. The program fits right into the high school curriculum and a contest can involve as few students as a single class, or it can be as much as a whole school.

In fact, we have a school right here in central Ohio, Westland High School that has put the program into every English class and is involving more than a thousand students every year. Mr. Hooper stated. Ms. Mullins-Lee added that each student is required to memorize three poems. They have to pick poems from the official anthology but there are more than a thousand poems available, and they range from Shakespeare and Wordsworth to modern poets like Sylvia Plath, Wendell Berry and Lawrence Ferlinghetti. The poems represent lots of different perspectives and ethnicities so students have an easy time finding something that speaks to their experience.

Mr. Hooper noted that each school contest has a winner, and the school winners from all over Ohio are eligible to compete in the state finals. The winner of the Ohio finals gets an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. to compete in the National Finals. There are cash prizes on the state level and the national winner receives a \$20,000 college scholarship.

Our role here at the OAC is to promote the program to teachers, send out toolkits, and help teachers organize contests, Ms. Mullins-Lee reported. We offer a teacher workshop in the fall that answers a lot of questions about how to hold a school contest, and a workshop for the winners of the school contests in the winter, just before the state finals. Of course, we also organize the state finals, which were held this year at Ohio Dominican University in Columbus. Once the Ohio winner is chosen, we offer him/her individualized coaching to prepare for the national finals, which are held at the end of April.

Mr. Hooper added that we just finished the third year of *POL* here in Ohio. During the first two years, the program was only offered in a few counties around Columbus. Twelve to 14 schools participated and each state final included about seven students.

Ms. Mullins-Lee added that in 2007-2008, we opened up the program to the entire state and participation more than tripled. We had more than seventy schools that requested materials and our final count shows that more than four thousand students from thirty-two high schools took part. We had twenty-three contestants in the state finals. Mr. Hooper added that there were preliminary rounds in the morning and early afternoon and then the top six contestants appeared in the "final final" in the late afternoon. We were particularly pleased that our First Lady, Frances Strickland, was there. She gave a warm welcome to the crowd and then handed out all of the awards. Ms. Mullins-Lee noted that this year the Ohio winner was Rachel Chandler. Rachel was a senior from Chaminade-Julienne High School in Dayton. We were hoping that she could be here today, but in

addition to being a poet and performer, Rachel is quite an athlete and she has already left for college to start basketball practice.

Mr. Hooper and Ms. Mullins-Lee showed the Board members a short DVD of Rachel from the Ohio finals.

Mr. Hooper stated that the national contest was divided into three regions and Rachel was in the top eight contestants in Region One. She was not in the top four, however, so she did not get to perform in the final evening event that determined the ultimate national winner. Rachel was disappointed, but she got a nice consolation prize when her picture appeared in the *USA Today* along with an article about *POL*, added Ms. Mullins-Lee.

The national contestants also got the opportunity to meet their U.S. Senators at a Congressional lunch that was part of the three-day event. Rachel, along with some of the other Ohio contestants, later performed poems at Arts Day here in Columbus as well as the Ohio Poetry Festival and the Columbus Arts Festival.

POL is growing all over the country. There were contestants from 50 states and two territories, and the program reached more than two-hundred thousand students from over fifteen hundred high schools across the country. Next year, we hope to expand *POL* even farther in Ohio. We are exploring the idea of holding regional contests around the state, working with partners like theatres or other nonprofit arts institutions, and enlisting their help in enrolling new schools. This is a strategy that has worked well in other states and we hope that it will help us reach even more students and teachers across Ohio.

OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

In response to Ms. Gould's question about the Governor's Awards for the Arts ceremony and whether a decision has been made to allow nominees to receive an award even if they are not able to attend the ceremony, Ms. Engle distributed a report with information from other SAAs. She stated that the Public Information Office sent a list of questions to a NASAA listserv with 14 questions on the topic of Governor's Awards for the Arts programs. We received 15 responses. The study showed that the governor is present at the ceremony 60 percent of the time so we have been very lucky to have our governor attend. Seventy-seven percent of the states do not accept online nominations. Seventy-three percent said that the winners did need to be present and those states do not allow representatives or family members to accept the award on the winners' behalf.

Mr. Schorgl stated that the reason the Indiana Arts Commission, where he served as executive director, required winners to be present was because that attracted media attention.

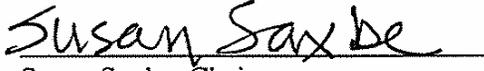
Ms. Henahan stated that the staff will do additional research and will be ready to present it at the next Council meeting, when the Awards Committee meets.

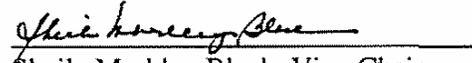
Approved: September 25, 2008

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Charlotte Kessler, seconded by Neal Zimmers, to adjourn the Ohio Arts Council Board meeting. **Motion carried without dissent.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.


Susan Saxbe, Chair


Sheila Markley Black, Vice-Chair