

**OHIO ARTS COUNCIL  
PROGRAMS, PANELS, AND PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION  
OCTOBER 15, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Monica Kridler at 10:00 a.m. in the offices of the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) in Columbus. A quorum was not present, so the meeting proceeded as an informal discussion, rather than an official meeting, and remained open to the public with live audio broadcast. Committee members in attendance: Monica Kridler, chair; James Dicke; and Jane Foulk. Absent: Robb Hankins; Sharon Howard; Emma Off; and Ginger Warner. Staff attending: Donna Collins, Dan Katona, and Justin Nigro. Staff in partial attendance: Jim Szekacs. Also in attendance: Juan Cespedes; Jon Holt; Darryl Mehaffie; Jeff Rich; Neal Zimmers; Senator Eric Kearney; and Linda Woggon, Ohio Citizens for the Arts executive director.

**Panelist and Alternate Recommendations**

Ms. Kridler opened discussion on the topic of panelist and alternate recommendations, covering eight grant areas and beginning with the Sustainability (over \$1.75 million) category. Donna Collins, executive director, outlined the OAC's process for seeking potential panelists.

Ms. Kridler asked why recommended Sustainability "over" panelists were all out of state. Dan Katona, deputy director, explained that these panelists review large organizations that have a broad reach, so the likelihood of an in-state panelist having a conflict of interest is greater. Having high caliber panelists for this category is important, Mr. Katona said, given the size and scope of the grant category's applicants. Responding to additional questions, Mr. Katona added that this panel meets in person, although virtual meetings could be explored in the future, and that panel meeting expenses are included in the OAC's budget. Ms. Collins noted that she intends to ask this set of applicants, as part of the strategic planning process, for feedback on the panel review process. Mr. Rich noted that panelists often use their service to build their resumes.

Ms. Kridler and Mr. Katona proceeded to the Sustainability (under \$1.75 million) category. Mr. Katona reminded the group that this is the first full four-year Sustainability grant application cycle. He continued that Sustainability "under" panels will be divided first into three regions (Western, Eastern, and Northeast) and then into two budget sub-tiers, with the idea being that more panels with fewer panelists will spread the workload better. Ms. Collins had encouraged staff to look at a new way of doing business, and Ms. Kridler agreed with this approach.

Ms. Kridler and Mr. Katona next reviewed the Arts Access category, which typically receives around thirty applicants. Ms. Kridler expressed surprise at the relatively low number of applicants, and Mr. Katona explained that the category requires grant history with the OAC and can be fluid as organizations move between it and the Sustainability "under" category.

Mr. Katona continued through the Project Support, Artist in Residence, Arts Partnership, Individual Artist, and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship categories, briefly outlining trends, grant criteria, and other details for each category.

Ms. Kridler tallied overall that panelists represented around 29 Ohio cities, led by Columbus, Dayton, Cleveland, and Cincinnati, thereby opening discussion on the sufficiency of OAC's

geographical reach among panelists. Mr. Katona said assembling panels is a puzzle to get a mix that reflects diversity in organizational size, rural/urban background, ethnicity, gender, age, and disability status. Ms. Collins asked for Ms. Kridler's comfort level with the number of cities represented this cycle, and Ms. Kridler said she believed the OAC was doing a fantastic job but simply wanted to raise the issue for discussion. Jim Dicke thought looking at the county or regional level may be better than the city level, and Ms. Kridler agreed. Ms. Collins suggested OAC staff review and map out a county level analysis during the next round of panel assembly, and Ms. Kridler generally agreed with this method. Mr. Katona added that the new grants system will facilitate this work. Jon Holt asked whether panelists volunteer or are sought out by the OAC, and Mr. Katona responded that both means of finding panelists occur.

Committee members initially agreed without dissent to a motion to accept the panelist recommendations, but due to the lack of a quorum, the motion was later recognized as null.

### ***Guidelines Updates***

Ms. Collins outlined several minor updates to the *Guidelines*, including moving out the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship application deadline and Sustainability and Artist in Residence draft deadlines; clarifying grant match language; requiring Creative Economy applicants to state the names of their project partners and clarifying such partners' ineligibility to apply for separate Project Support grants; and prioritizing funding for new applicants to the Big Yellow School Bus program, ahead of those who apply multiple times in the same fiscal year.

Ms. Kridler asked for clarification on grant match requirements and the Creative Economy change. Mr. Katona said grant match language is inconsistent throughout the *Guidelines*; the update would harmonize this language. On the Creative Economy language update, Ms. Collins said it would provide the OAC with more clarity on which organizations act as partners in these grants, and Mr. Katona added that the intent is that formal partners would not apply separately for their own projects and thus "double dip."

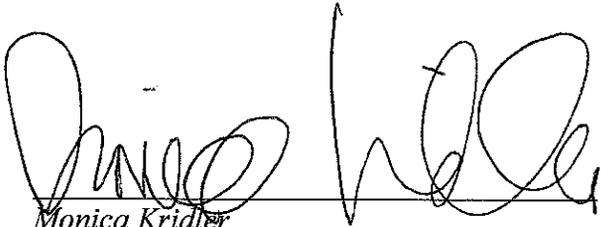
Ms. Kridler inquired whether the Big Yellow School Bus had run out of funds, thus necessitating the *Guidelines* update, and Mr. Katona clarified that the update did not relate to funding.

### ***New Business – Engagement Tour***

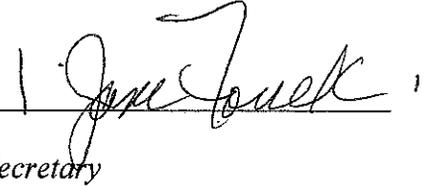
Ms. Collins provided an update on the OAC's November 2014 engagement tour, which will visit Dayton, Shawnee, Canton, and Piqua and was planned with input from board members in those regions. The OAC will meet with constituents, hold consultant-led focus groups, and host evening public meetings to inform the OAC's future direction. A fifth meeting will be held in partnership with Ohio Citizens for the Arts, Heritage Ohio, and the Ohio History Connection in Columbus in December and feature several workshops. An additional ten locations will be visited in the spring and summer of 2015 with a broader regional spread. Ms. Collins reported that similar events will be scheduled on an ongoing basis to continue informing the strategic plan and improve the OAC's ability to hear from the field directly.

The discussion ended at 10:35 a.m.

*An audio recording of this discussion is available upon request.*



*Monica Kridler*  
*OAC Programs, Panels, and Public Policy*  
*Committee Chair*



*Jane Foulk*  
*OAC Board Secretary*