

**OHIO ARTS COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 2014**

Board Chair Jeff Rich asked board member Neal Zimmers to chair the meeting, and the meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. in the offices of the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) in Columbus. Committee members in attendance: Neal Zimmers, acting chair; Juan Cespedes; James Dicke; Jane Foulk; Monica Kridler; and Jeff Rich. Absent: Ginger Warner, chair. Staff attending: Donna Collins, Dan Katona, Justin Nigro, and Carla Oesterle. Also in attendance: Jon Holt, Senator Eric Kearney, and Linda Woggon, Ohio Citizens for the Arts executive director.

FY 2014-2015 Budget Update

Mr. Zimmers reviewed the OAC's budget update for FY 2014-2015. There was no discussion.

OAC Quarterly Budget Report

Mr. Zimmers proceeded to conduct a review of the FY 2014 fourth quarter expenditures broken into four categories -- grants, administration, Riffe Gallery, and Percent for Art.

Under the administration category, Mr. Rich inquired whether contract personnel expenses were generally for Riffe Gallery contractors, and executive director Donna Collins confirmed this was the case.

Mr. Zimmers asked about the process of determining news service subscriptions to Gongwer and Hannah and their current state. Ms. Collins said she inherited the Gongwer subscription and would review it and Hannah to see which service met the OAC's needs. Mr. Zimmers and Mr. Rich generally agreed with this approach and expressed no preference toward either service.

Monica Kridler asked about quarterly storage expenses, and Ms. Collins described the OAC's storage space leased from the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and its use for record retention. Ms. Collins responded to Mr. Rich that artwork is not stored at the DAS space.

Ms. Kridler noted that software maintenance is expensive, and Carla Oesterle, fiscal operations associate, detailed examples of software service providers. Juan Cespedes inquired about technology and hardware expenses and commended the OAC for using a minority business enterprise supplier, and Ms. Oesterle responded that the OAC purchased Dell computers through the supplier. Ms. Collins expressed appreciation at the legislature's provision of funds to the OAC in FY 2014-2015 to replace failing technological equipment. Ms. Kridler further asked if administrative funds were sufficient for the OAC to conduct business, and Ms. Collins expressed comfort with the FY 2015 budget, but thought price fluctuations could have an impact on the FY 2016 budget. Responding to Mr. Rich, Dan Katona stated that current technological equipment would be sufficient to convert to and operate the new grant system.

Under the Riffe Gallery category, Jane Foulk asked about the Riffe Gallery's annual budget. Ms. Oesterle roughly estimated expenses at \$20,000 per quarter, minus payroll. Staff promised to follow up on the request.

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Jane Foulk, to approve the recommendation and report of the Finance Committee. **Motion carried without dissent.**

New Business

Ms. Collins shared that the entire OAC staff worked together to assemble the FY 2016-2017 draft Office of Budget and Management (OBM) budget proposal, which was also submitted to and reviewed by the full board chair and vice chair. OBM asked all agencies to submit 90% and 100% funding scenarios and is currently reviewing the draft proposal. After receiving OBM feedback on the draft, the OAC will submit a final proposal to OBM, which will also be shared with the board. Mr. Katona elaborated that the 100% scenario totals \$12.8 million and the 90% scenario totals \$11.6 million and then outlined the proposal's narrative sections.

Mr. Rich introduced Justin Nigro, the new OAC leadership liaison/executive assistant, and praised the new process of including all staff in assembling the OBM proposal.

Mr. Zimmers raised the issue of ensuring the OAC has greater statewide presence and visibility at events, especially those associated with the OAC, and suggested a small fund should be set aside for use by the OAC directors to attend such events, particularly if the directors feel uncomfortable accepting free tickets or meals. He thought this might be a way to meet ethical standards without asking staff to sacrifice a portion of their salaries. Ms. Foulk agreed and suggested all OAC staff should have this opportunity so that they are less confined to the office than in the past. Ms. Collins promised to research the idea further to see what rules must be abided. Jim Dicke added that the OAC's private donations could be used to avoid using public dollars. Mr. Rich and Ms. Kridler agreed with the general idea and discussed the recent closing of the OAC's foundation fund, whose final balance was applied to finance the new grants system. Previously, the foundation fund had been used for events and travel. Ms. Collins said she would look into the closing of the foundation fund as a part of her research.

MOTION by Neal Zimmers, seconded by Jeff Rich, to adjourn. **Motion carried without dissent.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

An audio recording of this meeting is available upon request.


Geraldine Warner
OAC Finance Committee Chair


Jane Foulk
OAC Board Secretary