

**OHIO ARTS COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING
MARCH 8, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by board Chair Jeff Rich at 12:50 p.m. in Room South B & C on the 31st floor of the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts, Columbus. Council members in attendance were: Vice-Chair Ginger Warner; Karen Bell; Louisa Celebrezze; Matt Colopy; Sara Jane DeHoff; Barbara Gould; Sharon Howard; Monica Kridler; Sara Vance Waddell; Alexandra Phillips, legislative aide, Minority Leader Armond Budish; Elizabeth Coulter, legislative aide, Senator Gayle Manning; and Representative Peter Stautberg. Absent members: Austin Keyser, Secretary Charles McWeeny, Barbara Robinson, Tom Schorgl, and House Minority Leader Armond Budish. Also present were: Bill Blair, legislative counsel, Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA); Donna Collins, executive director, OCA; David Fraher, executive director, Arts Midwest; Amy Budish; and Assistant Attorneys General Angela Sullivan and Catherine Calko. Staff members in attendance were: Julie Henahan, Mary Campbell-Zopf, Karine Aswad, Ken Emerick, Dia Foley, Mary Gray, Dan Katona, Chiquita Mullins Lee, Amy McKay and Kathy Signorino.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Board Chair Jeff Rich welcomed everyone to the winter/spring board meeting. He reminded the members that all board meetings are open to the public and are audio recorded. He asked members to speak clearly and not rush the making of motions. To further promote transparency in the agency's work, we post the meeting agenda to our website under the tab, "About OAC." After the meeting, we will add the minutes from the full board meeting.

Mr. Rich stated that the main order of business is to approve the recommendations for the Individual Excellence Awards and ratify awards that have occurred since the last board meeting. The board will also review the agency's FY2012-2013 budget and work plans associated with the strategic plan. Additionally, we will hear reports from the following committees: Policy and Planning, Finance, Awards and Executive. Bill Blair, legislative counsel, Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA), and Donna Collins, executive director, OCA will brief us on their activities. Mr. Rich added that we will also hear presentations from David Fraher, executive director, Arts Midwest; and Assistant Attorneys General Angela Sullivan and Catherine Calko.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Julie Henahan welcomed everyone to the board meeting. She congratulated OAC board member and Vice-Chair Ginger Warner on her recent appointment by Governor Kasich to the board of trustees of the University of Cincinnati.

Staff News

Ms. Henahan welcomed and introduced OAC's newest staff member, Chiquita Mullins Lee, Arts Learning program coordinator. Many board members have already met Ms. Lee in her capacity as coordinator for the *Poetry Out Loud* program over the last few years. Ms. Henahan recognized Ms. Lee's distinguished academic and professional background and underscored how pleased the staff is to have her on the OAC team.

OAC Audit

Ms. Henahan informed the board that the OAC audit for FY2011-2012 is currently being conducted by the Auditor of State. The audit began on March 1 and will conclude by March 31. Because the 2012 fiscal year is not over, the auditors will do an analytic of FY2012 in July and have a draft of the audit to us by August. The auditor's office projected a cost of \$9,200 for the audit.

Riffe Gallery Update

As reported in Ms. Henahan's e-mail to the board on February 3, OAC management has been working out the details of the agency's partnership with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) in support of the Riffe Gallery. DAS, which has taken over the facility oversight for all state-owned buildings after the elimination of the Ohio Building Authority (OBA), has decided to continue its financial support of the Riffe Gallery through June 2013.

Ms. Henahan added that the agency and DAS will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding that sets the parameters of our partnership. The draft memorandum is being reviewed by our assistant attorneys general before it is finalized with DAS.

New Assistant Attorneys General

Ms. Henahan welcomed our new assistant attorneys general, Angela Sullivan and Catherine Calko from the executive agencies section. Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Calko will be making a presentation to the board later in the afternoon.

National Assembly for State Arts Agencies (NASAA) Update

Ms. Henahan reported that she, Mr. Rich, Ms. Warner, and board member Chuck McWeeny, along with OAC Deputy Director Mary Campbell-Zopf and Director of the Public Information Office Amy McKay attended the NASAA Leadership Institute in Charleston, WV in October. It was a great opportunity for the leadership of state arts agencies to discuss issues critical to our success and the management of challenges. This meeting offered a wonderful opportunity for learning and networking with peers as well as a chance to enjoy the fantastic artistic offerings of West Virginia.

Ms. Henahan reported that there have been staffing changes at NASAA during the last few months. Tom Birch, NASAA's legislative counsel, will be leaving NASAA after more than 30 years of service. Also Dennis Dewey, NASAA's chief financial officer, has decided to scale back to part-time status.

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

NEA Budget

Ms. Henahan reported that on February 13, President Obama sent his FY2013 budget to Congress, which included a funding increase for the NEA from its FY2012 level of \$146 million to \$154.255 million. The 2013 budget provides continued support for the National Heritage Fellowships and the American Jazz Masters Fellowships, which had been recommended for elimination in the previous budget. Our Town funding will continue as well. Ms. Henahan shared that the National Council for the Arts will meet in late March and after that we can expect

to hear from the NEA on the projected funding level for our next Partnership grant (FY2012) from the NEA.

NEA Application

Ms. Henahan stated that the OAC has high hopes for a strong showing after the extremely positive review of our grant during the Partnership panel meeting. Comments from the NEA panel meeting were included in the Council Book.

Indiana/Ohio/Michigan Diversity Colloquium

Ms. Henahan is working with the state arts agency directors in Indiana and Michigan on plans for a capacity building colloquium for arts organizations to help advance their efforts to better reflect the diversity of their communities in their structure, decision making, service to their community and programming.

Visits around Ohio

Shortly after the last OAC board meeting, on October 22, Ms. Henahan attended the Great Lakes Theatre Festival production of “Cabaret” at the Hanna Theatre in Cleveland with NASAA board colleague, Mark Hofflund. Ms. Henahan added that in November she visited Hubbard Elementary School in Columbus and had the opportunity to observe board member Monica Kridler in action with her Momentum dance students. December was a busy month starting with the unveiling of Chief Justice Moyer’s portrait at the Supreme Court. Toledo portrait artist Leslie Adams did a beautiful job of capturing the Chief Justice’s likeness.

Governor Kasich and the First Lady hosted a reception at the Governor’s Residence in early December for the artists who loaned work for display in the Residence and Governor’s offices on the 30th floor of the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts. Board members Jeff Rich, Ginger Warner, Karen Bell and Matt Colopy were in attendance as well as several OAC staff.

Also in December, Ken Emerick, director, Office of Individual Artist Grant Programs and Services (IA), and Ms. Henahan traveled to Bowling Green for the opening of the Wolfe Center for the Arts on the campus of Bowling Green State University. The Wolfe Center’s lead patrons were former OAC board member Mary Wolfe and her husband Fritz who provided a generous leadership gift for the center. This project was also part of the Ohio Percent for Art program and received state capital dollars for its construction.

Ms. Henahan concluded her report by sharing that last Friday she traveled to Portsmouth with Mr. Emerick and Mary Gray, director of the Riffe Gallery, to attend the opening of *Outside in Ohio: A Century of Unexpected Genius*, an exhibition of Ohio outsider artists at the Southern Ohio Museum. The exhibition will open in the Riffe Gallery on July 26, 2012.

Mr. Rich encouraged board members to attend the next NASAA Leadership Institute. It was a great experience and opportunity to become a better board member. He stated that the conversation and sharing of ideas among peers was wonderful. Everyone kept asking him how the OAC was able to get an increase in funding this year. Mr. Rich stated that he told them that we did it the old fashion way, we worked closely with Ohio Citizens for the Arts to educate our legislators and governor on the importance of public funding for the arts.

OHIO CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS (OCA)

Bill Blair, legislative counsel, OCA, informed the members that Governor Kasich will introduce his mid-year budget review on Monday. This will be a complete budget review and will be divided into three sections. While there will be some small budget cuts, they will only come out of the large state agencies. Mr. Blair added that this is the beginning of a very busy year with the political elections. While advocacy is a year-round activity, it is particularly important in this election year to ensure that everyone understands what the arts mean to the people of Ohio in terms of education, economic development and job creation. We need to make a case for public funding when we begin working on our next budget.

Ms. Collins reported on the following OCA activities:

National Arts Advocacy Days, April 16-17, 2012

Citizens from Ohio will travel to Washington D.C. to advocate for the arts, arts education, and other related issues with members of Congress on April 16 and 17, 2012. Currently, there are 12 participants from Ohio, including Ms. Henahan and Ms. Campbell-Zopf. In addition to the training and legislative visits, attendees have the opportunity to participate in the Annual Nancy Hanks Lecture. Acclaimed actor and arts advocate Alec Baldwin will deliver the 25th Annual Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy.

State Arts Action Network, April 15

The State Arts Action Network comprised of the state citizen groups from across the country will be meeting on Sunday, April 15 to discuss on federal policy issues affecting arts education.

Arts Day and the Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio, May 9, 2012

The Arts Day Committee, chaired by Pat Bridgman, has been working to prepare for the May 9 event. Ms. Collins invited the board to participate fully in the day, starting with an Advocacy Briefing at 9:30 a.m. in the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts in the Capitol Theatre. We are making visits to the 2012 high schools and taking one of their two legislators. The students will participate in Arts Day by delivering information packets about the arts and arts education to each member of the Ohio Legislature.

Members of the Ohio House and Senate have been invited to the luncheon and 45 members have responded that they will attend. Ms. Collins thanked Mr. Blair for securing Speaker of the House Batchelder and Senate President Niehaus to present the 2012 awards. She also thanked OAC and OCA board members who have purchased table sponsorships. We currently have 306 registrants for the event.

Cultural Data Project (CDP)

The CDP Steering Committee is working with the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture to examine data collected from grantees on the impact of public funding. Key areas being analyzed are funding support (contributed, government, etc.), earned income, employment, attendance, and educational offerings. It is their aim to develop a statewide message based on the information provided by grant recipients from the OAC and several funders. Ms. Collins thanked OAC board member Tom Schorgl and his professional staff for their work and dedication to this effort.

Ohio Citizens for the Arts Board of Trustees' Meeting

The OCA board of directors will meet on March 21, 2012 at 2 p.m. at the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts. The next scheduled meeting is May 9, 2012 at 2 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Karen Bell, seconded by Louisa Celebrezze, to accept the minutes of the OAC Board, Awards, Panel Selection, Policy and Planning and Executive Committee meetings held on October 13, 2011. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Sara Jane DeHoff, seconded by Sara Vance Waddell, to accept the minutes of the OAC Awards Selection Committee meetings held on November 10, 2011. **Motion carried without dissent.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy and Planning Committee

Committee Chair Karen Bell directed the board's attention to the OAC *Strategic Plan 2011-2013* update and the work plans in the Council Book. She stated that the committee commended the staff on the quality of the work plans. The committee also discussed new themes that have emerged, such as the creative economy, arts leadership and new staff responsibilities. The staff will share work plan budgets at the next meeting in June.

MOTION by Sharon Howard, seconded by Ginger Warner, to approve the Policy and Planning Committee report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Finance Committee

Committee acting Chair Sara Vance Waddell reported that the committee reviewed the 2012/2013 Subsidy and Administrative budget and FY2012 first and second quarterly expense reports. Ms. Vance Waddell added that the committee received an itemized list of expenses, but asked the staff to further break down the expenses associated with the Riffe Gallery and Gifts and Donations.

MOTION by Louisa Celebrezze, seconded by Ginger Warner, to approve the Finance Committee report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Awards Committee

Mr. Rich stated that the committee discussed the following questions:

1. *Should an individual or organization be allowed to write support letters for multiple individuals or organizations?*

The committee agreed to maintain the current policy and accept all letters that are submitted in support of nominees.

2. *Should we give two different business awards; one for smaller businesses and another for larger companies?*

The committee recommended keeping one Business Support category and asked the staff to review and expand the current criteria to encourage more nominations for small businesses. It is up to the committee to select the business they feel is best.

Ms. Howard asked that the Awards Committee re-entertain the discussion they had last year regarding the Business Support category and the language that states that nonprofits are excluded from being nominated. Mr. Rich stated that this discussion will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

MOTION by Karen Bell, seconded by Ginger Warner, to approve the Awards Committee report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Executive Committee

Mr. Rich reported that the committee was updated on the agency's communication activities; NEA panel review comments; agency priority work; Ohio Arts on Tour/Fee Support program; and *Poetry Out Loud* program (reports are included in the Council Book). The committee also discussed the possible reorganization of the agency's committees and committee memberships. Mr. Rich stated that the consensus of the committee members was to reduce the number of committees and realign their purposes. The committee scheduled a special meeting on May 9 to further discuss this issue. They also decided to schedule more Executive Committee meetings in between regularly scheduled board meetings. Mr. Rich shared that the committee also discussed expanding the number of board meetings from three to four times a year. The fourth meeting will be scheduled as a retreat for discussion and long-term planning.

The Executive Committee will continue to monitor the OAC executive director's performance goals. They also discussed the consent agenda concept and decided that it is not amenable to the business that we conduct. Finally, the committee discussed the differences between Robert's Rules of Order and the Ohio Open Meetings Act. According to Robert's Rules of Order, minutes are used to record actions rather than what is said, but the Ohio Open Meetings Act requires that we include more information. The chair suggested that we focus on what is absolutely necessary to include in the minutes while remaining transparent. He added that if the board wanted to have a report included in the minutes, they should provide it in writing to the assistant of the executive director so she can include them as part of the record.

MOTION by Ginger Warner, seconded by Sara Vance Waddell, to approve the Executive Committee report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL PRESENTATION

Ms. Calko and Ms. Sullivan introduced themselves and presented an overview of the Ohio Revised Code that guides the work of the OAC and the handling public meetings and records.

Ms. Sullivan explained the importance of a public meeting and what is required of state agencies and board members to remain transparent and serve the public. She discussed the meaning of a

public meeting, the types of meeting notifications necessary, as well as the requirements for meeting minutes.

Mr. Rich inquired whether the discussion and decision made about shortening the meeting minutes was an accurate rendition of what the agency should do. Ms. Sullivan responded that it was a fair rendition. She added that if there was conflict between the Open Meetings Act and Robert's Rules of Order, the Open Meetings Act is to be followed first. She added that she has not seen any other agency's minutes as thorough as the OAC's. Also the fact that the meeting is being recorded is important if anyone needs clarification. Mr. Rich inquired which record would be the official record, written meeting minutes or the tape. Ms. Sullivan responded that both are considered public records. Mr. Rich asked which should be filed as part of the statute and what is required. Ms. Sullivan responded that she will look into that. Ms. Warner added that in the event of a question, the taped minutes would be consulted because they record everything that was said as opposed to the distillation of the meeting's deliberations that are recorded in the minutes. Ms. Sullivan added that the tapes would be clearer if there was a question, but she will look into what should be filed as part of the statute.

Ms. Sullivan reviewed the rules and requirements associated with an executive session. She explained that executive sessions must be preceded by a specific motion, second and roll call vote and must state the specific permissible topics to be discussed. There can be no decision-making, only a few matters can be discussed in these meetings, and the Assistant Attorney General must be informed prior to a meeting, if the board anticipates going into executive session.

Elizabeth Coulter, legislative aide, Senator Gayle Manning, asked if a new topic comes up during an executive session can it be discussed? Ms. Sullivan responded, no, the board has already made a motion about their intent for an executive session. If they would like to add something else, she suggested they come out of executive session and make another motion and go back in.

Ms. Sullivan reviewed that a member shall be present in person at a meeting open to the public to be considered present or to vote at the meeting and for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the meeting. Virtual participation (teleconferencing) is only permitted when it is specifically authorized by law. Members are able to call in, but they are only permitted to listen.

Ms. Howard noted that she understands the reason why voting is not allowed, but why can't a board member comment via phone. Ms. Calko responded that they spoke with the public records expert at the Attorney General's (AG) office and it was her opinion that there should not be any participation via phone, only listening. Ms. Calko stated that "being present" is not specifically defined in the statute, but it would seem to indicate that they must vote, deliberate and discuss in an open meeting setting open to the public. Ms. Howard expressed that the no commenting rule might preclude a member from participating. Ms. Warner agreed stating that they might be sitting in the privacy of their home, but when they ask a question or enter a discussion they are being recorded publicly. Ms. Warner requested another clarification from the public records expert. Ms. Coulter expressed that legislative members are also allowed to call in and listen to

legislative committee meetings, but are not allowed to participate or vote because they are not able to see what is physically happening and one of their comments could be misconstrued because their actions are not visible. Ms. Warner asked if that regulation was specific to the legislative body, or if it was a part of the Open Meetings Act. Ms. Warner continued by noting that the OAC does not have any bylaws governing that. Representative Stautberg answered that those are their own rules. Ms. Calko read R.C. 121.22 (C), which states that “all meetings of any public body are declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times. A member of a public body shall be present in person at a meeting open to the public to be considered present or to vote at the meeting and for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the meeting.” She reiterated that a member *shall be present in person at a meeting open to the public*. Ms. Howard stated that it says “to vote at the meeting and for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present,” it doesn’t say that a member can’t speak if they are participating via phone. Given the risk of violating the Open Meetings Act, Ms. Sullivan advised that the OAC board members should take a conservative approach.

Ms. Calko then described the fiduciary roles and responsibilities of the OAC board as public officials. She further explained the basics of Ohio’s Ethics Laws and board requirements defined in Ohio Revised Code 3379.

ARTS MIDWEST PRESENTATION

Arts Midwest Executive Director David Fraher explained that Arts Midwest has been working with the OAC for more than 28 years to bring an array of programs to Ohioans. Arts Midwest is one of six regional nonprofit arts organizations in the United States. It is based in Minneapolis and works directly with state arts agencies (IL, IN, IA, MI, MN, ND, OH, SD, WI) and is funded through a variety of sources including the NEA and the membership fee from each state it serves. Mr. Fraher distributed an organizational report that detailed major programs and a wide range of activities in Ohio.

BREAK – The board adjourned for a break at 2:30 p.m. and reconvened at 2:45 p.m.

GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Emerick reviewed the FY2012 Individual Excellence Award recommendations made during the December 5-6, December 7-8, and December 12-15, 2011 panel meetings.

Ms. Warner asked if the staff has been sending OAC board members the dates for the panel meetings. Mr. Emerick stated that the dates are posted on the OAC website; Ms. Henahan added that the board receives meeting dates via e-updates and Ms. Campbell-Zopf stated that they are also posted on Facebook.

Ms. Warner shared that the award descriptions are great and asked the staff to make notations on artists who have already received a grant just like they indicate who is a new applicant. Ms. Warner also asked whether there was a limit on how many times an artist can receive an Excellence Award. Mr. Emerick responded that there is no limit on how many times an artist can apply and receive a grant. An artist is required to wait a year if they are awarded a grant and if they re-apply they must submit a new body of work. As applications come in, the IA staff checks to see how many people are new, how many have applied before and received a grant, and how

many have applied and not received an award. Ms. Howard asked if the panel considers where the money is being distributed around the state. Mr. Emerick responded that the review process is blind but there is always a great spread of artists from all around the state. Ms. Campbell-Zopf reported that the OAC compared the awards to artists with the 2010 Ohio census data to check for diversity, and the artists mirrored that census data.

MOTION by Ginger Warner, seconded by Louisa Celebrezze, that we, the Ohio Arts Council Board, approve the Individual Excellence Award panel recommendations. **Motion carried without dissent.**

GRANT RATIFICATIONS

Ms. Campbell-Zopf reviewed that for 30 years, the agency has awarded grants for programs that have rolling which are ratified at the next board meeting. She added that the agency also awards special organization grants for partnership activities.

Ms. Vance Waddell stated that all the FY2012 Artists with Disabilities Access grantees received the amount they requested except one person. Why was he granted \$50 less than his request? Ms. Campbell-Zopf responded that the staff reviews each application and if the money for that program runs out we only grant what we are able to. Money for the Artists with Disabilities program ran out in January; we typically receive around 20 applications annually and will resume ADAP funding July 1, 2012.

Mr. Colopy inquired about the funding for the Headlands Center for the Arts and how that works. Ms. Campbell-Zopf responded that we have a number of long-standing relationships with artist colonies--Headlands and Vermont Studio Center. Ms. Henahan asked Mr. Emerick to talk about the program criteria as written for the Headlands artists and how artists are selected. Mr. Emerick reported that the OAC provides Headlands Center for the Arts with a list of OAC Individual Excellence award recipients. Headlands then sends those individuals an application asking them to apply directly to them. Headlands has three subcommittees that review the applications and they narrow the pool of artists down to five or six finalists. Holly Blake, residency coordinator, Headlands Center for the Arts, makes a visit to Columbus to help Mr. Emerick, and Ms. Signorino interview the finalists and select two winners and an alternate. Ms. Blake then takes the recommendations back to her director who makes the decision. Ms. Henahan stated that this has been a component of the OAC programs that helps artists develop their careers and encourages them to stay in Ohio rather than leaving the state. Ms. Warner asked if this money is paid in advance to the artist completing his/her residency. Ms. Henahan said that the Headlands grant has not been paid. Mr. Emerick added that the Vermont Studio Center grant has been paid because the residency year began in January.

Ms. Warner commented that the awards for the Artists with Disabilities Access program seem so small compared to other awards, and it is distressing to hear that the money for the program had run out in January. We should make sure that we budget more money for that program in the future.

Mr. Rich excused himself from the vote on grant ratifications due to a conflict of interest – Central College Magnet Elementary. Mr. Rich left the room for the remainder of the discussion and vote.

Ms. Gould shared that she was concerned that the OAC couldn't fund the entire amount requested for one of the Artists with Disabilities artist. Ms. Campbell-Zopf responded that some of the applications include things that we don't normally fund. Without having the application in front of her, it is hard to say why the funding was not granted at the full amount requested. Ms. Howard asked Ms. Henahan to give an example of things we don't support. Ms. Henahan stated that we don't fund capital expenditures that exceed \$500; in this case, it was probably the quality of the application and nothing significant. She added that staff reviews the applications and determines what the award should be. Without looking at the application, it is hard to say why. The OAC staff will take another look at the application and if the award should be funded at a higher level. Board member Louisa Celebrezze stated that she is happy that people are disappointed that this individual didn't receive the amount requested, but added that the board has not seen the application that the staff reviewed and we don't have all the information to make a decision about funding this applicant right now. Ms. Vance Waddell expressed that she always trusts the staff's judgment and doesn't like to challenge what has been decided, she just wanted to know why \$50, a small amount to us but a large amount for someone else, was held back. She added that she was trying to be a little more sensitive because of the category for this award. Ms. Howard stated that other awards in different areas did not receive the fully requested amount either and it seems like the staff is looking at percentages. The reason it was \$50 in this case is because the amount requested was low. Ms. Campbell-Zopf shared that the staff struggles with these applications because sometimes they have limited detail, partly because of the individual's disability. She reassured members that staff does a lot of hand holding through this process, but we also have to make sure that the requirements for this program have been fulfilled.

Ms. Warner suggested that the board consider approving the grant ratifications as presented and asked Ms. Henahan and Ms. Campbell-Zopf to review the particular application to give more information at the next board meeting.

Ms. Howard commented that it gets a little murky when an organization receives more money than requested because the OAC staff feels it should but another application is short \$50 because "we ran out of funding for that program."

MOTION by Sharon Howard, seconded by Sara Vance Waddell, to ratify grants awarded in Special-Organizations FY2010, FY2011 and FY2012, and Artists with Disabilities Access FY2012. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Mr. Rich was invited back into the room.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Ms. Henahan directed the board's attention to the materials found under items of General Interest in the Council Book.

OHIO TRADITIONS WEBSITE PRESENTATION

Ms. Campbell-Zopf informed the members that the Ohio Traditions website captures the agency's work in the folk and traditional arts. It was developed in partnership with Cityfolk, the Ohio Humanities Council and ThinkTV through funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Kathy Signorino, program coordinator, IA, walked the board through the Ohio Traditions website and its key features.

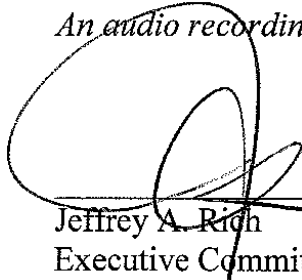
NEW BUSINESS/ OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Colopy asked if the agency was still planning to host a statewide arts, culture and economic development seminar, an idea that was discussed last year. Ms. Henahan responded that it is something the staff would still like to do; however, a statewide conference would require a lot of fundraising, but it is a part of the larger activities that we plan on talking to the Benefactor Group about. Ms. Howard suggested that we partner with our academic institutions to host it. Ms. Henahan responded that that is one option that we would like to explore. We have the information to develop a case statement for an event like this. Ms. Warner asked how much the OAC is paying the Benefactor Group for their services. Ms. Henahan responded that the Benefactor Group submitted a proposal to the OAC after the October board meeting. At that time there was direction from the board to start devising ways to raise other funds to support some agency activities. We are paying them just over \$6,000 for them to host three, three-hour sessions for seven staff members. Ms. Henahan will submit a grant application to the Ohio Arts Foundation, Inc. to support this expense.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

An audio recording of this session is available upon request.



Jeffrey A. Rich
Executive Committee Chair



Charles McWeeny
OAC Board Secretary