

**OHIO ARTS COUNCIL  
BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by board Chair Jeff Rich at 12:25 p.m. at the Ohio Arts Council office on the 33<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Rhodes State Office Tower in Columbus. Council members in attendance were: Vice-Chair Ginger Warner, Karen Bell; Louisa Celebrezze; Sara Jane DeHoff; Sharon Howard; Monica Kridler; Sara Vance Waddell; Elizabeth Coulter, legislative aide, Senator Gayle Manning; Leo Almeida, legislative aide, Senator Eric Kearney; and Ali Sehringer, legislative aide, Representative Peter Stautberg. Absent members were: Barbara Gould, Austin Keyser, Barbara Robinson, Representative Armond Budish, Representative Peter Stautberg, Senator Gayle Manning, and Senator Eric Kearney. Also present were: Donna Collins, executive director, Ohio Citizens for the Arts; and Angela Sullivan, assistant attorney general. OAC staff members in attendance were: Julie Henahan, Mary Campbell-Zopf, Karine Aswad, Ken Emerick, Dia Foley, Dan Katona, Chiquita Mullins Lee and Kathy Signorino.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION by Sharon Howard, seconded by Ginger Warner, to accept the minutes of the OAC Board, Finance, Policy and Planning, and Executive Committee meetings held on June 21, 2012. **Motion carried without dissent.**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Board Chair Jeff Rich welcomed everyone to the fall council meeting. He reminded the members that all board meetings are open to the public and that this is the first meeting that is audio streamed via the Web. Staff will be listening in to ensure all members can be heard. All board meetings are audio recorded for documentation purposes and as such are part of the public record. 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 add the minutes from the full board meeting.

Mr. Rich stated that the main order of business is to approve the panelist recommendations for fall 2012 through spring 2013 and ratify awards that were made since the last board meeting. We will hear reports from the following committees: Finance, Programs and Public Policy, and Executive. Additionally, Donna Collins, executive director, Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA) will brief us on OCA's activities.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Julie Henahan welcomed everyone to the board meeting.

**Staff News**

As announced via e-mail, Ms. Henahan reported that a few weeks ago the OAC offered the Public Information Office director position to Elizabeth Weinstein. Ms. Weinstein will begin her work with the OAC on Tuesday, October 9. We are very happy to have her join our team and look forward to welcoming her to the OAC.

### **National Endowment for the Arts**

Ms. Henahan informed the members that last weekend, the U.S. Senate passed a six-month spending bill, to take effect October 1. The legislation includes a 0.6 percent spending increase for all discretionary programs which includes the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Also, on September 14, President Obama's administration released its report on how it would implement sequestration, the deficit-reducing mechanism enacted as part of the Budget Control Act of 2011 that requires substantial cuts across-the-board. In the report, the administration announced that in order to comply with the Budget Control Act, it will reduce spending on domestic nondiscretionary spending accounts, including the NEA, by 8.2 percent. This would amount to a \$12 million reduction in funding for the NEA in FY2013, which would affect NEA Partnership Agreement funds awarded for states' use in their 2014 fiscal years. Ms. Henahan stated that it is important to note that the passage of the six-month spending bill has no impact on the Budget Control Act's 8.2 percent reduction slated for January 2, 2013.

### **Governor's Awards for the Arts**

Ms. Henahan reported that the Governor's Awards Selection Committee members will meet on November 7, 2012 at the OAC offices to select next year's award winners. To date, the OAC has received 15 nominations, but as always the bulk of nominations come in the last few days before the deadline.

### **Town and Gown Advisory Committee for the Arts**

Mary Gray, Riffe Gallery director, and Ms. Henahan were invited to serve on the Town and Gown Advisory Committee that was established by the College of Arts and Sciences at The Ohio State University (OSU). The committee will serve as a forum for collaboration between city leaders and the College of Arts and Sciences on relevant issues including, but not limited to, campus expansions for the arts and collaboration between the college and community organizations that serve the arts and non-profit sector. The work of the committee will commence in early November with an orientation for the members.

Board Vice-Chair Ginger Warner asked that the Ms. Henahan send the board information about the committee and future meetings.

### **Holocaust Memorial Update**

Ms. Henahan reported that, since the June OAC board meeting, there have been three meetings of committees working on the Holocaust Memorial project. At the July sessions, the Space/Holocaust Memorial Committee discussed and selected appointments to the Artist Selection Committee. The Artist Selection Committee is charged with reviewing and selecting an artist from the pool of applicants to create the memorial. The committee has met twice so far, August 14 and September 24, 2012. At the first meeting in August, the committee selected a final site for the memorial, which will be on the south side of the Statehouse square on State Street, and reviewed a draft call for entry. At the September 24 meeting, the committee reviewed the draft call for entry and set the commission budget at \$2 million. The call for entry will be posted on October 1, 2012 with the deadline for submissions set for November 9, 2012. The next meeting for the Artist Selection Committee is October 23, 2012, where OAC staff will hold a training session for committee members on how to use the online scoring system the OAC staff

has been working on for the memorial project. It is hoped that the field will be narrowed to three finalists by mid-December.

Ms. Warner added that this process is based on the OAC's Percent for Art Program that the OAC staff has administered successfully for more than 20 years. The only difference is that the Holocaust Memorial is privately funded and is not funded by the state. The committee, through Capital Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB), is going to raise the \$2 million that will be available for the construction of the project. She commended Ms. Henahan and Ken Emerick, OAC Individual Artist Grants and Services (IAGS) director, on their work on this project. Their experience has provided a lot of assurance to the Holocaust Memorial Artist Selection Committee members who might have been concerned about their ability to pick an artist. This project will be one that the state will be proud of.

Board member Karen Bell stated that one of the challenges with the Percent for Art program is the maintenance and upkeep of the art over the years. In the past university committees have not included maintenance fees as part of the original budget for the project and are now running into problems trying to maintain them. Ms. Warner stated that the committee has discussed this issue. It is not clear whether the funds for maintenance will come from the private money that is being raised by the committee or whether the CSRAB will be responsible for the maintenance. CSRAB is currently responsible for maintenance of all the structures and memorials on the Statehouse grounds.

### **IMPACT**

Ms. Henahan stated that on October 30, 2012, and continuing through November 13, 2012, the OAC's IMPACT program will tour Ohio cities and towns. This year's performing group is On Ensemble. On Ensemble takes the ancient instruments of taiko and infuses it with the powerful rhythms of ensemble Japanese drumming with elements of hip-hop, rock and electronic. On Ensemble's unique sound has been praised as "completely original and brilliantly conceived." They will no doubt be very popular with younger audiences and great in the school residencies that are scheduled as part of the tour. On Ensemble will tour to Medina, Archbold, Cincinnati, McConnellsville and Urbana.

Board member Sara Jane DeHoff inquired if other schools in the areas where the performance group are scheduled to perform will get the chance to attend the performances. Ms. Henahan stated that the group will perform twice in each community, once during the day as part of the school residency partnership and the other at night at a community center. The evening performances are available to all citizens interested and have brought great attendance in the past. They have been a great success in smaller communities that don't have access to these types of performances. Word of mouth has been the greatest marketing tool for these tours. Students that attend the day performances have been known to come back in the evening with parents and friends from different communities.

### **National Assembly for State Arts Agencies (NASAA) Update**

On July 26, 2012, Ms. Henahan attended a meeting in Washington, D.C. for NASAA's National Standards Revisions Task Force. The National Standard for Information Exchanges is the data collection standard used by all state arts agencies (SAAs) in collecting data via the application and final report forms. The Task Force is charged with determining how the National Standard

for Arts Information Exchange can be maintained and adjusted to better inform state, jurisdictional and national arts policy discussions and provide comparative information to users.

The current work before the Task Force is dealing with how the significant changes in the types of data we collect for reporting to the NEA should be implemented and how to make it work with state arts agency needs and constituents' capacity. As noted in the OAC's FY2014/2015 budget proposal, the NEA's new strategic plan included new data gathering and reporting requirements tied to their performance measurement standards which will require changes to our grant guidelines, application and final report forms, as well as our online grant system. The Task Force will meet again next week during the NASAA 2012 Assembly in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Henahan stated that she, Mr. Rich, Ms. Warner and OAC staff members Chiquita Mullins Lee, Dia Foley, and Mary Campbell-Zopf, will be attending the NASAA Assembly 2012. We are looking forward to a wide array of learning and networking opportunities, informative and inspirational sessions, and lots of opportunities to sample the work of local artists, cultural venues and special events in our nation's capital.

### **Indiana/Ohio/Michigan Diversity Colloquium**

Ms. Henahan reported that planning continues with the Indiana Arts Commission and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs on the joint colloquium for arts organizations interested in deepening their capacity to provide arts programming and services for diverse communities. We had a conference call on September 10, 2012, to review the plans to date and started identifying individuals who could be workshop facilitators and a keynote speaker. We are still on target to hold the colloquium in April 2013.

### **Visits, Meetings and Activities Around Ohio**

Ms. Henahan stated that it has been a fairly quiet summer in terms of visits around the state, but there have been a few things and more coming up.

- Ms. Henahan was asked to serve on the Ohio Humanities Council's National Endowment for the Humanities site evaluation panel, which met on July 16, 2012.
- On July 30, 2012, Mr. Rich, OAC board member Louisa Celebrezze, Deputy Director Mary Campbell-Zopf and Ms. Henahan participated in a joint supplemental funding committee meeting with members of the Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA) to begin looking into supplemental funding strategies for the OAC. We look forward to continuing this work with OCA.
- On August 7, Ms. Henahan attended an OSU Community Leaders luncheon that the university held for incoming freshman. There were many local leaders there to talk with students who are starting new chapters in their lives and share stories and advice about their career paths. Judge Janet Jackson was the keynote speaker.
- Last week Ms. Henahan attended the opening of the Annie Liebovitz exhibition at the Wexner Center.
- Last Friday she participated in a podcast with Linda Feagler, arts editor at Ohio Magazine, on the "don't miss" arts events taking place in Ohio in the coming year.
- Also last Friday evening, Mr. Emerick and Ms. Henahan attended the reception for the exhibition, *Time and Place: An International Exhibition of Works on Paper* at the OSU's Urban Artspace. The exhibition was a partnership with artist and curator Nicholas Hill to develop an exhibition based on the Ohio and Dresden printmaking exchange program and

features work by the German and Ohio artists who have participated in this printmaking exchange, one of the OAC's ongoing international projects since 1998. The OAC has partnered with the city of Dresden to host two Ohio printmakers in residence at the Dresden Graphic Workshop and two German printmakers at Zygote Press, Cleveland each year since then.

- October 19, 2012, Ms. Henahan and Mr. Emerick will travel to Toledo for the opening of the exhibition *Leslie Adams: Drawn from Life*. Ms. Adams is an Ohio portrait artist who has painted many public figures including Governors Taft and Strickland as well as members of private society. Adams' work was featured in the OAC's Riffe Gallery's 2011 show *Here's Looking at You: Portraits in Ohio*.
- Ms. Campbell-Zopf and Ms. Henahan will travel to Cleveland on October 26, 2012, to attend the City of Cleveland's Annual Disabilities Awareness Day, which will feature Dancing Wheels, one of the premier arts and disabilities organizations in the U.S. Dancing Wheels is a professional, physically integrated dance company uniting the talents of dancers both with and without disabilities and a long-time OAC grant recipient. At this event Dancing Wheels will unveil the first manual and DVD on the training methods of Physically Integrated Dance taught by The Dancing Wheels Company & School.
- Ms. Henahan reported that on November 1 the Riffe Gallery's new show from the Ohio Watercolor Society entitled *Watercolor 2012*, will open.
- And finally, on November 8 and 9, 2012, Ms. Henahan travel to Chicago for the biannual Arts Midwest Executive Director Summit. Expenses are paid for by Arts Midwest.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Finance Committee**

Committee Chair Ginger Warner reported that the committee reviewed the OAC quarterly budget reports and FY2014/2015 budget proposal in great details.

MOTION by, Sara Vance Waddell, seconded by Sara Jane DeHoff, to accept the report of the Finance Committee. **Motion carried without dissent.**

## **GRANT RATIFICATIONS**

Ms. Campbell-Zopf reviewed the grants that were awarded after the June 21, 2012 board meeting and must now be ratified by the council.

Ms. Warner asked how the OAC is awarding grants for 2013. Ms. Campbell-Zopf explained that these grants presented in the Council Book for ratification are awarded for FY2013, which begins July 1, 2012 and ends June 30, 2013, as well as some awards for FY2012 that are being expended now. Ms. Warner stated that the dates presented on the top of each ratification report are listed as "8-21-2012 to 8-21-2012", is that a mistake? Dia Foley, Grants Office director, responded that those dates reflect the day when the reports were run and printed from our Online Grants Application System (OLGA).

MOTION by Sara Vance Waddell, seconded by Louisa Celebrezze, to ratify grants awarded in Special – Organizations FY2012 and FY2013, Special – Individuals FY2012, and Artists with Disabilities Access FY2013. **Motion carried without dissent.**

## COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

### Policy and Planning Committee

Committee Chair Sharon Howard reported that the committee reviewed and considered the panel recommendations for fall 2012 through spring 2013 and were briefed on the updated guidelines for the Sustainability (over and under \$1.5 million) program. Ms. Howard asked Ms. Henahan to discuss each topic in detail.

Ms. Henahan reviewed the panel recommendations for the following OAC grant programs:

- Arts Access
- Artist in Residence
- Arts Partnership
- Individual Excellence Awards
- General Project and Creative Economy Support
- Sustainability (over and under \$.15 million)
- Traditional Arts Apprenticeships.

Ms. Henahan reported that the Policy and Planning Committee members recommended that the staff change the title of the “minority/disability” column to better identify the panelists. Ms. Howard clarified that a Policy and Planning Committee member asked that the emerging leader description, specifically, be better defined in the future.

MOTION by Karen Bell, seconded by Sara Jane DeHoff, to approve the recommended panelists and alternate panelists for the Arts Access, Artist in Residence, Arts Partnership, Individual Excellence Awards, General Project and Creative Economy Support, Sustainability (over and under \$1.5 million), and Traditional Arts Apprenticeships grant programs as presented in the Council Book. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Ms. Howard directed the board’s attention to the report on updated guidelines for the Sustainability (over and under \$1.5 million) program available in the Council Book. Ms. Henahan reported that in response to several major budget reductions beginning in 2009, the OAC board and staff examined agency core functions at three critical junctures in order to enact cost-saving measures, streamline operations, and restructure staffing after lay-offs. One specific action was the lengthening of program grant cycles. The *Guidelines* following this memo describe a new change that will extend Sustainability program grantees’ current FY2012-2013 grants for an additional two year (FY2014-2015), meaning no new full application will be required until February 1, 2015 for funding beginning July 1, 2015 for fiscal years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. For FY2014/2015, the OAC plans to hold a one-time panel meeting for new Sustainability applicants that are both eligible and interested in this grant category. After that, it is our intention to only hold Sustainability reviews every four years. Ms. Henahan emphasized that, as in the past, grantees will continue to be required to provide annual final reports, off-year updates on their activities including a Cultural Data Project Funder Report and other financial materials and written summaries of planned work.

Ms. Henahan added that modifying the Sustainability grants to be four years in length rather than two will affect a large number of grantees in the field, as well as have a significant impact on staff time internally. It will save the agency money normally allocated for panel meeting

expenses, including panelist honoraria, and allow constituents to devote less time to applying for funds and more time carrying out funded activities and reporting on the results of their work.

MOTION by Ginger Warner, seconded by Sara Vance Waddell, to accept the report of the Policy and Planning Committee. **Motion carried without dissent.**

### **Executive Committee**

Committee Chair Jeff Rich reported that the committee reviewed the OAC quarterly budget reports and the FY2014/2015 budget proposal in great detail. The committee was updated on the OAC fundraising workshops with the Benefactor Group. Three OAC programs were targeted for the purpose of developing fundraising strategies. The OAC *Ohio Competitions and Festivals Guide*, the Riffe Gallery and Ohio's *Poetry Out Loud* (POL) National Recitation Contest were designated to be the focus of a series of workshops led by the Benefactor Group. The workshops focused on building the fundraising skills of the OAC staff who are involved and responsible for the gallery, guide and *POL*. Mr. Rich informed the committee that he has asked Angela Sullivan, assistant attorney general, to look into the following concerns that the committee had:

- Is the OAC permitted to fundraise for these programs?
- Are there legal constraints for allowing a private business to purchase the naming rights for the Riffe Gallery?

Mr. Rich directed the members' attention to the three case statements the staff prepared, available in the Council Book. Ms. Henahan added that the workshops were a valuable experience for the staff. There is still a lot of work to be done before the fundraising begins. The case statements presented are live documents and will change as circumstances change and as we go through this process. She said that the Benefactor Group encouraged the OAC staff, during the training sessions, to develop individualized fundraising packets and tailor them to fit the needs and requirements of the funder we approach. As Ms. Bell stated during the Executive Committee meeting, this is a good beginning step toward a larger future vision. Ms. Henahan reported that we need to begin looking at a broader perspective of where our funding is coming from to cover the activities of the agency.

Ms. Warner requested that the staff include information about *POL*'s first national champion as part of the visual set of documents in the fundraising packets. The fact that Ohio high school student Jackson Hille won the inaugural *POL* finals in 2006 and received a \$20,000 scholarship prize makes *POL* and what we do in Ohio more important. Ms. Campbell-Zopf added that we can also include information about Mido Aly, Ohio high school student from Upper Arlington, who placed in the top five at the national finals in 2009.

Mr. Rich stated that the committee reviewed the Constituent Satisfaction Survey Analysis. This is an important survey that the OAC conducts yearly. The report showed an outstanding response to the service staff provides the field.

Mr. Rich informed the board that the *POL* Teacher Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, October 18, 2012. Ohio's *POL* state finals are scheduled for Saturday March 16, 2013 and the national finals in Washington, D.C. will be held on April 28-30, 2013.

Ms. Henahan highlighted some communications activities that were currently underway:

- The Governor's Awards Selection Committee is scheduled to meet on November 7, 2012, to select the winners for the 2013 Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio.
- The OAC is once again teaming up with the CSRAB to celebrate National Arts and Humanities Month in October. Planning is underway.
- Agency press releases, social media activities and publications are always being updated.
- The 2012/2013 *Ohio Magazine* Travel Planner is now available and was distributed to the board.

Ms. Henahan then walked the members through the agency priority work list and informed the members that a one-page update to the NEA Partnership Grant is due next week. Ms. Warner asked about the amount the OAC received from the NEA in FY2012. Ms. Henahan responded that the OAC has received \$980,000. It is down from the previous year due to the funding reduction the NEA received. Ms. Henahan stated that the OAC still received the second largest award in the nation and we are very proud of it. The grants are awarded based on the state's population and the competitive portion. California exceeds Ohio in population, therefore, received the highest grant but we scored extremely well on the competitive portions of the grant – folk arts, arts education and underserved.

MOTION by Sharon Howard, seconded by Sara Vance Waddell, to accept the report of the Executive Committee report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

## **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

OAC board members reported on activities around the state and in their communities.

## **OHIO CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS REPORT (OCA)**

Donna Collins, executive director, OCA, reported on the following OCA activities:

### **Arts Day in Ohio**

Ms. Collins informed the board that Arts Day 2013 has been scheduled for May 15, 2013. Pat Bridgeman, Arts Day Committee chair, and members of the committee have begun planning for the event. OCA is preparing to issue invitations to the student advocates. Karine Aswad, OAC executive/special project assistant, will distribute a copy of the invitations to the OAC board members so they are kept informed of the process and reach out to schools in their areas. Ms. Collins stated that the Toledo School for the Arts, former Governor's Awards for the Arts recipient, has been invited to perform at this year's luncheon.

### **Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio – Selection Committee**

Tim Greenwood, OCA board president, has asked the following individuals to represent OCA on the annual Governor's Awards Selection Committee: Barbara Hunzicker, Lancaster; Jane Foulk, Thornville; and Julius C. Dorsey, Jr., Cleveland. The Selection Committee will meet under the leadership of OAC Awards Committee Chair Karen Bell on November 7, 2012.

### **Supplemental Funding Meeting**

Ms. Collins reported that OAC and OCA restarted the inquiry into potential supplemental funding sources for the arts and convened a discussion group in late July 2012 to begin this effort. She, Ms. Henahan, Ms. Campbell-Zopf, and OCA's Supplemental Funding Committee



Chair Marc Folk are in the process of crafting a position statement that will be presented to the OAC and OCA boards for approval at a future meeting.

**Pilot Project: Athens Area Citizens for the Arts and Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation**

OCA Foundation has entered into an agreement with the Athens Area Citizens for the Arts (AACA) to organize and work towards a stronger voice in support of public funding for the arts in the Athens area. AACA is a consortium of artists, arts and arts education organizations, and citizens committed to promoting the value of the arts to a high quality of life, a strong economy, and the achievement of educational excellence. Ms. Collins thanked OCA board member Emily Prince and local arts leader Bob Winters for their vision and leadership for this work.

The AACA just completed two days of meetings with elected officials and the public regarding their recent *Arts and Prosperity IV* report conducted in partnership with Americans for the Arts. Randy Cohen, vice president of Research and Policy, at Americans for the Arts joined OCA for the tour. The meetings were positive and OCA is hoping to replicate this project in other parts of the state.

**Montgomery County Commissioners Honored**

Americans for the Arts, in conjunction with the National Association of Counties presented the 2012 National Award for County Arts Leadership to Montgomery County -- Board of Commissioners for the good work in that Ohio county.

**Legislative Luncheon**

Ms. Collins reported that OCA hosted a legislative luncheon this spring with the Dayton Arts Alliance leadership to share their business plan and model. It was a great opportunity to speak with legislative members about this kind of business and what impact this will have on the state and the nation.

**CDP Data**

A preliminary report of the completed 2010 data, as entered by grantees of the OAC and participating foundations around the state has been compiled by Cuyahoga Partnership for Arts and Culture under the direction of Kristin L. Puch, director of Research and Advancement. This information will assist OCA in strategizing and messaging for the upcoming budget season.

**State Arts Action Network**

Ms. Collins reported that the State Arts Action Network (SAAN), citizens' statewide advocacy organizations, will meet in Washington, D.C. on October 4-6, 2012. A portion of the meeting will be shared with state leaders attending the NASAA Assembly 2012.

**Message from Bill Blair, OCA Legislative Counsel**

Ms. Collins stated that Mr. Blair would like to thank the OAC board for their continued support and advocacy efforts especially during this election season. It's important to continue to spread the message about the importance of the arts and arts education across the state.

**Next OCA Board Meeting**

Ms. Collins informed the board that the next OCA board meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. at the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts.

Mr. Rich thanked Ms. Collins and the OCA board for their continued work and support of the OAC. The OCA/OAC partnership is the reason we are successful in Ohio. He also thanked her for the work she and her committee have done for the Governor's Awards for the Arts and Arts Day Luncheon.

### **ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

Ms. Henahan directed the board's attention to the materials found under Items of General Interest in the Council Book. She stated that the OAC receives a lot of thank-you letters throughout the year from constituents who have been awarded funding from the agency. Ms. Vance Waddell inquired whether all individuals and organizations that receive OAC grants submit letters to the OAC. Ms. Henahan responded that no formal count of thank-you letters has been conducted but the OAC receives many each year and they come in continuously. The agency also receives copies of letters that are sent from grantees to their legislators or the governor. Ms. Bell asked if the OAC sends constituents a list of contact information including OAC board members and legislators in their district. Ms. Henahan replied that they receive a PIO report that includes a list of legislative members in their area. Ms. Howard added that OCA can also provide that information to their constituents. Ms. Bell expressed that as a board member, she receives a lot of letters from the field, and asked if the agency prompts them? Ms. Henahan said that the OAC does not prompt constituents to write these letters. They are required, as part of their final report, to submit a copy of the letters they send their legislative member thanking them for the state funding but they are not required to send the OAC board members letters.

Ms. Howard asked the staff to monitor areas where letters are not coming in and inform the board so they can go out to these organizations and encourage them to do so. Ms. Warner stated that it is great to see that some of these letters are coming from board members of a grantee's organization. So often, it seems like the individuals in charge are not aware of the money they are receiving from the state and it is nice to see letters from the ones that are.

Ms. Henahan added that not all the letters the agency receives are included in the Council Books.

### **OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Discussion Topics for the January 2013 Board Meeting**

Mr. Rich asked the board for topic ideas to discuss during the January 9 and 10, 2013 board meeting. He reminded the board to review the committee descriptions and provide feedback, via e-mail, as soon as possible. The descriptions will be updated based on the feedback and discussed and approved at the next meeting.

Ms. Bell suggested that the board discuss supplemental funding venues and ways to diversify the OAC's resources. Ms. Campbell-Zopf added that there are several policy items detailed in the *OAC Strategic Plan 2011-2013* that the board should begin discussing.

Ms. Warner said she would like the board to talk about the following topics:

- Budget proposal preparation – She stated that the board needs to review the way the agency prepares and submits its budget proposal to the Office of Budget and

Management (OBM). The board has never approved a budget before its submission and she would like that to change.

- Simplify the grants application – review and suggest ways to simplify grant applications.
- Retirements – There are several anticipated agency retirements and the board should discuss how those will be handled.
- Rock & Roll Hall of Fame – The issue of whether the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame will be eligible to apply to the Sustainability (over \$1.5 million) program should be addressed. If they will be, how would that affect the top four awardees in that program?
- Ratifications – the board should review the grant ratification process.
- OAC grant awards and programs – the board needs to examine the OAC grant programs to determine what our priorities are and how much each program should award.

Mr. Rich reported that he will draft and send the board an agenda prior the meeting. Mr. Rich will host a dinner for the board in Columbus on January 9, 2013.

### **OAC Grant Online Application System Update**

Ms. Henahan reported that Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF), the vendor that currently hosts the OAC's Online Grants Application System (OLGA), has launched its Grants Online (GO) System, which is designed to replace the outgoing Culture Grants Online (CGO) system the OAC and other agencies currently use. Since the launch, several SAAs reported that they have some concerns with the new system and that WESTAF is currently making updates based on their feedback. Ms. Henahan added that our contact at WESTAF recently informed staff that the GO system may not allow the high level of customization that the OAC is looking for in its successor to OLGA. WESTAF is not yet requiring its CGO clients to migrate to GO, but they will eventually stop providing support to CGO users who do not upgrade -- perhaps as early as 2014. Ms. Henahan stated that due to these and several other reasons, including increased functionality and long-term cost, the OAC began researching other vendors in early 2012. This was discussed with the board in great detail during the June 2012 board meeting.

Ms. Henahan reported that over the past several months, since the initial phase of that research began, OAC staff has continued communication with the two firms best positioned to provide a new system – Smart Simple and Good Done Great. Both firms have shared updates about their products as well as a client list for us to contact as references. Mr. Katona is compiling a list of questions to discuss with the vendors and references. Ms. Henahan reported that once a decision is made about which vendor to work with and when we get the funding from the Ohio Arts Foundation, Inc. the OAC will push forward with this project. Both firms anticipate a 90-day build period that will require staff to work with them to develop the system. Based on current projected design and implementation timeline, FY2015 grant applications will probably be the first applicants to use this new system. Ms. Henahan stated that the additional requirements that the NEA will be asking for, discussed earlier during the meeting, will also need to be incorporated into the new system and will be once they are made available.

Mr. Rich thanked Ms. Henahan and expressed that the OAC is determined to have the best online grant application system that provides ease for both the grantees and the grantor.

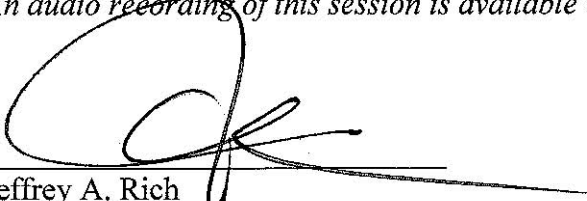
**OAC Board Member Appointments**

Ms. Kridler inquired if there is any news about new OAC board appointments. Mr. Rich stated that we are working with Boards and Commissions to fill the vacancies on the board. He expressed that he was hopeful the board would have new members to introduce at the January board meeting.

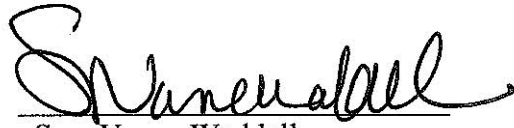
**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

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



Jeffrey A. Rich  
OAC Board Chair



Sara Vance Waddell  
OAC Board Secretary