

**OHIO ARTS COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING
MARCH 20, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Susan Sofia at 12:23 p.m. Board members in attendance were: Sheila Markley Black, Nancy Fernandez, Barbara Robinson, Mary Wolfe, Jeffrey Rich, Martha Appel Burton, Sharon Howard, Martha MacDonell, Ginger Warner, Neal Zimmers, Dan DeLawder and Representative Josh Mandel. Members absent were: Charlotte Kessler, Margaret Walter, Representative Tyrone Yates, Senator Capri Cafaro, and Senator Kevin Coughlin. Also present were: Donna Collins, executive director, Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA); Bill Blair, legislative counsel, OCA and Todd Nist, Ohio Arts Council's (OAC) assistant attorney general. OAC staff members in attendance were: Julie Henahan, Jodie Engle, Jami Goldstein, Kathy Burgan, Ken Emerick, Carolyn McClaskey, Karine Aswad, Katherine Eckstrand, Dan Katona, Kevin Cary, Jim Szekacs and Mary Campbell-Zopf.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Sofia began the meeting by welcoming everyone and announcing new board members Dan DeLawder, chairman, chief executive officer and board member of the Park National Bank and the Park National Corporation headquartered in Newark; Representative Josh Mandel; Representative Tyrone Yates; Senator Capri Cafaro; and Senator Kevin Coughlin.

Mrs. Sofia informed the Council Board members that the summer council meeting has been scheduled for June 20, 2007. She stated that Director Henahan will report on the budget process, visits with legislators, submission of final report to the U.S. Department of Education for the *Going Global* project, staff vacancies and staff activities through the spring. The members will hear an update from OCA Legislative Counsel Blair and OCA Director Collins. The board will review the OAC and OCA communications plan and OAC Assistant Attorney General Nist will report on sub-recipient monitoring. The council has to approve of the FY2007 Individual Creativity (IC) Excellence Awards and the grant ratifications. The board will also hear an update on OLGA and will approve the OAC Board committee appointments.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Budget Update

On March 15, Governor Strickland released his executive budget for the FY2008/2009 biennium. The OAC was pleased to see in a very tight budget year that with many competing demands, the governor recommended a 2.2% increase to the OAC for the next biennium. This recommendation reverses a three biennia trend of consistent reductions to the agency's budget. Ms. Henahan stated that she appreciates the governor's vote of confidence in the work that the OAC does and the agency looks forward to working with

his administration. The work is far from finished and there is a lot to do before the budget is approved in June.

Legislative Visits

Ms. Henahan informed the members that the visits with the legislators continue as we move into the spring. To date she has made 33 visits with new and returning members. The meetings are going very well. Several legislators have mentioned how important it is for them to hear from their constituents about OAC support in their communities. They also are appreciative of individualized invitations to arts events in their districts.

Meetings with representatives and senators will continue to be scheduled throughout March, April and May.

Fund for the Improvement of Education *Going Global* Final Report

The OAC submitted its final report to the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) in December for the \$1.2 million grant received in 2002 from the DOE's Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) program. In January, we received confirmation from the DOE that a review of the final report was completed. The report was found to be in compliance with the department's administrative regulations. The grant is officially closed and is being sent to the Federal Records Center to be archived. We are required to maintain records related to the grant for an undetermined period of time. A copy of the executive summary of the final report was provided to the members.

Staff Vacancies

In January, Governor Strickland instructed the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to implement a temporary hiring control. The hiring control is effective until March 31, 2007, and may be amended as circumstances warrant. All state agencies with the exception of a few are subject to the temporary hiring control.

This control has had the impact of temporarily stopping the OAC from hiring a new Arts Learning (AL) director, a new Public Information Office (PIO) director and a new Legislative Affairs/PIO assistant. Ms. Henahan informed the members that the agency had already started the interview process for the AL director when the order began. Those interviews have concluded and when the control is lifted we will move to hire an AL director. The agency will not be able to post the PIO director and the legislative affairs/PIO assistant positions until after March 31.

Recent Policy Changes in State Reimbursements

In March Governor Strickland also instructed OBM to implement a temporary freeze on certain meal-related expenditures that went into effect immediately and will be in effect until April 5, 2007. According to a memo from OBM, the freeze may be amended as circumstances warrant. Agencies are instructed to discontinue expenditures for meals, food expenses and supplies relative to hosting a meeting, seminar or convention for official state business. Food related expenses associated with staff travel are not subject to the freeze, but must still comply with the state's existing travel rules.

Ms. Henahan informed the members that today's lunches and the panel meeting lunches between now and April 5 have been provided by a private donor.

Staff Activity through Spring

Council members reviewed the agency priority work lists included in the Council Book.

Arts Advocacy Day – Washington, D.C.

Ms. Henahan and Deputy Director Campbell-Zopf attended the National Arts Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C. on March 12-13, 2007, to meet with members of Congress and speak in support of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and other arts-related issues. They met with the aides of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs-Jones and Congressman John Boehner.

Potential Fall 2007 Council Meeting Dates

September 19 or 20

September 26 or 27

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Martie MacDonell, seconded by Jeff Rich, to accept the minutes of the Panel Selection Committee meeting held on September 28, 2006. Motion carried without dissent.

MOTION by Martie MacDonell, seconded by Jeff Rich, to accept the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting held on September 28, 2006. Motion carried without dissent.

MOTION by Martie MacDonell, seconded by Jeff Rich, to accept the minutes of the Nominating Committee meeting held on September 28, 2006. Motion carried without dissent.

MOTION by Martie MacDonell, seconded by Jeff Rich, to accept the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on September 28, 2006. Motion carried without dissent.

MOTION by Martie MacDonell, seconded by Jeff Rich, to accept the minutes of the Council Board meeting held on September 28, 2006. Motion carried without dissent.

MOTION by Martie MacDonell, seconded by Jeff Rich, to accept the minutes of the Awards Committee meeting held on November 14, 2006. Motion carried without dissent.

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Sheila Markley Black, to approve the grant ratifications and the Ohio Heritage Fellowships from the fall Council meeting. Motion carried without dissent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy and Planning Committee

Board member Robinson began by commending the OAC staff on their continued hard work.

There was a discussion about a proposal from AL to establish a mini grant within its Artist in Residence (AIR) program. The mini grant would support AIR roster artist one- or two-day visits to schools, arts organizations and community organizations with a strong arts component. This grant option would promote greater access to arts experiences and stimulate experimentation in a wide range of arts disciplines (dance, drama/theatre, media, music and the visual arts). AL would use the first year of implementation as a pilot from which to learn before refining or scaling up the effort. Ten thousand dollars will be allocated from the office's state subsidy line and, if necessary, federal funds could be used as well. There will be a streamlined application process with applications being reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis by AL staff. Mrs. Robinson stated that the Policy and Planning Committee believes this is a worthy item to support because it might be a way to target schools that have not applied previously for funds from the OAC.

Another discussion item was the revised OAC vision statement that the staff developed incorporating council members' suggestions. The committee members were also updated on the budget process and the fact that the OAC is one of the fortunate state agencies to receive a recommendation from the governor for a 2.2% increase. Also the committee would like to revisit the idea of having a "champion of the arts" legislative award added to the Governor's Award ceremony. There will be further discussion during the June council meeting.

MOTION by Martha Burton, seconded by Ginger Warner, to accept the Policy and Planning Committee Report. Motion carried without dissent.

Nominating Committee

Board member Black explained that appointments have been made to the different committees. The Executive Committee is going to remain the same because it is very important to have an experienced Executive Committee during these transition times.

MOTION by Barbara Robinson, seconded by Nancy Fernandez, to approve the committee assignments. Motion carried without dissent.

Executive Committee

Constituent Satisfaction Survey Analysis

Ms. Campbell-Zopf provided an overview of the constituent satisfaction survey analysis that was prepared from surveys completed by constituents through OLGA as they submitted their final reports. Each constituent addressed seven response items related to OAC customer service and satisfaction with the grants process. In addition to the survey, through the grant final report in OLGA, constituents are asked if they have written their legislators. What OAC staff learned was that approximately 30% had not. To increase that number, the agency sent a letter to constituents reminding them about how important this is, and the coordinators called the organizations that had not sent letters encouraging them to do so. Ms. Henahan explained that what was alarming was it had been a year or more since the final reports were written and some organizations had not sent their letters yet, even though they received draft letters from the OAC to help them write their own.

Correspondence between the Agency and the India Foundation

Ms. Henahan explained that she received a series of e-mails and letters from Harish Trivedi, chairman of The India Foundation located in Dayton, along with e-mails from community members that Mr. Trivedi encouraged to write. The letters expressed their displeasure with the selection process for the Governor's Awards for the Arts. It was apparent from his response letters that he did not have a clear understanding of the process the Awards Selection Committee undertook. We did address his concerns through a letter. In his last letter he asked that the OAC "to discontinue the practice of encouraging non-selected nominees to keep on getting nominated again and again. He hopes that the OAC Board will consider his suggestion and act upon it." He also wanted to know why there is not a separate category for minority-based organizations or individuals to receive the Governor's Award. It was decided during the Executive Committee that encouraging nominees not to apply repeatedly would be a disservice to individuals because many past awardees have been nominated several times before they received their award. Ms. Henahan stated that the staff will review the language in our promotional materials and other forms of communication and clarify the process to our constituents.

Artists and Communities Program Update

IC Director Emerick informed the members that the IC would like to propose that the OAC approach FY2006 Artists and Communities grant recipients with a special opportunity to apply for additional funding that is remaining from the FY2007 budget. This funding would allow for continuation of their FY2006 projects. FY2006 grant recipients will need to use a modified application form consisting of a short narrative and simplified budget. Requests would be limited to \$5,000 and the activities must occur between July 1 and December 31, 2007.

State Auditors Management Letter

Mr. Nist walked the council members through the letter he wrote that can be found in the Council Book. He repeated that "as the Auditor's Office stated there is no evidence of non-compliance. The relevant factors highlighted by the Office of Budget and Management suggest that implementing additional monitoring procedures is not

necessary for the vast amount of the Arts Council's sub-recipients, due to the size of the award and the percentage passed on to the sub-recipient. However, for some of the Arts Council's larger awards, the Office of Budget and Management's compliance requirements suggest taking some additional steps. Keeping regular contact with the sub-recipient to inquire into program activities and making site visits to observe their operations are two suggested means of ensuring that the sub-recipient is using federal awards in compliance with the applicable laws and regulations." Mrs. Sofia explained that due to the budget constraints Mrs. Black suggested that the council members might make some of these site visits on behalf of the OAC.

Wexner Center

Ms. Henahan stated that in November, she was approached by the senior management staff at the Wexner Center for the Arts with a request to receive more than \$40,000 from the Sustainability (under \$1.5 million) program. The Sustainability (under \$1.5 million) program has a "cap" of \$40,000; in addition, the cap only applies to a combination of Sustainability (under \$1.5 million) and Arts Innovation (AI). In order to receive the full \$40,000, an organization would need to score a perfect 100 points during the review process. If the Wexner Center applied to Sustainability (under \$1.5 million) and received a perfect score and also received the maximum grant for AI, their total award would be \$60,000. If they were to be allowed in the Sustainability (over \$1.5 million) category, their OAC Sustainability grant would be approximately \$142,000 based on our current FY2007 budget. This would naturally reduce all the grants to organizations already in this program. After discussion, the committee recommended that the staff review the language in the Sustainability program guidelines and bolster it to close any possible loop holes and emphasize the funding parameters that apply to state universities. Henahan stated that the staff will devise language in the FY 2008 *Guidelines* and that they will present it to the Council Board for approval in June.

Executive Director Participation in Upcoming Events and Activities

Mrs. Sofia explained the importance of having a director out in the field and meeting with constituents. Due to budget constraints and what public officials are allowed to accept in gifts, it is very difficult for Ms. Henahan to be present in the community at arts events. It was suggested by the members that the OAC apply for an Ohio Arts Foundation, Inc. grant up to \$10,000. Mr. Nist has agreed to look into this issue and see what can be done.

(Point of clarification from staff: Once dollars are in the state treasury they are subject to state fiscal rules and regulations.)

The committee discussed asking the Council members to pay for their own meals when attending meetings until the freeze on food purchasing is lifted.

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Ginger Warner, to accept the Executive Committee report. Motion carried without dissent.

OHIO CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS REPORT

Mrs. Collins informed the members that the 2007 National Arts Advocacy day in Washington, D.C. had a large contingent, 39 delegates, representing OCA, OAC, Fitton Center for Creative Arts, The Ohio State University, and Baldwin Wallace College. OCA scheduled meetings with 19 to 20 Congressional offices. The meeting with Senator Brown's office proved very successful with him joining the Arts Caucus and co-sponsoring the Artists Deduction Bill. Mrs. Collins added that the State Arts Action Network met on March 11 prior to the start of the National Arts Day work. The network has begun a strategic plan process that will be merged with the larger strategic plan of Americans for the Arts.

Mrs. Collins explained that immediately following the release of the governor's Executive Budget Planning, OCA released an action alert asking the members and E-Advocacy center members to respond. Following the alert 821 messages reached the governor's office and 64 members of the Senate and House.

Mrs. Collins then thanked the OAC staff for their partnership in the 2007 Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio and Arts Day luncheon explaining that the reinstated format worked to our advantage with more than 800 people participating in various activities during the day. She then recognized Denise Rehg, CEO of Culture Work in Dayton for working with Time Warner to secure the 2007 Arts Day book. The books were included in packets delivered to the House and Senate by the high school student advocates.

Mr. Blair shared his excitement about Governor Strickland's recommendation for a 2.2% increase in the OAC budget. He stated that the governor has been to different venues speaking about the importance of the arts and when Mrs. Frances Strickland was asked what her top priorities were she said the arts and arts education. This makes him feel confident going into the budget hearings.

Mr. Blair explained that the issue with the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame has to be resolved. He stated that he and the OAC have spent too much human capital dealing with it. Mrs. Henahan and Mr. Blair are going to schedule a meeting to discuss how they can address it.

Mr. Blair added that Representative Josh Mandel is a great addition to the Council Board.

ADVOCACY PLAN

Mrs. Collins stated that the communications plan that began its development last fall with the support of Gregg Dodd, former PIO director, has been set in motion since the first of the year. She thanked Ms. Campbell-Zopf and Ms. Goldstein for their additional work fine-tuning the document. The plan is an internal and external document of what we can and cannot do and what we should and should not do. Ms. Goldstein directed the members to the back of the Council Book and went over the plan with them. She stated

that the external document is on OCA's Web site and that we will be adding a version onto the OAC Web site following the Council meeting and Governor's Awards. The internal document will also be posted on the OAC's Intranet so that only staff can view and update it.

GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Emerick informed the members that the IC panel meetings that were held at the University Plaza on December 4-5 and 11-12 were successful. There were awards in 13 disciplines and this was the first year we used digital images. Mrs. Signorino, program coordinator, prepared an evaluation summary and one-third of the applications were new. Mr. Emerick then explained that one of the applicants that was recommended for an award, Erin Vernon, is no longer a resident of Ohio and asked the members not to recommend her for a grant.

MOTION by Barbara Robinson, seconded by Neal Zimmers, that we, the Ohio Arts Council Board, approve the Individual Excellence Award 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.

RATIFICATIONS

Ms. Henahan led the Council Board members through the ratification of the grants that have been awarded by staff since the meeting on June 20, 2006.

MOTION by Martha Burton, seconded by Barbara Robinson, to ratify grants awarded as amended in Special Programs and Services, Artists with Disabilities Access, Arts Access, Capacity Building, International Partnership, and Special-Organizations. Motion carried without dissent.

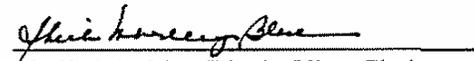
UPDATE ON OLGA

Office of Grants Administration and Constituent Services (OGACS) Director Cary walked the members through OLGA. OGACS Associate Szekacs presented some images from the Individual Creativity panel meeting demonstrating the new digital images equipment.

Approved: June 20, 2007

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.


Susan Saxbe, Chair


Sheila Markley Black, Vice-Chair