

**OHIO ARTS COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Susan Saxbe at 11:50 a.m. in the Gund Conference Room at the Ohio Arts Council (OAC), Columbus. Council members in attendance were: Sheila Markley Black, Sharon Howard, Charlotte Kessler, Jeff Rich, Lois Rosenthal, Tom Schorgl, Ginger Warner and Representative Tyrone Yates. Absent: Martha Appel Burton, Barbara Gould, Mary Lazarus, Martie MacDonnell, Barbara Robinson, Mary Wolfe, Representative Josh Mandel, Senator Capri Cafaro and Senator Kevin Coughlin. Also present were: Caitlin Strokosch, director, Alliance of Artists Communities; Bill Blair, legislative counsel, Ohio Citizens for the Arts; and Todd Nist, assistant attorney general. Staff members in attendance were: Julie Henahan, Mary Campbell-Zopf, Karine Aswad, Kathy Cain, Kevin Cary, Stephanie Dawson, Susan dePasquale, Katherine Eckstrand, Jodie Engle, Shannon Ford, Irene Finck, Jami Goldstein, Pat Henahan, Dan Katona, Carolyn McClaskey, Jaclyn Reynolds, Kathy Signorino and Kim Turner.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Susan Saxbe welcomed everyone to the OAC winter/spring Council meeting and thanked the OAC staff for their efforts during this stressful time as we navigate through new mandates associated with the state's budget crisis. Ms. Saxbe reminded the Board that the OAC meetings are open to the public and that the press is often in attendance. Additionally, we audio tape all meetings and the public can request a copy of a tape if they so desire. The governor, through Executive Order 2007-01S Establishing New Ethics Requirements addresses "Increasing Access to Government Decisions." In the Executive Order the governor states that "all cabinet directors are directed to find ways to increase access to public meetings held at their agencies including finding ways to present them on the Internet live and recorded." By the next meeting, the OAC will add a new page on its Web site where the Board's meeting minutes will reside for public review. We will also be working more closely with the governor's office in their effort to improve their communications between that office and state boards and commissions. The OAC staff provided them with information regarding the agency's meeting schedule, minutes and the best point of contact for policy issues.

Ms. Saxbe stated that the main order of business today is to review and approve grant recommendations for Individual Excellence Awards. We will also review a revised OAC budget for FY2008 and FY2009 based on the target figure issued by the Office of Budget and Management (OBM). The OAC Board will hear reports from the Panel Selection, the Policy and Planning, the Finance and the Executive Committees. Bill Blair, legislative counsel, Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA) will brief the members on his current activities. We will also have a report on Arts Day activities from Jami Goldstein, interim director of the Public Information Office, on behalf of Donna Collins, executive

director of OCA, who is unable to join us. The OAC staff will report on program activities including the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) Annual Meeting, Ethics Training, Grant Ratification Report, and OAC Logo Compliance Report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Budget Update

Executive Director Julie Henahan reviewed that Governor Strickland issued Executive Order 2008-01S at the end of January instructing state agencies to reduce expenditures in order to keep the state budget balanced for the FY2008/2009 biennium. After preparing two budget scenarios along with other related information and responding to numerous requests from the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), we learned what our projected budget reduction could be for the biennium on February 19, 2008. The projected budget cut is a 10% cut each year, i.e., a \$1,248,816 reduction in each year.

To meet the 10% reduction, the OAC will have to make cuts to current grants. Ms. Henahan distributed two budget handouts: 1) a final subsidy and administrative budget FY2008/2009, and 2) an overview depicting cuts for each of the OAC grant programs. These sheets reflected the amounts before and after a 10% cut. As shown, these were not straight across the board 10% cuts to each line item in our budget. What has complicated the calculations for the agency was that by the time we received the word on what the projected could be we had four months instead of 12 months to accommodate a \$1.2 million cut. To lessen the impact to our subsidy line, management went through the budget and identified line items with unallocated funds as shown in the first handout. Then we closed or limited grant making in the following areas: Special Programs, Arts Learning—Artist Express, Building Cultural Diversity Initiative, Capacity Building, and Artists with Disabilities Access Program for the remainder of the year. By first using unallocated program funds, we were able to reduce the actual cut that would need to be made to outstanding grant awards. The grants that had already been paid in full for completed projects were held harmless. To go back and retrieve those awards would be a difficult and time consuming process for our staff. Ms. Henahan added that management has not looked at the line items for FY2009. The amounts for FY2009 will be very different from the FY2008 line items because for FY2008 we needed to take amounts from unallocated funds so that we could determine the funding balance from which to cut. In FY2009 there will be a more even distribution of reductions to line items. The second handout that Ms. Henahan discussed showed the FY2008 reductions to each grant program.

Ms. Henahan emphasized that the agency has a serious problem in its payroll line. There has been a combination of events, over the past few years, that has brought us to this juncture. From 2002 through 2006 we saw decreases in our actual payroll line as part of our administrative budget each year. It decreased until 2006 when we ended up at \$1.798 million and has remained flat since that time. Also, the Basic State Grant portion of our National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Partnership Agreement award, which has helped support our payroll needs, is less and that has also contributed to the problem. Furthermore, along with the decreases in our payroll line, there have been increases in

salaries as part of negotiated agreements with the union -- cost of living increases and step increases -- so that each year we have had an increasingly difficult time making ends meet. Ms. Henahan, Deputy Director Mary Campbell-Zopf and Fiscal Director Carolyn McClaskey have been working with OBM to determine what a reduction in staff would look like.

Other things that the OAC has done to reduce expenses per the governor's Executive Order 2008-01S include limitations on travel; a hiring control statewide; control spending in the personal services line, the line that pays for things like contractors; and an equipment control policy. In addition to responding to the budget reduction Executive Order, we have received several other directives from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) including the establishment of statewide customer service hours. State agencies have been asked to set customer service hours (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.) so that there is functional staffing available at convenient times for the general public. The OAC is in good shape with staffing at those times, but management has made some changes to our policies to address only minor inconsistencies. Accordingly, our supervisors are reviewing those policies and will be discussing them with their staff members. The policies should be fully implemented in the next few weeks.

Ms. Henahan added that DAS is also in the process of assessing the status of numerous State of Ohio positions in order to determine if those positions are properly designated as classified or unclassified. This impacts only a few OAC positions. We are, however, in the process of completing an audit of those positions, which will be submitted to DAS by June 30, 2008.

Request from the Governor's Office

Ms. Henahan explained that in an effort to improve communication with state boards and commissions, the Governor's Office has requested that we keep them informed of our meeting schedule, provide them with copies of our OAC Board meeting minutes; add appropriate staff from the Governor's Office to our list serve, if we have one; and identify the best point of contact for policy issues. Ms. Henahan stated that we have responded to this request by sharing our minutes from the full Council Board meetings in calendar year 2007, adding the names of staff from the Governor's Office to our mailing list for ArtsOhio and ArtsPerspective, and providing the names of the executive and deputy director as contacts for policy issues. Ms. Henahan also informed the Governor's Office that we have minutes from individual committee meetings as well but since they are well covered in the full meeting minutes, perhaps, they would prefer not to receive them and be inundated with documents. The OAC will be sending the Governor's Office the OAC Board meeting minutes after each meeting. The OAC Board minutes will also be available to the general public through a new page on our Web site.

Ethics Training

Ms. Henahan stated that the Ohio Ethics Commission has announced new dates for the 2008 Ethics Training Sessions. Under Governor Strickland's Executive Order 2007-01S, board and commission members and personnel who file Financial Disclosure Statements must attend a two-hour session every other year. The OAC Board members that did not

attend a session in 2007 must attend one this year. The Ethics Training Session dates are listed in the Council Book.

Alliance of Artists Communities Creative Leadership Award

Ms. Henahan informed the members that Caitlin Strokosch, the recently appointed executive director of the Alliance of Artists Communities, is joining us this morning to make a report to the Board members. As was announced in September, the OAC was honored with the Alliance of Artists Communities Creative Leadership Award in recognition of our long-standing support of individual artists and artists' residencies in Ohio, around the nation and the world. The award ceremony was held on Saturday, November 10 in Silver Spring, MD. Ms. Henahan and Chair Saxbe traveled to Silver Spring to accept the award on behalf of the agency and the OAC Board.

Staff Professional Development – Kelly Barsdate, NASAA

On February 25 and 26, the OAC program and grants staff were most fortunate to have Kelly Barsdate, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies' chief program and planning officer, here at the OAC for a workshop entitled, "Measuring What Matters." Ms. Barsdate led the staff through sessions on how to use data to our advantage, as an asset to achieve our goals. We discussed what kind of data we should be gathering in terms of what is important to our key authorizers especially in the current environment. Ms. Barsdate also took us through some exercises about how to examine our *Guidelines*, application questions and review criteria to assure that they are in alignment with each other and how to determine what the characteristics of an effective grant program and effective evaluation criteria for that program would look like. This professional development opportunity came at just the right time as the staff is currently reviewing *Guidelines* before deadlines for the next biennium begin. The staff enjoyed this opportunity to work with Ms. Barsdate and took away great insights and skills to use as we work to make our descriptions of grant programs more clear, concise and accessible to our constituents. Ms. Henahan and Ms. Campbell-Zopf will be working with Ms. Barsdate to follow up on this week's work and find another time this summer for Ms. Barsdate to visit again and take us to the next step of improvement.

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies Assembly (NASAA) 2007

NASAA's Assembly 2007 was held in Baltimore, Maryland from December 6-8, 2007. Several staff members and Chair Saxbe were able to attend and enjoy sessions that: examined the role of the arts in a thriving democracy; highlighted the essential contributions that the public sector makes to American cultural life; and provided essential education, networking and leadership opportunities for state arts agency staff and volunteers. They also celebrated the 40th anniversaries of the Maryland State Arts Council, NASAA and other state arts agencies. Ms. Henahan encouraged the OAC Board members to attend one of NASAA's future annual meetings. She expressed that it is an excellent opportunity to learn up-to-date information on the arts and its role in civic life and how state arts agencies play an integral part in the cultural vitality of this country as well as network with peers from other states and learn from them. The next NASAA annual meeting will be held September 11-13, 2008 in Chattanooga, TN.

Update on Ken Emerick, Director, Office of Individual Creativity

Ms. Henahan stated that Ken Emerick, Office of Individual Creativity director, has been dealing with a serious health challenge for over a month and has been in and out of the hospital several times. She explained that he is making strides toward recovery after some setbacks.

Kathy Signorino and Irene Finck have been doing a fabulous job managing the work load in the office in Mr. Emerick's absence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Lois Rosenthal, to accept the minutes of the Panel Selection Committee meeting held on September 27, 2007. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Sharon Howard, to accept the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting held on September 27, 2007. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Sheila Markley Black, seconded by Ginger Warner, to accept the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on September 27, 2007. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Tom Schorgl, to accept the minutes of the Council Board meeting held on September 27, 2007. **Motion carried without dissent.**

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Charlotte Kessler, to accept the minutes of the Awards Committee meeting held on November 13, 2007. **Motion carried without dissent.**

ALLIANCE OF ARTISTS COMMUNITIES REPORT

Ms. Strokosch explained that the Alliance of Artists Communities is a national service organization for residency programs. The Alliance of Artists Communities was founded in 1991 as a result of The MacArthur Foundation's program Special Initiative on Artists' Colonies, Communities and Residencies. The MacArthur Foundation recommended that the residency programs form an association that would act as a collective voice for support of residencies and individual artists. The Alliance of Artists Communities membership is now more than 200 organizations in 42 states and 17 countries. Ms. Strokosch added that the primary goal of the Alliance is to be an advocate for support of individual artists. During the past four years they have had tremendous success in advocating for support for individual artists. The Alliance and the NEA have worked together to increase funding to residency programs and have seen a 45% increase during the past two years.

Ms. Strokosch stated although there are a lot of organizations that support the art product, we need to recognize that there is a need to support the artist. She stated that was what brought the Alliance to recognize the OAC with the Creative Leadership Award. The OAC has been forward thinking and innovative with its support of individual artists through residencies, fellowships as well as other programs. Ms. Strokosch added that she does not know of any other arts council that has been as creative in its funding and thinking beyond its own borders in terms of how the state and its artists can be enriched without being limited with what is happening in the state. The Alliance has enjoyed a wonderful relationship with the OAC and its members and supporters. Ms. Strokosch thanked the Board members for all they do to support the OAC, the arts and artists.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy and Planning Committee

Board member Charlotte Kessler reported that the budget restraints have impacted all the initiatives the OAC has been working on. All of the initiatives are going to be revisited, condensed and rethought. The OAC will need to determine ways to continue the activities with reduced funds for the second State of the Arts Report and the Listening Tours. Even before the budget situation was fully understood, the staff had worked hard to develop a tight project budget for the Listening Tours. Careful attention was paid to keeping the staff teams small and production and travel expenses to a minimum. It is clear that one of the pieces that the NEA looks at favorably is that state arts agencies garner broad public involvement in their planning process through these kinds of events. This is very important as the OAC will need to talk about the tours in its NEA application due in October 2008.

The following meeting dates were presented to the full Council and will be sent to the Board members via e-mail to vote on:

Tuesday, June 24, 2008
Wednesday, June 25, 2008
Thursday, June 26, 2008
Monday, June 30, 2008

Monday, September 22, 2008
Tuesday, September 23, 2008
Wednesday, September 24, 2008
Thursday, September 25, 2008

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

Nominating Committee

Board member Sheila Markley Black distributed and reviewed the composition of the following committees for 2008: Education, Finance, International, Legislative, and Policy and Planning. The Nominating Committee members recommended that Mary

Lazarus and Lois Rosenthal serve on the Education Committee. They also recommended that Neal Zimmers and Tom Schorgl join the Finance Committee with Mr. Schorgl serving as chair of that committee. The members appointed Lois Rosenthal to the International Committee and Mary Lazarus to the Legislative Committee. Finally, Barbara Gould was added to the Policy and Planning Committee.

MOTION by Sheila Markley Black, seconded by Jeff Rich, to accept the committee appointments as recommended by the Nominating Committee. **Motion passed without dissent.**

Finance Committee

Ms. Markley Black reviewed that Ms. Henahan had distributed two handouts: 1) a final subsidy and administrative budget FY2008/2009, and 2) an overview depicting cuts for each of the OAC grant programs. Ms. Henahan also highlighted other facts regarding the OAC budget. These sheets reflected the amounts before and after a projected 10% cut. The agency has a serious problem in its payroll line. In January OBM gave Carolyn McClaskey, director of the Fiscal Office, a projection of payroll needs through 2012 that painted a rather grim picture for the agency. By 2012 the OAC will have a \$862,000 deficit in its payroll line. For a number of years, we have typically been short approximately \$400,000 each year. We have addressed that shortfall through funds from our Gifts and Donations line and NEA award as well as other federal grants, if permissible. But this approach is no longer going to work and the OAC is going to have to look at staff reductions. Ms. Markley Black reported that staff used \$475,008 from unallocated funds leaving \$748,808 that had to be cut from the grant program lines. Of the grants that were available to cut, each received a cut of 8.75%. Again, the grants that had already been paid in full for completed projects were held harmless.

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Ginger Warner, to approve the Finance Committee report.

Board member Sharon Howard wanted to know how and when this information will be distributed to the field. Ms. Henahan stated that with Council's approval of these recommendations, the staff will release this information to the field next week. Our constituents will receive a letter from Ms. Henahan explaining the budget situation and the cuts that need to be made. They will also receive information via e-mail with the new grant amounts and grant agreements. Mr. Schorgl suggested that both the director of an organization and the president of its board receive a letter from Ms. Henahan.

Ms. Henahan added that PIO is working on talking points for both the staff and Board members. The talking points will be e-mailed to the Board members a day before the letters are mailed to our constituents. Had we not received the increase in our subsidy line this would have been a massive blow to the field.

Ms. Markley Black stated that Mr. Schorgl suggested we look at historical data to see how long the previous economic downturns have lasted and what the percentages were. We have a small enough budget that this type of information might help us plan better.

Motion passed without dissent.

Executive Committee

Ms. Saxbe stated that on January 31, 2008, the governor issued Executive Order 2008-01S that addressed the state's budget crisis and what steps need to be taken for the good of the state. The EO necessitated that we revise the OAC's FY2008-2009 budget, which Ms. Henahan reviewed with the Board members. She added that the committee was also briefed on recent DAS and OBM Directives and their impact on the agency's standard work-day hours and the budget recalculation process, respectively. The Executive Committee also considered a change in agency rules that would allow the Cleveland's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame to apply to the OAC for funding support. The members also heard highlights on the Listening Tours, SOAR II, NEA Accessibility Workbook and the agency's priority work from March to June 2008.

Ms. Henahan added that it has been brought to the OAC's attention that the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is interested in getting the language removed from the OAC's set budget language, which has been in place for about 10 years, prohibiting them from applying to the OAC for funding. In 1997/1998 after the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame was built, there was a great concern that their budget was going to be extremely large and that it would negatively affect the OAC's formula for calculating annual awards to the state's major institutions. At that time, there was language introduced into our budget language that prohibited any organization that received more than \$8 million in capital funding from the state between July 1992 and June 1998 from applying for funding from the OAC. Today, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame would like to receive OAC funding for a variety of reasons including the endorsement that an OAC award confers, which is seen by many as a "stamp of approval." Ms. Henahan expressed her concern with keeping the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame from receiving OAC funding and emphasized that this sent a negative message to the organization and its many supporters. She believed that this could be a win-win situation for everyone. She added that this was also an important opportunity to advance a more inclusive view of the arts and to gather a new statewide group of advocates for the arts. She believed that we must also consider the concerns of other major organizations. The top four organizations (out of a pool of 39) will not be effected by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; if any organizations would be concerned, it would be the smaller and mid-size major institutions. If this restrictive language was removed from our budget language, then Rock and Roll Hall of Fame would still need to come into our competitive review process like other new applicants by first receiving two years of funding from other OAC grant programs before they could apply for major operating support through the Sustainability program in 2012.

Board member Ginger Warner stated that the Executive Committee members made a resolution, which passed unanimously, that they would like to present to the Board members for approval.

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Ginger Warner, to recommend that the Ohio Arts Council remove language from its upcoming budget request to the Office of Budget and

Management that prohibits the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame from receiving funding from the agency.

Ms. Henahan explained that this is budget language passed by the legislature each biennium and has been in place for ten years. The OAC has had to request that the language remain in the budget every two years as part of our state budget request process.

Board member Jeff Rich stated that this is a great opportunity to expand our constituency and gain new advocates.

Motion passed with one abstention.

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Sheila Markley Black, to approve the Executive Committee Report. **Motion carried without dissent.**

OHIO CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS (OCA) REPORT

Due to Donna Collins', executive director of OCA, absence, Jami Goldstein, interim director of the Public Information Office, reported on her behalf. Ms. Goldstein distributed the invitations to the Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio and Arts Day Luncheon, to be held on April 16, 2008. The OAC received 59 nominations and selected seven winners in six categories. Ms. Goldstein played the PSA that is running on cable networks across the state for the Board members. Registration for the event opened on January 15, and we have sold approximately 300 seats to date. Table sales and sponsorships are open and registration will close in March.

GRANT RATIFICATION REPORT

Ms. Campbell-Zopf reviewed that during the September 27, 2007 Board meeting, Mr. Rich inquired about the history of the OAC grant ratification process and whether there was a Board resolution that authorized staff to award grants in between OAC Board meetings. He also wondered if the amount of funding for grant ratifications had increased over the last two years. With the help of Susan Neumann-Martinsen, former OAC deputy director, Dia Foley and Karine Aswad, we researched and found instances of Board discussion and action that laid the foundation for our current grant ratification process. There was no formal resolution but a series of events that led to the actions practiced today:

- At the OAC Board meeting of March 16, 1971, a motion was introduced to the Board requesting an update to the OAC Rules and Regulations that would include authorization to award mini-grants by the executive director, director-chairman and the Executive Committee. This motion passed.
- During the OAC Board meeting in May of 1975, the OAC Director emphasized, as part of his Touring Program report, the importance of giving the staff the

authority to work with the community to develop a good artist series and to make recommendations to the Board, which in turn would be accepted.

- This topic was raised, again, during the OAC Board meeting in July of 1975, when the OAC Director introduced a discussion about OAC programs, especially those where community development was concerned, when the staff needed the authority to make day-to-day decisions—including the assurance of funds from the agency for the program that is developed with the community. The OAC Board members supported this forward planning approach that enabled the staff to develop programs and audiences in the various areas of the state.

Ms. Campbell-Zopf added that today, as part of each Council Book, there is a section that is devoted to grant ratifications, and preceding it is this background statement:

The OAC ratification process was established by the OAC Board in the mid-1970s to ensure the timely management and funding of primarily the Arts for Communities programs. Recognizing the amount of staff time and commitment needed to assist communities in developing and planning activities funded under these programs, the OAC Board agreed to pre-allocate funds to the Arts for Communities programs each year and authorized staff to award specific grant amounts to applicant organizations throughout the year. The staff was instructed to submit a list of grantees to the Council Board at the next appropriate meeting for ratification.

For a number of years, the following programs have been part of the Board's ratification report: Artists with Disabilities Access, Arts Access, Arts Learning, Capacity Building, Community Development, Individual Creativity, International Partnerships, Ohio Heritage Fellowship, Percent for Art, and Special--Organizations and Individuals.

In response to the second question, Ms. Campbell-Zopf explained that the staff took a look at the last five years and calculated the percentage of the total amount of grant dollars awarded in each year and the total number of ratifications to figure out what percent of the total budget goes out to ratifications. She stated that it hasn't varied much over the past five years.

Mr. Rich thanked the staff for researching this matter and suggested that we have a resolution in the minutes that re-authorizes this process.

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Tom Schorgl, to recognize the amount of staff time and commitment needed to assist communities in developing and planning activities funded under various programs, the OAC Board agrees to pre-allocate funds to a variety of programs each year and authorize staff to award specific grant amounts to applicant organizations throughout the year. The staff is instructed to submit a list of grantees to the Council Board at the next appropriate meeting for ratification. **Motion carried without dissent.**

OAC CREDIT AND PUBLICITY COMPLIANCE REVIEW UPDATE

Ms. Goldstein stated that based on the Council's recommendation at the June 2007 Board meeting the Public Information Office (PIO) and Organizational Services and Community Development (OSCD) Office engaged in a credit compliance review. Using final reports and support materials submitted from FY2007 in all grant areas, program coordinators checked organizations' use of the OAC's credit logo to see if they were following the Credit and Publicity Guidelines. PIO finished sending letters to constituents in early February. Ms. Goldstein added that there are a total of 388 grantee organizations in our OLGA funding database. Of those, program coordinators forwarded support materials from 280, which meant that 72% of the organizations were not in compliance for one reason or another. The program coordinators made the initial contact with these organizations informing them that PIO was going to send a letter detailing the specific problems with their credit compliance and to ask for a response that indicated how they would correct their compliance issues. We have had 48 written responses to date; all have been supportive and accommodating.

Ms. Goldstein expressed that the OAC has learned a number of good lessons from this process. Our grantees understand the importance of logo compliance in recognizing the contribution of public tax dollars to the arts in their community and they want to be in compliance. They appreciate the ability to have flexibility in the logo choice for different kinds of print materials. They also understand why the logo with the text goes much farther towards helping the public understand the nature of the relationship between their tax dollars, the OAC and the organization. Ms. Goldstein added that this review will likely be necessary every two years. We hope to see a marked improvement between this first review and the one we do with the FY2009 final reports.

Dan Katona, director of Organizational Services, along with Ms. Goldstein thanked the program coordinators and the PIO staff for their diligent work through this process. Mr. Katona added that PIO and OSCD will continue to work with grantees on logo compliance and answer questions from constituents. For FY2008 final reports, program coordinators will make routine checks on logo compliance as a criterion for a complete final report and issuance of payment.

Mr. Schorgl suggested that the OAC publish, on an annual or quarterly basis, those recipients that have used the logo and those who have not and distribute that list to their peers.

Ms. Warner stated that the importance of the logo and the reason everyone has to use the logo is so there is recognition that some of the money is coming from state tax dollars. The problem is not with people using the logo incorrectly, it is with the actual logo. It is not obvious that the current logo says "State of Ohio" until you really enlarge it. As a long-range project, Ms. Warner emphasized that we should consider changing our logo so it says "State of Ohio." That is something everyone would recognize not just the people that know what the OAC is.

Board member Lois Rosenthal inquired if there was a way to attach the use of our logo to the granting process. Ms. Goldstein stated that in clause nine of our grant agreement, which grantees sign, they agree to comply with our logo requirements. Ms. Henahan added that, at one time, the OAC had measures in place that would hold grantees accountable by automatically deducting five points from their grant review score the next time they applied, if they did not comply. We stopped using that five-point deduction because we felt we were putting staff in a position of trying to make objective calls, which ended up being subjective in terms of determining whether organizations were using the logo correctly. Ms. Howard added that if the OAC “stays on” the organizations, we will see a difference.

Ms. Henahan added that the OAC will acknowledge Ms. Warner’s recommendation to continue to look at our logo over the long-term to clarify its usage for people who might not know of the OAC and its work.

OCA LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL REPORT

Bill Blair, OCA legislative counsel, stated that he was saddened by the budget cuts and that OBM nearly wiped out the 11.1% increase we received at the beginning of our new fiscal year. He stated that we have also dealt with these types of cuts in the past and the only defense we have is to advocate that this is a small amount of money in the overall state budget and will not make much of a difference in addressing the state’s budget crisis. It is not, however, a small amount of money to the OAC. It hurts the agency, our programs and our grantees. This goes back to our continuing efforts to explain the nature of who we are and what we do and the economic impact that we have. Mr. Blair urged the Board members to continue to take a leadership role in advocating for the OAC and its budget.

Mr. Blair then discussed the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, a subject that the Board members had already taken action on. Mr. Blair stated that he received a call from a legislator saying that he was going to push to remove the restrictive language from the OAC’s budget that prohibits the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame from coming in for OAC funding. Mr. Blair told the Board members that he met with the legislator and made a pledge to him that we will meet with representatives of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and take action that would allow them to apply to the OAC. Mr. Blair then expressed how happy he was that the Board recommended that the OAC remove the language that prohibits them from coming in for funding. He added that this will benefit the OAC as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame has a very strong board and constituency.

Mr. Blair stated that Arts Day is not only a day to honor the award winners but is also a day to show deep appreciation to the legislature and the governor for the actions they have taken and for the actions they will take. This is a great time to continue to advocate for next OAC budget. We have to continue to take every opportunity to advocate.

President Bush sent his FY09 budget request to Congress on February 4th, beginning the yearly appropriations process for, among many things, the nation’s cultural agencies and

programs, including the NEA. President Bush has proposed a \$16.3 million cut for FY09 for the NEA. We are fortunate that we have three Ohio Congressional members on the appropriation committee. We are hopeful that the House will put the money back and maybe add an increase and that it will be maintained by the Senate.

Mr. Rich wanted to know how our cuts compare with other state agencies and if there is a chance to get the cuts revisited and modified. Mr. Blair stated that other than the exempted agencies, the agencies he is familiar with received between a 5-10% cut. The OAC Board members should be talking to the governor and pressing the importance of the arts. The governor has been supportive and has shown he understands the importance of the arts since he took office. The OAC Board members will have the opportunity to talk to the governor as he will be raising money across the state to help the House and Senate effort and the presidential candidate. We need to focus on what the cuts do to us and the importance of what we do instead of focusing on being treated unfairly compared to the exempt agencies. Ms. Saxbe added that we are going to have many opportunities to lobby the governor but we will also have many opportunities to put in a good word with other legislative members.

Ms. Henahan expressed that Ms. Barsdate said it best when she explained that while we should talk about the importance of the arts to society, we must also talk about what is unique, important and vital about the public support of the arts at the state level.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

State of the Arts Report (SOAR II)

Ms. Campbell-Zopf stated that the OAC was in the process of planning and implementing SOAR II. Periodical surveys are a part of our legislative mandate that directs the agency to periodically study the health and vitality of the arts and culture in the state so that the OAC can make informed policy decisions. The SOAR committee has developed a phase one timeline and conducted a literature search on key terms such as economic development, social capital, arts education and cultural vitality. Ms. Barsdate, chief program and planning officer at NASAA, has advised the committee on which states have or are doing credible research that should be considered. Matthew Pena, arts policy information coordinator at Americans for the Arts has also offered suggestions on research organizations and provided examples of request for proposals that could be used as starting points when the agency begins to solicit proposals from research firms. We have researched other state arts agency's Web sites and reviewed their environmental scans, strategic plans, community involvement processes including listening tours, and other types of work that may be useful in our SOAR II process. Ms. Campbell-Zopf added that the committee's work has slowed because the agency is waiting to learn from OBM what our new budget figures for FY2008/2009 will be. We hope to complete SOAR II in a more compressed timeline than in the past. Depending on the state's budget situation and how that might influence our process, we hope to finish the study sometime between the end of calendar year 2009 and the summer of 2010.

Listening Tour Progress Report

Ms. Campbell-Zopf reviewed, as part of our Strategic Plan, that the OAC intends to conduct a statewide Listening Tour that involves at least 500 citizens and constituents. The tour was created to discover the needs and aspirations of a broad range of Ohioans, including those connected to the arts and culture. The format for the Listening Tour has three major components: 1) in the morning, small teams of OAC staff members will meet with elected officials and community leaders to discuss the arts and culture and other issues that are of importance to them and their communities; 2) in the afternoon, the OAC staff will meet with representatives from the arts and cultural sectors to better understand their needs and hopes for their organizations and those they serve; and 3) in the evening, the OAC staff will convene a town meeting to hear what is important to citizens and learn what role the arts and culture can play in addressing what is important in their communities. Ms. Campbell-Zopf explained that the OAC has never done anything quite like this before and that the tour will help us better connect the agency's work to the needs and aspirations of citizens and help us lay the ground work for our next strategic plan. Due to the budget situation, this is another project where we will need to determine ways to continue the activities with reduced funds. Ms. Campbell-Zopf added that Ms. Kessler suggested that we conduct these meetings over the course of two years instead of trying to finish them this year. There was consensus that this was a good strategy.

Ms. Henahan felt that this project was important to complete in some form. We might not visit as many cities and may supplement the Listening Tour with a survey of some sort to reach the number of people we hoped to. The information we will collect through these tours is not only important to SOAR II but also to the development of our new strategic plan in 2010. Also, it is clear that one of the pieces that the NEA looks at favorably is that state arts agencies garner broad public involvement in their planning processes through these kinds of events. Even before the budget situation was fully understood, the staff had worked hard to develop a tight project budget. Careful attention was paid to keeping the staff teams small and production and travel expenses to a minimum. The original budget was \$26,000.

Guidelines Working Group Progress Report

Ms. Campbell-Zopf convened a *Guidelines* working group consisting of a small representative group of staff members. This is the first time representatives from each office have sat down together to review the *Guidelines* in their entirety. In the past, the writing and editing of our *Guidelines* has been the primary responsibility of one or two staff members. She added that this was also the first in-depth review of the *Guidelines* since the "new" funding programs and OLGA were initiated in September 2004. We thought this was a good time to take a look at the document and identify any inconsistencies and overarching problems and to clarify some language to make it more readable for our constituents. Ms. Barsdate provided the staff with some solid approaches and tools to use that will ensure our *Guidelines* language is aligned with what we are asking for in our application materials, scoring criteria and final report. It was a very good session for the entire staff and its concepts will be put to immediate use to strengthen every part of our grant-making process.

National Endowment for the Arts Accessibility Workbook

Ms. Campbell-Zopf explained that in accepting a grant from the NEA, the OAC is required to be in compliance with federal laws including Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In the fall, the NEA suggested that state arts agencies complete the "Section 504 Self-Evaluation Workbook." This workbook is designed to assist NEA grant recipients as they evaluate the accessibility of their programs and activities to visitors, constituents and employees with disabilities. We were able to complete the survey without too many problems because we have been closely reviewing accessibility issues during the past year. Dan Katona, Katherine Eckstrand and Kim Turner from the Office of Organizational Services and Community Development have worked hard to complete the workbook, which turned out to be a great educational process for the agency. It was good to be able to answer the same kind of questions and go through the same process as our constituents. Also, Peter Beyer from the Office of Information Technology has worked diligently to make the OAC Web site accessible to everyone with recent attention being given to individuals who have visual impairments.

GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Kathy Signorino, program coordinator, Individual Creativity Office, led the Council Board members through the FY2008 Individual Excellence Award recommendations awarded during the December 3-4 and 11-12, 2008 panel meetings.

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Ginger Warner, that we, the Ohio Arts Council Board, approve the Individual Excellence Award panel 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.**

GRANT RATIFICATIONS

Ms. Campbell-Zopf led the Council Board members through the ratifications of the grants that have been awarded by staff since the prior Council meeting on September 27, 2007. During the Finance Committee meeting this morning, Mr. Schorgl asked if any of these ratifications were going to change as a result of budget cuts and which ones are going to remain the same, and he suggested that this be a provisional vote.

Mr. Schorgl stepped out of the room due to a conflict of interest with one of the applications.

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Charlotte Kessler, to ratify grants awarded in Artists with Disabilities, Arts Access, Arts Partnership, Capacity Building, International Partnership and Special Organizations subject to the 8.75% cut. **Motion passed with one abstention.**

Mr. Schorgl returned to the room.

OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Kessler commented that it is very likely that the budget for the NEA will not be voted on. We will continue to get the same funding award that we have been getting. There is no reason to stop lobbying or being persuasive though on behalf of the NEA.

Ms. Henahan directed the Board members' attention to the agency's new program brochure. This is the first time in 15 years that the agency has put out a program brochure. The brochure was already at the printers when the governor's budget reductions came into play.

Ms. Warner reviewed the attendance policy that is in place for accepting a Governor's Award put forth by the Council. It states that the winner must be present to accept the award. This year, the Awards Committee named an individual to receive the Irma Lazarus award but did not bestow that award because that person was not able to attend. Ms. Warner asked the Board to reconsider this requirement. For one to receive an Irma Lazarus award they must have national and/or international prominence. Ms. Warner believes that someone of that stature might not have availability to be in the state at the time the award is given and should not be punished for that fact. She believes that the OAC is hurting itself and the stature of the arts by not presenting that award to our most accomplished arts professionals.

After a full discussion, the Board members suggested that the OAC staff research this further and convene the Awards Committee members during the June Council meeting to discuss this matter.

MOTION by Jeff Rich, seconded by Sheila Markley Black, to adjourn the Ohio Arts Council Board meeting. Motion passed without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.


Susan Saxbe, Chair


Sheila Markley Black, Vice-Chair