

Indiana Arts Commission
Quarterly Business Meeting
Friday, June 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m. (ET)
Indiana State Library and Zoom
315 E. Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204
Alberta Barker, Chair

Members Present: Lisa Abbott, Alberta Barker, Chad Bolser, Rêna Bradley, Ruth Ann Cowling, Dave Haist, Greg Hull, Walter Knabe, Laurie McRobbie, Kelsey Peaper, Anne Valentine

Members Present via Zoom: Jake Oakman, Sofia Souto, Dusty Stemer

Members absent:

IAC Staff Present: Jordan Adams, Connie Brahm, Stephanie Haines, Miah Michaelsen, Chapin Schnick, Paige Sharp, Wendy Tran (Intern), Lucia Walker (Intern)

Guests: Kim Wadholm (Region 9 partner)

MINUTES

1. Call to Order. Indiana Arts Commission Chair, Alberta Barker, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Ms. Barker thanked Commissioner Walter Knabe and Kelle Knabe for hosting the Commission at Knabe Studios the previous evening. IAC Executive Director Miah Michaelsen called roll. All in attendance as listed above. New Commissioner Rêna Bradley and Governor's summer interns Lucia Walker and Wendy Tran introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Agenda and March 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Ms. Barker presented the agenda and March 11, 2022, meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Laurie McRobbie motioned to approve. Commissioner Greg Hull seconded. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The motion carried.

3. Consent Agenda. Ms. Barker presented the consent agenda and noted the items for action and submitted reports. All items included memos and supporting materials for Commission review (attached). Ms. Barker asked if any member would like to move a consent agenda item to the full meeting. Hearing none, she called to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Dusty Stemer motioned to approve. Commissioner Jake Oakman seconded. By roll call vote, the motion carried. Items approved and reports submitted are listed here:

a. Items Submitted for Commission Approval

- i. FY22 Year to date Financials
- ii. Cultural Trust Draw
- iii. Designation of contract signing authority
- iv. Officer Reaffirmation for FY23
- v. Arts Learning
- vi. Region 12 Arts Partnership

b. Reports for review:

- i. Cultural Trust Report
- ii. Communications Report
- iii. Commissioner and Staffing update
- iv. Creative Aging Webinar with FSSA
- v. On-Ramp 2.0 and Next Level Training
- vi. Indiana Communities Institute
- vii. Partnerships

4. Committee Reports

a. Committee on the Future.

i. FY23 Budget. Ms. Michaelsen presented the proposed FY23 budget for Commission review and approval. A memo and delineated line-item budget were provided for review (attached). Ms. Michaelsen noted this is the 2nd year of a 2-year budget cycle in which the state appropriation and 2% reserve will remain the same as in FY22. Ms. Michaelsen reminded the Commission that the reserve is the amount held and not spent by the agency. She continued that the federal award from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has increased from the previous year and totals \$64K. She noted that legislation requires the NEA to give the states 40% of their budget. Since the NEA received an increase, all state agencies

also received an increase. Ms. Michaelsen continued that because the agency uses federal funds to backfill salaries and agency staff has not been at full capacity, the remainder of those federal dollars will be used to meet the increased Arts Organization Support (AOS) and Arts Project Support (APS) Grant demand. Ms. Michaelsen noted that because staff will be at full capacity in FY23 we do not expect to be able to move federal funding to meet grant demand again. Ms. Michaelsen continued onto other streams of revenue which includes the addition of \$85K from the Department of Education (DOE) to support Arts Integration workshops and fellowships. In addition, the agency will draw the remainder of the Hoffman Trust funds to support this program. In other revenue, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) has given the agency their remaining Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) funds to develop Next Level training for creative entrepreneurs. Ms. Michaelsen noted that this \$150K investment is a testament to the great work that programs can do; We've shown them we can work smart, fast, and can get them connected to the creative entrepreneur audience. Ms. Michaelsen also noted the agency will be pulling \$5K from the Trust for APS grants designated Arts Trust Projects. These designees will be spotlighted in communications to better tell the story of the Arts Trust License plate. She noted that when we tell the story of the Trust there is more investment in the Trust. Ms. Michaelsen continued that the biggest difference in revenue from FY22 is that the agency will not have American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. She continued to note the budget expenses. She brought attention to the staff line item decrease from FY22 which included projections to add an extra staff position. She noted that in FY23 we will not be adding any additional staff so that the agency can instead focus on getting current staff where they need to be. In grant funding, it was noted that AOS was reduced across the board by 5% and APS requests have been filled to between 75% and 88% of the ask. The agency will also be investing \$65K in all Cultural Districts. She emphasized the need for the agency to get back into working with artists and communities. She reminded the Commission that they decided to pull back on funding communities and individual artists in FY20/21 due to the 15% budget reduction so that we could ensure the survival of arts organizations through the pandemic. It was noted that we will be providing capacity building and further investigation into where we need to be with these groups. She continued that the agency will also be increasing investment to the Regional Arts Partners (RAPs) in recognition of their increased workload. She noted the budget line-item handout needed to be edited to exclude the Hoffman Trust amount. Commissioner Ruth Ann Cowling asked for clarification on the arts integration program fellowships. Ms. Michaelsen noted the budgeted funds would be for both the fees to provide the workshop and the fellowships of which most of the funding would go. Ms. Barker asked for any further questions. Hearing none, she called to approve the FY23 budget as submitted. Commissioner Dave Haist motioned. Ms. Cowling seconded. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The motion carried. The roll call vote did not include Commissioners Oakman, Souto, or Stemer who attended the meeting virtually. Per Indiana meeting law remote members cannot vote on the adoption of the annual budget.

ii. Strategic Plan. Commissioner Chad Bolser provided an overview of where the Commission is currently positioned with regard to the strategic bridge plan and preparation for the next strategic planning process. He noted the planning process will start in January 2023 with a new plan set to start on January 1, 2024. He complimented staff and Commissioners for the transition of the strategic plan to a bridge plan with intentional flexibility and understanding of the need to transition quickly if need be. Ms. Michaelsen presented the proposed planning stages, noting differences between the past planning process for the 2017 – 2021 strategic plan. She noted the Commission will be implementing a strategic framework as opposed to a plan to remain nimble. She further noted this planning process will include a 6-member advisory group as opposed to a 30-member group to remain lean and focused. She added Mr. Bolser has agreed to be on the group and she opened the invitation to any other Commissioners who would like to be involved in that capacity. The proposed group will be brought before the Commission in September and will include diverse representation. Ms. Michaelsen continued that during the last planning process, the agency utilized a consultant to help with facilitating and wrangling the large advisory group. She proposed instead to utilize a consultant later in the process to help facilitate writing the plan framework. She added that we may bring another consultant in for data analysis as well. Another difference of note is that the creative sector will be included, and we may ask them to engage on our behalf in their communities. She added that a plan will be developed for this component and funding provided. It was further noted that the agency is in conversation with the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) on completing a statewide climate perception survey. This survey is important because we know how our grantees are doing but we don't know how those we don't serve are fairing. She further noted we will be focused on strategic impacts and building the metrics as we build the plan. Ms. McRobbie questioned how the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) work will integrate into this planning process. Ms. Michaelsen noted that the work of the equity consultants will be brought into this process since they will be engaged with grantees and other stakeholders. She continued that the bulk of this work, as relates to stakeholder engagement, will be complete by the time the planning process begins. Ms. Michaelsen asked for

any concerns about this process. Hearing none she went on to note she and other agency staff members will be out in communities and many of these informal conversations will be with non-arts sector community members. Ms. Michaelsen noted she will be specifically speaking at Accelerate Indiana Municipality (AIM) Roundtables throughout the summer where she will be meeting with the AIM community of mostly elected officials and community leaders. She posed the question if there would be questions the commission would like her to ask while she is out in the field, gathering informal, pre-planning information. Mr. Knabe noted he'd like to percolate on the question and get back to the Commission. Ms. Valentine suggested exploring the concept of whether people understand the connection of quality of place and the arts. Ms. Stemer, noted that Ms. Michaelsen is good at explaining the Commission's work in simplified terms. She added that sometimes in rural communities it is hard for people to understand that art is more than painting and don't realize it encompasses so much more. She suggested starting the conversation on gleaning what they think art is in their community since they may not understand how it creates community involvement or touches other areas like economic development. Mr. Haist continued that there is certainly a need to understand how we can be more impactful in communities, especially in rural parts of the state. He continued that making sure people are educated on what we do is important but understanding what we can do differently to have more impact on them would be interesting to hear. Ms. Bradley noted she would like to understand the unsung assets in a community: What is an unsung asset that doesn't get enough shine or resources and what resources could help that particular asset realize its potential? Ms. McRobbie noted understanding who the key partners are in communities would be helpful. She commented that she is particularly struck by how many times she has had to point out to big companies and the business sector that the arts have a huge economic impact in the state. She noted for many of the economic drivers in the state it is not on their radar. She noted perhaps that communities have a better sense of who the people are who are going to support the arts in their communities indirectly and then perhaps other partnerships can be explored. Ms. Cowling responded that providing the kind of information Ms. McRobbie is touching on to the Regional Arts Partners would be beneficial. Mr. Hull questioned if the agency provides data on financial impacts since the arts are a barometer for quality of life. Ms. Michaelsen noted the agency does. Ms. Barker added that when community leaders recruit business to the community, art is not even mentioned and it needs to be. She suggested as Miah and staff talk with community leaders the economic impact piece be brought to the forefront. Mr. Hull added that population retention is also a piece for smaller communities and part of the conversation as well. Mr. Bolser noted, in response to Ms. Barker's comment, that including the arts is not a tenant of a framework for business retention and expansion programs and economic development circles. It is not seen as something you can put into a plan and present to potential businesses. Ms. Bradley questioned if the input process would include people under the age of 18. She noted if not, the Commission may want to consider it since they are the future of art and community and are on the cutting edge. She added that growing an arts community that is conducive to them is important. Ms. Michaelsen noted this may unlock what we do with the creative sector in the framework planning process. Ms. Abbott suggested understanding who the key formal and informal influencers in a community are is important since it may not be in a prominent vein but could be someone who is running the community food bank, for example. Ms. Cowling suggested using examples of small communities that have become more vibrant through the arts, and how they decoded that, would be beneficial for communities to see. Mr. Hull suggested understanding what we can do to amplify a community through a *not for them* but *with* them model. Ms. McRobbie questioned what the agency is doing with the IDDC. IAC Director of Marketing, Connie Brahm, reported that the arts and culture passport, which is an asset that will be utilized to direct people to 200 arts and culture sites located in all counties of the state, will be launched soon. Ms. Michaelsen noted that this partnership is just the beginning of the work the agency could do with the IDDC. She also noted the new Indiana brand launched recently and there is a statewide mural program that will include this new branding. Ms. Michaelsen thanked the Commission for the input in this discussion and noted some of this may fill in some of our initial conversations with the advisory group. Ms. Barker called to approve the planning overview as presented. Ms. McRobbie motioned. Ms. Valentine seconded. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The motion carried.

b. Programs, Grants and Services

i. **FY23 Funding Process and Recommendations.** Ms. Sharp presented the FY23 funding recommendations for Arts Organizations Support, Arts Project Support, and Regional Arts Partners Administrative fees for Commission approval. (Handout attached). She noted that 415 organizations were being recommended for funding and noted increased administrative fees as the partnership is extremely valuable in the state as the network to get into rural areas and communicate with the field. Ms. Sharp provided further details noting the increased demand with 12 new arts organizations, 57 new APS applicants, and a total of 41 additional grantees. Because of this demand, funding awards for AOS were reduced

by 5% across the board to accommodate growth and APS awards were funded at 78-80% of requests across all regions. Ms. Sharp continued on the rationale for the changes. She noted the agency needs to get back to providing resources for artists and communities. She reminded the Commission that Arts in the Parks and Historic Sites (APHS) and Individual Artist Program grants were paused during the pandemic to ensure the ongoing survival of our arts organizations and art projects. She further punctuated the need for equity, noting that many of the same organizations are funded year to year. Thus, a policy for APS was put in to place that prioritized organizations that have not been funded previously. She noted the success of this policy since it equated to 48 priority APS funded out of 175. Ms. Sharp continued on the importance of balancing other priority areas for the Commission such as communities, artists, arts education, and lifelong learning going forward now that we are seeing stability in the field post-pandemic. Ms. Barker asked for any questions. Hearing none, she called to approve the FY23 grants as presented. Mr. Haist motioned. Ms. McRobbie seconded. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The motion carried.

ii. Cultural Districts/Creative Community Pathway. Ms. Sharp noted the Commissioner-led study group that met to begin answering key questions being asked about the Cultural District program is recommending that the agency pause the program until key questions are answered. It was noted understanding what current Cultural Districts and those interested in seeking this designation hope to achieve is one component. In addition, looking into questions about limiting the number of districts, the number of years a district is designated, and exploring a recertification process are also in need of discussion. It was also noted that answering these key questions before moving forward with potential legislation that would have a funding mechanism for the CDs is integral. Ms. Sharp noted a consultant is under contract to gain this feedback. This information with an evaluation of the other 18 state cultural district programs will be used to suggest potential change recommendations. Ms. Sharp asked for input from Commissioners. Discussion followed on earlier designated districts and newer districts and understanding the value proposition for those in addition to those who would seek the designation now. A discussion was also had on the designation as an early recognition and investment tool. Ms. McRobbie commented that thinking about what we mean by culture is important and may not necessarily mean an arts lens. Wabash was used as an example in that culture may mean the culture of *community binding* in bringing back energy to the downtown on a Friday night, not necessarily the art lens of culture specifically. Ms. Cowling questioned if the districts are in communication with each other to share ideas. Ms. Sharp noted they do gather as a consortium where they share ideas. Ms. Sharp noted that the IN Communities Institute at Ball State is helping us to create a curriculum for communities as well.

iii. Management Performance Hub (MPH) Dashboard. IAC Grants Manager Chapin Schnick presented information on the MPH dashboard noting that this is a state agency the IAC has been working with for over several years. She noted this dashboard will be coming to fruition in the next couple of months and will provide transparency on IAC grant funding with searchable data back through 2017, which is when the agency started utilizing the online granting system. She noted other data will be available as the agency has the capacity to backfill that information. She added, that ultimately this site will allow any visitor to our website to see a visual representation of the agency's grants and filter down to specific options through fiscal years, organizations, regions, and urban/rural data. Ms. Sharp added this will be a powerful resource to see where we need to forge relationships and for legislators to see where funding is going. Ms. Abbott questioned when the agency would be communicating the rollout of this dashboard. It was noted that since the agency is not clear on the timeline for when the dashboard will be up and running it may be beneficial to communicate this to coincide with the biannual report with the option to use the tool to see data beyond the report information. Ms. Michaelsen noted that there is also the possibility of providing a training session for the field to be able to use this tool to full effect.

iv. Equity. Ms. Sharp reminded the Commission that we have been in the process of re-strategizing our grant programs through an equity lens. She noted the Commission is bringing the field along in this process with the help of equity consultants Anne Jinsoo Preston, Levon Williams, Kai Fierle-Hedrick, and Benjamin Alfaro. Anne and Levon joined the meeting remotely. Ms. Preston provided an overview of the project noting that she is excited about engaging with constituencies to make more equitable policy structures for the agency. Mr. Williams noted he is an inclusion and anti-racism consultant primarily for arts organizations and is looking forward to supporting this organization as it leans into living out its commitment to operating in more inclusive and accessible ways. They provided an overview of the community engagement sessions to gather feedback from statewide constituencies and identify equity needs for current programs and grant-making. She noted these sessions will include current grantees and those who have not been served by the existing grantmaking infrastructure. She continued that making sure participants know their feedback is impacting the work is important and along with the input sessions there will also be "checking the work sessions" where contributors can check in and react prior to finalization. The sessions will engage constituents in funding web mapping, facilitated feedback, and review of existing policies, protocols, and history of grantmaking specifically for Arts

Organization Support. She noted mapping will help in identifying the arts ecosystem, mapping power, and resources and how those flow, along with influence, money, and data. She noted the maps are living documents that reflect a specific perspective of folks in the room at that time, so, these maps will grow with each session and help us to understand equity and inequity and unearth individuals and groups who have not been served by this grantmaking program. It was noted these sessions will be taking place during the month of June with the feedback on the draft framework scheduled for mid-July. Ms. Abbot questioned how the agency is continuing to promote sign-up opportunities and recruit participants to ensure broad representation. Ms. Brahm noted that a key piece is noting what perspectives we do not have in the session which can help us then reach out to specific groups. Ms. Abbott also questioned if commissioners would be equipped with assets to amplify. Ms. Brahm noted that the agency is working on equipping the RAPs with language for registration which will be shared with commissioners to share in those networks as well. Mr. Haist noted that every county has an economic development agency or community foundation and suggested reaching out to those entities to let them know what we are doing might be beneficial. Ms. McRobbie further noted that libraries are everywhere and may be another resource. Ms. Sharp noted that there are certainly those who are reticent to take part in this process and personal invitations will be necessary to make them feel included. She noted that through registration questions on organization, geographic area, etc. are asked. She added that this process is specifically for AOS but is an iterative process that starts with our most identifiable groups and then moves into other constituencies. Ms. Abbott noted that this is a great first step and it will of course take a while to build some psychological safety around this process. Mr. Williams noted they are excited to connect with those in the arts ecosystem and unearth those who have not been connected. He noted there are also conversations on how to include other languages and start having those conversations. Mr. Hull noted in response to Ms. Michaelson's state address at the beginning of this process that it was great to see the number of people who attended who were willing to share the challenges they are facing. Ms. McRobbie added that asking people to weigh in on that certainly conveyed that they are integral to this work and was a smart way to launch.

5. Regional Arts Partnership

a. Consortium Report. RAP co-chair Ann Fields Monical provided an update on the consortium, noting that the group meet in person for the first time since the pandemic. She noted discussion was had on capacity-building needs in the field and the FY23 paneling process. She noted while the group has met virtually bi-weekly through the pandemic they had the chance to meet 3 new RAP managers from Nickel Plate, Columbus, and South Shore Arts. She noted the consortium is excited to support the commission in their equity work and help with communications. She noted that 9 of the partners are working with the IAC and SBDC to plan statewide opportunities for the Next Level creative entrepreneurship training. She noted there will be a great diversity that will be served through these workshops.

6. Consent Agenda Items moved to full agenda (if any). No consent agenda items were moved to further discussion.

7. Committee Assignments (Miah). Ms. Michaelson noted she would email commissioners about committee and study group opportunities.

8. Old Business and New Business. Ms. Barker noted that commissioners are being given thank you notes to send to panelists in their regions to show appreciation for their help in our transparent processes. It was noted this was Ms. Abbott's last meeting as she would be moving out of state. Ms. Barker thanked her noting while her term was short she had a huge impact.

9. Adjournment of Quarterly Meeting. Ms. Barker called to adjourn. Ms. McRobbie motioned. Mr. Oakman seconded. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The meeting ended at 11:20 am.