

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION  
PROGRAMS, GRANTS & SERVICES COMMITTEE**

August 28, 2014

Arts Commission Office, 100 N. Senate Avenue, Room N505  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Nancy Stewart, Chair

Minutes

Members present: Pam Hicks, Linda Levell, Nancy Stewart

Members via teleconference: Allen Platt, Al Rent, Micah Smith, Trevor Yager

Members absent: none

Arts Commission staff present: Michelle Anderson, Sarah Fronczek, Dennis Hardin, Becca Hopson, Lewis Ricci, Paige Sharp

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Commissioner Nancy Stewart convened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. **Consent Agenda.** Commissioner Pam Hicks moved to adopt the consent agenda, consisting of the agenda for today's meeting and the minutes from the June 20, 2014 meeting of the Programs, Grants & Services Committee. Commissioner Linda Levell seconded the motion. Roll call as follows

Hicks	Yes
Levell	Yes
Platt	Yes
Rent	Yes
Smith	Yes
Stewart	Yes
Yager	Yes

The motion passed.

3. **Community Cultural Planning Consultancies Update.** Arts Commission Deputy Director Michelle Anderson reported on the conclusions of the several Community Cultural Planning Consultancies awarded by the Commission to the towns of Decatur, Evansville, Lawrence, Madison, Muncie, Nashville, Shelbyville, Terre Haute, Westfield and Zionsville. All of the on-site visits have been completed by contracted consultants Sharon Canaday, Miah Michaelson and Sara Peterson, and the written reports are in the process of being completed.

**4. Cultural Districts Update.** Arts Commission Director of Programs Paige Sharp reported that applications for the state-wide Cultural Districts designation are being received for review. The review panel will meet in November. All of the currently designated communities will convene for a meeting in Nashville, Indiana on September 12.

**5. Capacity Building Program Updates.** Arts Commission Executive Director Lewis Ricci reported on the “Come Together” one-day colloquium held on August 8. There were more than 100 participants and the program was very well-received. The next colloquium will be in Munster, Indiana on October 9 – 10, and will be the third “Creating Vibrant Communities” program. South Shore Arts will host the event, which will be presented in cooperation with the Michigan Arts Council. There will be three areas of focus: Cultural Districts, Historic Restoration and Preservation, and Public Art. Mr. Ricci acknowledged the efforts of Arts Commission Communications Manager Emily Hellmuth in coordinating all of the previous colloquia.

Mr. Ricci also remarked that the recent ad-hoc committee of Commissioners reviewing Arts Commission resources hatched an idea to sponsor a “bubble-up” form of colloquium, with direct input from participants as to topics, likely to be presented every two years, alternating with the presentation of the Governor’s Arts Awards. Commissioner Stewart suggested the topic of Audience Development, and Commissioner Pam Hicks agreed that it would be a popular topic.

Mr. Ricci commented that the Arts Commission has developed a wide-ranging reputation over the last two years for presenting high-quality programs under the umbrella of Capacity Building and Community Development. Both of these objectives are drawn directly from the current Strategic Plan.

**6. Arts in Education Update.** Arts Commission Community Development Manager Sarah Fronczek reported on a new proposed initiative for arts in education (handouts attached), to be named Partnering Arts, Communities and Education (PACE). The program was developed “to assist elementary schools and artists/arts organizations in establishing long-term, in-depth and sustainable partnerships for the purpose of impacting student growth and achievement through the extended and connected arts and literary experiences.” The pilot program is expected to begin in the fall semester of 2015, involving three to five elementary schools which are performing below the state average on passing rates for standardized tests. Partial funding for the program will be drawn from the Cultural Trust fund. Commissioner Stewart congratulated Ms. Fronczek for her good work in developing the new program.

**7. LEAD Conference/Accessibility Update.** Arts Commission Community Development Manager Becca Hopson reported on her attendance at the recent Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD) conference, held in Chicago.

**8. Staffing Update.** Mr. Ricci reported that Paige Sharp, former Arts Commission Grants, Technology and Research Manager, has accepted the position of Director of

Programs, effective immediately. Her former position is now vacant. The Arts Commission's Governor's Summer Intern, Bridget Eckert, has been approved to continue working part-time for an indefinite period. Arts Commission Communications Manager Emily Hellmuth has announced her resignation, effective August 29.

**9. Discussion on Mission Eligibility for Operating Support.** Ms. Sharp opened a discussion concerning the eligibility of certain organizations to receive Arts Operating Support (AOS) grants from the Arts Commission. Intended to provide operating support for arts organizations, these grants are attractive to other organizations whose primary mission is not necessarily "the arts", to the extent that some are considering amending their mission statements to become eligible. A discussion was begun among Commissioners earlier this year, and the Regional Arts Partners were brought into the discussion at their last consortium meeting, where they also expressed concern over organizations which come under their purview as applicants for these grants. The Partners suggest providing a more specific definition of what "arts organization" means, and also suggest incorporating an assessment form as part of the application process, to be reviewed by a panel of Commissioners to establish eligibility. Commissioner Allen Platt also suggests incorporating a questionnaire with specific reference to the scope of involvement in the arts. This subject will be brought up for further discussion at the next meeting of the full Commission on September 12.

**10. Bicentennial Update.** Mr. Ricci reported that all four of the Arts Commission's proposed projects related to the Indiana Bicentennial 2016 – 2017 were approved for inclusion by the Bicentennial Commission. However, funding must be secured for the Arts in the Parks proposal and the Indiana Masterpieces proposal, hopefully with public funds from the legislature. Funding for the Bicentennial Governor's Arts Awards will be sought from mostly private donations. The approved Bicentennial Arts Projects is not expected to require any additional funding, as it only entails branding of an ongoing program with the "Bicentennial" moniker.

**11. Old Business.** There was no old business.

**12. New Business.** There was no new business.

**13. Adjourn.** Commissioner Hicks moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Micah Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.