

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION  
QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING**

June 20, 2014

Indiana Government Center, Conference Room A  
402 W. Washington Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Trevor Yager, Chair

Minutes

Members present: Kathy Anderson, Gil Cárdenas, Karen Ellerbrook, Jon Ford, Susan Hardwick, Pam Hicks, Jeff Kirk, Allen Platt, Al Rent, Micah Smith, Sherry Stark, Nancy Stewart, Trevor Yager

Members via teleconference: Suzie Rentschler

Members absent: Linda Levell

Arts Commission staff present: Michelle Anderson, Bridget Eckert, Sarah Fronczek, Dennis Hardin, Becca Hopson, Lewis Ricci, Paige Sharp, Rex Van Zant

Guests: Rusty Briel (Indiana Coalition for the Arts), Lamont Chandler (MSK), Olusola Egunyomi (State Budget Agency), Susan Mendenhall (Regional Arts Partners), Shannon Safar (MSK), Dr. Robert Sabol (Purdue University), Mike Sherman (MSK)

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Commission Chair Trevor Yager convened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
2. **Consent Agenda.** Commissioner Sherry Stark moved to adopt the consent agenda, consisting of the agenda for this meeting and the minutes from the March 21, 2014 meeting of the full Commission. Commissioner Pam Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. **Chair and Executive Committee Report.**

A. Chair's Report

1. Arts Commission Executive Director Lewis Ricci reported that he has met with the Indiana Bicentennial Commission twice in the recent past, and has presented the four proposals for Arts Commission participation (handouts attached). The program sub-committee of the Bicentennial Commission has approved all of the proposals, pending the necessary funding. The proposals include: a) branding of arts project grants as "bicentennial" grants for FY 2015, 2016 and 2017; this proposal will require no additional funding; b) branding of the 2015-2016 Governor's Arts Awards as the "bicentennial" edition; the Bicentennial Commission plans to add the monetary goal

of \$50,000 to its fundraising; c) specified Arts Commission grants to bring arts programs and services to state parks and state forests; funding will need to be identified outside of the Arts Commission's current budget; d) "Indiana Masterpiece" grants for calendar year 2016; funding will need to be identified outside of the Arts Commission's current budget. Commission Chair Trevor Yager offered "kudos" to Mr. Ricci and other Arts Commission staff for their efforts in identifying and promoting these Bicentennial proposals.

2. Ballots were distributed for Commissioners to vote for officers for FY 2015. The Arts Commission Executive Committee has recommended the slate of Trevor Yager as Chair, Pam Hicks as Vice-Chair, and Kathy Anderson as Secretary. Ballots were collected and tallied. The recommended slate was elected unanimously.

3. Arts Commission Deputy Director Michelle Anderson presented a handout (attached) showing the FY 2014 budget, current through May 31, 2014. Ms. Anderson presented a handout (attached) showing the projected FY 2014 year-end budget. Ms. Anderson presented a handout (attached) showing the proposed FY 2015 budget for the Arts Commission, which includes a mandated 4.5 % holdback from the legislative appropriation. Commissioner Jeff Kirk moved to approve the FY 2015 budget. Commissioner Sherry Stark seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4. Mr. Ricci reported that the Arts Commission ad-hoc committee to review resource allocations met for the first time by teleconference. The committee consists of Commissioners Al Rent, Nancy Stewart, and Trevor Yager. Topics discussed included perceived gaps in services offered, and ways to combine or "bundle" services, which may include an annual state-wide Arts Day to coincide with activities conducted by the Indiana Coalition for the Arts; another topic was a possible arts education summit.

5. Mr. Ricci opened a discussion concerning the criteria currently being used to determine if an applying organization is qualified to receive an operating support grant from the Arts Commission. Current criteria include: a) use of the word "art" or "arts" in the mission statement; b) no other state funding; c) verified not-for-profit or government entity. Commissioner Micah Smith expressed concern that some organizations, while meeting the current criteria, do not devote an acceptable amount of effort and budget to promotion of the arts, and should not qualify for operating support. Other Commissioners agreed. The matter will be referred to the Programs, Grants & Services Committee for further consideration and recommendations before the next cycle of operating support grant applications.

#### **4. Executive Director's Report.**

1. Mr. Ricci introduced Bridget Eckert, who has joined the Arts Commission staff for the summer months as a Governor's Intern. Mr. Ricci reported that the interview process is underway to fill the staff vacancy of Director of Programs.

2. Mr. Ricci reported that the recent Arts Commission colloquium “Leveraging Creativity” was well attended. He especially lauded the Indiana University Maurer School of Business, “one of the best partners ever – awesome”. The next colloquium, “Come Together” will be held August 8, 2014 on the campus of Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (handout attached). The third Arts Commission-sponsored Economic Development Colloquium in cooperation with Ball State University will be held in the fall of 2014 in northwest Indiana. Mr. Ricci reported that all of the Economic Development Community Consultancies for 2014 will be finished by the end of June.

3. Arts Commission staff member Paige Sharp reported that all of the current designated Cultural Districts are in negotiations with sculptor William Galloway to plan and schedule delivery and installation of his donated commemorative sculptures.

4. Mr. Ricci reported on a proposal for a new arts education program, in partnership with the Indiana Department of Education (handout attached). Initially, the program would identify one under-performing elementary school in each Region, to implement a multi-year comprehensive arts strategy for overall school improvement. Partial funding will be drawn from the Cultural Trust fund.

5. Mr. Ricci reported that the State of Indiana, along with many other states, is looking at alternatives for the on-line grant application system currently in use. He expects that a change to another system will be made eventually, but suitable alternatives are very few, and a change-over may be more than a year away. Mr. Ricci also announced that a report will be delivered at the September Quarterly Business Meeting from the Cultural Districts research project recently completed at Indiana University Bloomington.

Commission Chair Yager deferred other items under Executive Director’s Report, and moved to “IAC Rebranding”. Mr. Ricci introduced Lamont Chandler, Shannon Safar and Mike Sherman from MSK, the advertising company that has been working to provide the Arts Commission with a new logo and “tag line” to replace “Imagine That”. The MSK team showed a PowerPoint presentation which included three final options for a new logo and tag line. Discussion among the Commission followed. Consensus was achieved that “logo #1” depicting a new version of the “Art” character superimposed over a stylized version of the State of Indiana (copy attached), was the preferred logo, along with the tag line “Making the Arts Happen”. Commissioner Kathy Anderson moved to adopt the preferred logo and tag line as the new official logo and tag line for the Indiana Arts Commission. Commissioner Jeff Kirk seconded the motion. The motion passed. Commission Chair Yager thanked the team from MSK for all of their pro-bono work on behalf of the Arts Commission.

Mr. Ricci introduced Olusola “Sola” Egunyomi, from the State Budget Agency, who has been named as the new budget analyst for the Arts Commission.

Commission Chair Yager called for a 15-minute break in the meeting.

## 5. **Committee Reports.**

A. **Programs, Grants & Services Committee.** Committee Chair Nancy Stewart offered thanks to all of the Commissioners who served as grant panel facilitators, and to all of the Arts Commission staff for a successful round of grant reviews. She presented handouts (attached) showing all of the recommended grantees, based on panel scores, in the Individual Artist, Arts Operation Support, Regional Initiative Grants and Traditional Arts Indiana categories. She also presented the recommended allocations for all of the Regional Arts Partners. The final calculations for Arts Operation Support, Traditional Arts Indiana, Regional Initiative Grants, and Regional Block Grants include a 1.5% reduction from the original amounts, reflective of a mandated 4.5% holdback in the FY 2015 budgets for all state agencies. The grants as presented, including the 1.5% reductions, have been recommended for approval by the Programs, Grants & Services Committee and the Executive Committee. Commissioner Allen Platt moved to approve all grants for FY 2015 as presented. Commissioner Micah Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. **Committee on the Future.** Arts Commission Community Development Manager/Arts in Education Coordinator Sarah Fronczek introduced Dr. Robert Sabol of Purdue University, who has concluded a research project to analyze data from the Crawfordsville School system, related to arts education. Dr. Sabol presented copies of the printed version of his report (attached) and discussed his findings. In general, the study shows that students who took classes in the arts scored higher on standardized tests than students who did not take arts classes. Commission Chair Yager thanked Dr. Sabol for “great information”, and Mr. Ricci remarked that it was “food for thought” for a future study committee.

**6. Regional Arts Partners Update.** Susan Mendenhall from Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne, president of the Regional Arts Partners Consortium, gave a brief report. She thanked the Arts Commission staff for its assistance in making the grant paneling process a successful one. She also thanked the Arts Commission for minimizing the impact of the mandatory 4.5% reduction in the state budget. She reported that the Regional Arts Partners “enthusiastically support” the Commission’s Bicentennial proposals.

Mr. Ricci introduced Rusty Briel, Vice-President of the Indiana Coalition for the Arts, who made brief remarks. He thanked the Commission for assisting with national Arts Advocacy Day in Washington DC. He also spoke of plans to enlarge activities at Arts Day at the Statehouse, held annually in the early weeks of a new Legislative session.

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

**8. New Business.** Arts Commission Executive Assistant Dennis Hardin presented a handout (attached) showing the dates of all upcoming business meetings through CY 2015. He noted that the fall 2014 round of meetings, including standing committees and

the quarterly business meeting, will be held one week earlier than previously announced.

10. **Adjourn.** Commission Chair Yager thanked everyone for their participation. Commissioner Nancy Stewart moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Al Rent seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.