

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION  
QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING**

September 12, 2014  
Brown County Public Library  
Nashville, Indiana

Trevor Yager, Chair

Minutes

Members present: Kathy Anderson, Jon Ford, Jeff Kirk, Linda Levell, Allen Platt, Suzie Rentschler, Micah Smith, Sherry Stark, Nancy Stewart, Trevor Yager

Members absent: Gil Cárdenas, Karen Ellerbrook, Susan Hardwick, Pam Hicks, Al Rent

IAC staff present: Michelle Anderson, Sarah Fronczek, Dennis Hardin, Becca Hopson, Lewis Ricci, Paige Sharp, Rex Van Zant

Guests: Judy Hess (former Commissioner), Susan Mendenhall (Regional Arts Partners), Joanna Woronkowicz (Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs)

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Commission Chair Trevor Yager called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
2. **Consent Agenda.** Commissioner Nancy Stewart 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 full Commission. Commissioner Allen Platt seconded the motion. The motion passed.
3. **Chair's Report.**
  - A. Arts Commission Executive Director Lewis Ricci reported that he has been communicating with Indiana First Lady Karen Pence and the Bicentennial Commission about the Arts Commission's participation in the events of the 2016 – 2017 Indiana Bicentennial. Four projects proposed by the Arts Commission have been approved for inclusion by Bicentennial Commission: 1) Branding project grants during the period as "Bicentennial Projects"; 2) "Bringing Arts to Our State Parks"; 3) "Indiana Masterpieces"; 4) Bicentennial edition of the Governor's Arts Awards.
  - B. Arts Commission Deputy Director Michelle Anderson presented a handout (attached) showing the Arts Commission's FY 2014 year-end budget. Ms. Anderson presented a handout (attached) showing the Arts Commission's FY 2015 budget, current through August 31, 2014.

Mr. Ricci presented a handout (attached) describing the budgetary process for the upcoming legislative session. The Office of the Governor has mandated that all state agencies submit budget requests reflecting a 3% reduction from current appropriations. For the Arts Commission, this will amount to a reduction of almost \$89,000.

Mr. Ricci explained the additional budget amounts that will be necessary to fund the approved Bicentennial proposals. If all of the Bicentennial proposals are funded by legislative appropriations, the Arts Commission budget for FY 2016 – 2017 would amount to \$3.4 million per year, which would be \$450,000 more than the current appropriation, but still nearly \$600,000 short of the historically highest appropriation from FY 2008 – 2009.

Mr. Ricci spoke of plans to form an Ad-Hoc Advocacy Advisory Council in the coming months, which would work to establish contacts with key legislators and communicate with them during the budgetary session. The Council will consist of current and former Commissioners, as well as members of the Indiana Coalition for the Arts.

C. Mr. Ricci explained the desirability of employing Requests for Proposals (RFPs) in lieu of grants in three categories of Arts Commission endeavors: 1) the proposed Partnering Arts, Communities, and Education program (PACE); 2) Capacity-Building Field Partnerships; 3) Regional Arts Partner Core Services. In these three categories, organizations would submit RFPs describing services to be rendered instead of submitting grant applications. Mr. Ricci asked the Commission to formally approve the proposal. Commissioner Jeff Kirk moved to approve the use of Requests for Proposals in lieu of grant applications in the three described areas, pending further discussions with constituent parties. Commissioner Linda Levell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

A. Staff Update. Mr. Ricci reported that Grants and Technology Manager Paige Sharp has been selected to fill the vacant position of Director of Programs, effective immediately. The staff move vacates the position of Grants and Technology Manager. Also vacant is the position of Communications Manager, due to the recent resignation of Emily Hellmuth. Mr. Ricci reported that the Arts Commission's Governor's Summer Intern, Bridget Eckert, has been approved to temporarily continue her employment on a part-time basis. She has been concentrating on design work with the new Arts Commission brand as it will apply to the Biennial Report and other print materials. The Arts Commission may be able to employ another part-time person until the two vacancies have been filled.

B. Technical Assistance/Capacity Building. Mr. Ricci reported on the success of the most recent Arts Commission presentation, "Come Together – Arts Boards, Staff and Community Engagement", which was held in cooperation with IUPUI/SPEA Continuing Education on August 8. A third Economic Development Colloquium in cooperation with Ball State University will be held in Munster on October 9 and 10.

Arts Commission Director of Programs Paige Sharp presented a handout (attached) showing the status of the several Economic Development Community Consultancies which have been recently completed.

Mr. Ricci reported on plans to develop a state-wide colloquium in cooperation with the Indiana Coalition for the Arts, with the theme of Indiana Best Practices. This will become a biennial event in alternating years with the Governor's Arts Awards.

C. Mr. Ricci briefly reported on other program and research updates. Arts Commission Community Development Manager/Arts in Education Coordinator Sarah Fronczek presented a handout (attached) showing the guidelines for a proposed program that will be known as "Partnering Arts, Communities and Education" (PACE). The program will seek to partner an under-performing elementary school in Indiana with an arts organization for the purpose of establishing regularly-recurring arts experiences for students throughout the school year.

D. Mr. Ricci reported that he will be attending the annual Arts Midwest Conference on September 17 – 20 in Minneapolis. Four Arts Commission staff members will attend the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies annual conference in New Orleans on November 13 – 15.

**5. Cultural Districts Study.** Commissioner Yager introduced Joanna Woronkovicz, Assistant Professor at the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs in Bloomington. Professor Woronkovicz engaged one of her classes during the past school year to conduct research in each of the Arts Commission's designated Cultural Districts. Professor Woronkovicz explained the methodology of the students' work, which included division of the class into groups of four students each, partnering graduate students with undergraduates wherever possible. Each team visited one of the Cultural Districts with a pre-determined set of criteria to examine. Ms. Woronkovicz explained the validities and limitations of such research. The full reports of her research teams will be made available.

## **6. Committee Reports.**

A. Programs, Grants and Services Committee. PGSC Chair Nancy Stewart reported on the most recent meeting of the committee. She presented a handout (attached) summarizing previous discussions about refining the qualifications for eligibility of organizations to apply for Arts Operating Support (AOS) grants from the Arts Commission. The PGSC has recommended 1) strengthening the definition of "arts organization" in the AOS guidelines; 2) strengthening the criteria for application and review; 3) requiring an "eligibility form" to be submitted by organizations prior to grant application; 4) establishing an "eligibility review committee" comprised of Commissioners to determine the ultimate eligibility of an organization to apply for Arts Operating Support. Commissioner Micah Smith moved to approve the

recommendations of the Programs, Grants and Services Committee. Commissioner Sherry Stark seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Committee on the Future. The minutes from the most recent meeting of the COF were presented (attached). Arts Commission Marketing Director Rex Van Zant presented the Cultural Trust Financial Update (attached) and the Communications report (attached). Mr. Ricci presented a few slides (attached) showing the new Arts Commission logo as it will appear on the agency letterhead and the Arts Trust license plate. The new logo will be formally presented on January 27 as an event in conjunction with Arts Day at the Statehouse.

7. **Regional Arts Partners Update.** Regional Arts Partner Consortium president Susan Mendenhall, from Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne, reported on the most recent meeting of the RAPs. A major topic of discussion was the refinement of the Arts Operating Support (AOS) eligibility requirements.

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

9. **New Business.** Ms. Fronczek asked the Commissioners to approve a change in the Individual Artist Program (IAP), involving the matter of grant modification. Current grant guidelines require that a recipient submit a grant modification for any change in the original grant application budget amounting to more than 10% of any line item. This amount is often trivial and creates an unnecessary additional workload for both the recipient and program staff. She recommended raising the threshold to 20% of the total grant amount. Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the change in the Individual Artist Program, as explained. Commissioner Rentschler seconded the motion. The motion passed.

10. **Closing Comments.** Commissioner Yager extended thanks to Commissioner Kathy Anderson of Nashville, who was the host Commissioner for this meeting. She made arrangements for a walking tour of the Nashville Cultural District on the afternoon prior to the meeting, and she and her husband Gary entertained Commissioners and staff at their residence later in the evening.

Mr. Ricci acknowledged former Commissioner Judy Hess from Corydon, who attended today's meeting. Ms. Hess served two full terms on the Commission through June 2012. A hearty round of applause was given her in recognition of her service to the State of Indiana.

11. **Adjourn.** Commissioner Suzie Rentschler moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Nancy Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.