

Indiana Arts Commission

Executive Session

Friday, June 25, 2021, 9 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. (ET)

Quarterly Business Meeting

Friday, June 25, 2021 9:45 a.m. – noon (ET)

Indiana Government Center South, Room C

Indianapolis

Allen Platt, Chair

MINUTES

Members present: Lisa Abbott, Alberta Barker, Chad Bolser, Ruth Ann Cowling, Greg Hull, Laurie McRobbie, Jake Oakman (was not present for the Executive Session), Kelsey Peaper, Allen Platt, Anne Valentine

Members present electronically (Zoom): Libby Chiu, Dave Haist, Walter Knabe, Sofia Souto, Yolanda Stemer

Staff Present: Connie Brahm, Bridget Eckert, Miah Michaelsen, Stephanie Pfendler, Deanna Poelsma, Lewis Ricci, Chapin Schnick, Anna Tragesser

Staff present electronically (Zoom): Stephanie Haines

Guests: Jamal Smith

- 1) **Executive Session.** The Commission convened a closed executive session at 9:00 am. The closed session was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.
- 2) **Welcome and Introductions.** Indiana Arts Commission Chair Allen Platt called the Quarterly Business Meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. He called for all in attendance to introduce themselves. All in attendance as listed above.
- 3) **Approval of Agenda and March 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Platt presented the June 25, 2021 agenda and the March 12, 2021 meeting minutes and asked for any edits or additions. Hearing none he asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Dave Haist motioned to approve. Commissioner Jake Oakman seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The motion carried.
- 4) **Executive Committee and ED Reports.**
 - a. **Agency Financials.**
 - i. **FY 2021.** IAC Deputy Director Miah Michaelsen presented the fiscal year (FY) 2021 May Year to Date Financial Statement (attached) and noted year end projections. It was reported that the state appropriation will be spent in its entirety with certain federal funds being carried over into FY 2022. It was further noted that remaining funds from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) for the On-Ramp Program and the Leveraging State Investments in Creative Aging (LSICA) program funding would also be carried over into the next fiscal year. Mr. Platt called to approve the FY21 May financials. Commissioner Anne Valentine motioned to approve. Commissioner Laurie McRobbie seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The motion carried.
 - ii. **FY 2022 Budget Presentation.**
 1. **Budget Building Strategy.** IAC Executive Director Lewis Ricci presented a document (attached) outlining the agency's budget building strategy for FY22. It was noted the State announced the state appropriation holdback at 2% for this fiscal year which will equate to a 9% total reduction in the agency's appropriation. Mr. Ricci added that over the years the holdback has ranged from .5% up to 17% during the 2008 recession. He noted the reserve funds for all agencies are inaccessible and revert to the state general fund at the end of the fiscal year. He then went on to present the budget building strategies for the FY22 budget. This included Arts Organization Support (AOS) awards

which will be based on pre-pandemic (FY20) numbers, with a small portion for merit awards for those organizations who have continued exemplary Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (IDEA) and community engagement work through the pandemic year. In addition, suggested uses for the American Rescue Plan (ARP) stimulus funding which will come to the agency directly from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) (\$842,600) were provided with the caveat that the program has yet to be developed. Intentions are that the funds will benefit all AOS organizations in a flat manner, with a small pool of funds for additional arts organizations in the state who do not yet qualify for AOS funding. Mr. Ricci continued that many of these smaller organizations were unearthed through the Arts, Culture and Destination Marketing Organization (ACDMO) grants. In addition, ARP funding is also earmarked for the states through Arts Midwest, and Indiana will therefore receive an additional \$140,000 as a member. It does not currently appear in the budget, as it is yet to be determined if it will transfer to the agency in a lump sum or be awarded to program recipients in Indiana directly from Arts Midwest. It is thought that these awards might be directed to community level initiatives through a preexisting framework such as the IAC's Cultural District and Spotlight Community programs or sister programs such as Stellar Communities with the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). Mr. Ricci continued that built into the budget strategy is a new program officer position, focused on community development and cultural equity issues. It was noted this position has been sent to the Governor's Office for approval and it will be up to the new Executive Director of the organization to gain state personnel approval to fill or not to fill this position. He noted the position would be funded in the first year through ARP monies of which \$50K can be used toward personnel. If implemented and after the initial year, the Commission would have to consider how to fund the position going forward. In addition, strategies also include formation of the Cultural Equity Committee to be served by a chair to mirror the Regional Arts Partner (RAP) framework. Another strategy noted was to provide discretionary money to allow a new executive director some leeway in impacting programs and initiatives. Also taken into consideration are resources needed to begin a new strategic planning process. Mr. Ricci further noted that except for On-Ramp, Cultural Districts, Creative Aging, Traditional Arts Indiana, Homecoming, the Governor's Arts Awards (GAA), AOS and Arts Project Support (APS) grants, all additional grant programs (Individual Advancement Program and Arts in the Parks and Historic Sites) remain paused and unbudgeted.

2. **FY 2021/2022 Comparison.** Ms. Michaelsen presented the detailed FY21/22 budget comparison and noted particulars. The comparison document with detailed line items was provided (attached). She noted FY22 revenues for the agency which included the state appropriation with holdback, NEA grant, \$191K federal surplus carryover, \$5K drawn from the Cultural Trust for Arts Trust Projects, and \$30K from the Hoffman Trust for PACE programs. Total revenue was noted at \$7,041,918. Mr. Ricci continued that this will be the last year the agency will be able to hold and carryover federal funds. He continued that the agency has held federal funds as a kind of savings account for the agency and due to new state and federal stipulations, the agency will no longer be able to rely on this fallback funding. Mr. Ricci continued that the contingency reserve funding for the agency now rests in the Central Indiana Community Foundation account, Cultural Trust, and Hoffman Trust. Ms. Michaelsen then commented on categories with significant differences between the two fiscal years which included the state appropriation and holdback, NEA grant, personnel, increased number of Cultural

Districts, undesignated initiative monies for the incoming executive director, and decreased cultural trust monies drawn.

3. **History of IAC Budget Applied.** Mr. Ricci provided a ten-year budget history for the agency prior to the Commission passing the FY22 budget for frame of reference. Mr. Ricci provided an overview of federal and state funds between FY11 and FY21. (Presentation attached.) He noted that the state appropriation has grown by about 22% and the NEA funding has remained steady throughout the past decade. He further noted the agency's core AOS and APS awards have increased by 61% and 70% respectively and continued on the total number of awarded grants. Ms. McRobbie questioned if it might be possible to chart the IAC's budget history against the overall state budget to determine if the arts have been more or less of a priority. Mr. Ricci noted that the IAC has fared better than most agencies. He noted something to consider is the long-range implementation strategy of the state appropriation and the state holdback. He noted that an agency's appropriation minus the reserve is the spendable amount. This spendable amount then becomes the agency's starting budget recommendation in the legislative process which results in decreasing agency budgets over time. He continued that even with this strategy in place, the IAC's state appropriation has increased. Ms. McRobbie noted the information was helpful.
 4. **FY 2022 Budget Approval.** Ms. Michaelsen then noted the delineated budget expenses roll up into line-item points, which is the budget document the Commission receives quarterly that tracks income and expenses. She presented the FY22 budget in this format (attached). She noted the agency receives funding in two buckets: personnel and then everything else. She further explained that money can flow down from personnel to the other line items, but those line items cannot flow up to personnel. Mr. Platt called to approve the FY22 budget as presented. Ms. Barker motioned to approve. Mr. Bolser seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The motion carried.
 5. **Cultural Trust and Other Investments.** Ms. Michaelsen presented the 3rd quarter Cultural Trust Report with balance and investment information listed as of March 31, 2021. She reminded the Commission that license plate sales go into the Cultural Trust and funds are invested by the State Treasurer's office which yields income the Commission can draw for its use. She noted the Commission drew \$40K in FY21 and will draw \$5K in FY22. She noted the 4 investment vehicles, fund balance of \$3,870,993, and available interest of \$193,895. She noted the Commission did not draw on the interest for many years. Mr. Ricci noted there are two series of low number plates available and if any Commissioner would like one to note their region or county, to please contact IAC Director of Marketing Bridget Eckert.
 6. **ED Contract Authorization.** Mr. Ricci noted that by law the Commission has the authority to sign the agency's contracts and noted every year the Commission needs to approve giving this authority to the Executive Director. Mr. Platt called to approve. Ms. McRobbie motioned to approve. Ms. Valentine seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The motion carried.
- b. Office of the Governor.**
- i. **Appointments.** Mr. Ricci noted the agency has sent the Office of the Governor reappointment requests for Laurie Burns McRobbie; Dave Haist; Anne Valentine; and Walter Knabe whose first terms end on June 30, 2021. He further noted with Allen Platt's second term ending on June 30, 2021, the agency will have a vacancy to fill.
 - ii. **Executive Transition and Search.** Mr. Platt noted the executive director search and transition committee have scheduled interviews with candidates and will meet to discuss

who to move forward in the process. He noted they hope to have candidates ready to submit to the Governor by the end of July.

4) Programs, Grants and Services Committee (PGSC) Report.

- i. **Direct ARP Funding from NEA.** Mr. Ricci noted he discussed the ARP funding that will be directly granted to the agency and those indirectly granted through Arts Midwest with the budget strategy information.
- ii. **Indirect ARP Funding through Arts Midwest.** As discussed in relation to the budget.
- iii. **State of Indiana ARP Funding Inquiry.** Mr. Ricci reported the agency has approached the Governor's Office to make a case for why the arts and cultural sector would benefit from the state's ARP funding just as it benefited from the state's CARES funding.
- iv. **Extension of Emergency Framework to Cover All ARP Program Development and Associated Grants.** Mr. Ricci called upon the Commission to approve extending the motion the Commission approved at the March 2020 quarterly meeting in response to the emergency Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) funding to allow staff to make decisions in guiding the ARP funding to the sector. Mr. Ricci noted because this emergency funding will need to be expended within a certain time frame having the same consideration for the ARP funding as the commission approved for the CARES funding would help to ensure timely distribution to the field without the need to come back to the Commission for approvals. Mr. Platt called to approve the extension of the emergency framework approved in March of 2020 to cover all ARP program development and associated grants with updates provided to the Commission. Ms. McRobbie motioned to approve. Mr. Bolser seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The motion carried.
- v. **FY 2022 Grant AOS and APS Grants.**
 1. **Approval.** Ms. Sharp presented the FY 2022 Regional Initiative Grant (RIG) funding recommendations to the Commission for approval. These included 391 Arts Organization Support (AOS) I, II, III and Arts Project Support (APS) grants. All recommendations were presented for each region with county, city, AVG score, NORM score and funding recommendation for each organization listed. New AOS applicants, returning AOS Applicants (new this year but previously funded in AOS), and merit awards in addition to the base recommendation were highlighted. Included in the funding recommendations were the FY 2022 Regional Arts Partner administrative funds. Mr. Ricci further noted that the 52 \$1K merit awards were based on paneling scores of which the Programs, Grants and Services Committee helped to determine the level of the award and panelist score limit.
 2. **FY2022/2023 AOS Grantee Two-Year Funding Exceptions.** Ms. Sharp presented a handout delineating assessment process and recommendations around extending the two-year funding exception to all AOS applicants, since historically this was only eligible to those organizations with operating budgets of \$250K or more. Ms. Sharp reported that as a part of the risk analysis required by the NEA, FY22 Arts Organization Support Grantees were reviewed and assigned points based on certain factors to determine an overall risk score for each organization. All organizations except two are recommended for two-year funding. This means 224 of 226 organizations will not be required to submit a full application but will still be required to submit a FY22 final report/FY23 second year plan after the first year. She further noted that an enriched final report will be required for 17 new applicants, 8 organizations who received a higher risk score, and 4 organizations flagged for concerns by the Regional Arts Partners. Mr. Ricci further clarified that while the two-year funding exceptions provide that these organizations will

not have to apply again for the 2nd year of funding, they will only be approved for this year's grant award since you are only approving this year's budget.

Mr. Platt called to approve the 391 FY2022 AOS and APS grants and the AOS 2-year funding exceptions as submitted. Ms. Cowling motioned to approve. Ms. Peaper seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The motion carried. Mr. Platt thanked all staff, panelists, and Partners for their work in assisting so many in the field in accessing these funds.

- vi. **Referred Items for Action.** Ms. Sharp presented the following 3 items for Commission approval. All items were presented and then approved.
1. **Cultural District Designations.** Ms. Sharp presented the Fort Wayne Arts Campus and Wabash Cultural District for approval to be designated state Cultural Districts and noted the communities went through a robust Creative Community Pathway program and panel review. She further noted while Goshen and Kokomo would not go on to Cultural District status, they would maintain spotlight community designation.
 2. **Partnering, Arts, Community and Education (PACE) Grant Approval.** Ms. Sharp noted that the PACE program is in its final year with partnerships through the Honeywell Center in region 4 and the Carnegie Center for the Art and History in region 12. It was noted that because the timing of the application process and school dates do not align with the Commission meeting schedule the Commission will need to approve deferring PACE grant acceptance and payment decisions to the PACE Advisory Committee. It was noted that Commissioner Ruth Ann Cowling sits on the advisory committee and each partnership is slated to receive \$7K if approved by the committee.
 3. **Creative Aging Program Guidelines.** Ms. Sharp presented program guidelines for the Lifelong Arts Indiana program. She noted the agency received grant funding to provide this program. She noted that the program models that of On-Ramp through a learning module and coaching component and a fellowship to take what they learn and put it into action.

Mr. Haist questioned if he needed to abstain from approvals because he is on the board of Arts United and Honeywell. Mr. Ricci noted if a commissioner has an interest in a specific organization, they can vote on a motion if the organization is presented in a slate of organizations submitted for approval.

Mr. Platt called to approve designating the Fort Wayne Arts Campus and Wabash Cultural District as state Cultural Districts. Ms. Abbott motioned. Ms. Valentine seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The motion carried.

Mr. Platt called to approve the PACE allocation amounts of \$7K for the Honeywell Center and the Carnegie Center for Art and History and to defer grant acceptance and payment decisions to the PACE Advisory Committee. Ms. Cowling motioned to approve. Mr. Oakman seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The motion carried.

Mr. Platt called to approve the Creative Aging Program Guidelines. Mr. Haist motioned to approve. Mr. Oakman seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The motion carried.

Ms. McRobbie questioned not relative to the vote, but in relation to how we create programs like this, if we are thinking about promoting in other languages for other communities our programs. Mr. Ricci noted this has been done on a program-by-program basis, such as for the IAH, but it is not as deliberate as it could be. Mr. Ricci noted this a great point that needs to be more deliberate and ubiquitous. Ms. McRobbie noted this certainly speaks to inclusivity and diversity of programs.

- vii. **Other Brief Program Reports.**

4. **Shuttered Venue Operators Federal Grants.** Ms. Michaelsen reported that the Federal Small Business Administration launched the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) program and is moving through priority grantees of which 14 have been approved from Indiana thus far. She further noted that this grant is available to both for and non-profit organizations and include performing arts organizations, agents and other related to the performing arts industry. She noted Indianapolis has put together a very active, independent venue group to assist the state in accessing these funds. Arts Midwest has also been actively involved.
5. **Indiana Arts Homecoming.** Ms. Sharp reported that the hybrid virtual and in person event is scheduled for October 13 – 15th and will be focused on arts learning for all. She noted the steering committee met recently to review 54 session proposals with only 16 session slots available to fill. She reported the committee, of which Commissioner Kelsey Peaper is a member, is engaged and have provided great feedback. She continued that the keynotes are yet to be confirmed.
6. **Central and Local On-Ramps.** Ms. Sharp reminded the Commission that the Indiana Small Business Development Corporation (ISBDC) contributed \$200K of funding to extend the On-Ramp program out into the state through multiple cohorts. She further reported that the On-Ramp central program became the learning lab for satellite programs to be able to host the program in their communities.
7. **Veterans.** Ms. Sharp updated the Commission on the agency’s work with veterans. Of note, the NEA’s creative forces program is funding art therapists in partnership with the veteran’s administration to develop programs and partnerships in communities. She further noted the IAC hosted webinar series on connecting vets in communities have deepened our relationship with veteran’s affairs and other people doing work in this area. She concluded that further down the road the agency will be developing a proposal to help support those efforts in the state since there is clearly a great interest driving this forward.

5) Committee on the Future Report.

a. Advocacy Report.

1. **Citizen/Legislator Group Future Efforts.** Sally Gaskill who has been leading efforts with citizen advocates in the state reported out on efforts and accomplishments of the past year with a look to future efforts. She thanked staff leadership in providing initiative to focus on this work. She spoke to strategies focused on communications with elected officials, noting that it is every citizen’s responsibility to reach out to legislators to communicate issues and noted the data and information provided to advocates to enable them to talk effectively. She noted the work of Senator Ron Grooms who assisted with assembling a group of 12 legislators with 12 citizens to serve in this work. She further noted the advocates facilitated sessions in the Indiana Arts Homecoming and recruited grass roots advocates around the state with Regional Partner and Cultural District leaders. She then spoke to focusing on the future and how funds might be raised to continue these statewide efforts with an independent state-run organization.

b. Communications Focus.

1. **AOS Grantees Merit Awards.** IAC Director of Marketing Bridget Eckert reported out on plans to share the 52 merit award stories in recognition of their public benefit. Ms. Eckert provided examples of the work of Heartland artists and the Evansville Philharmonic. Ms. Abbott questioned if this would be a single release. Ms. Eckert noted communications is working with the recipients to tell their stories with them.
2. **APS/Arts Trust Funded Projects.** Ms. Eckert presented the Arts Project Support grants designated as Arts Trust Projects for Commission approval. Ms. Eckert noted every year,

one Arts Project Support grant recipient from every county is selected to be a beneficiary of the license plate, based on the project's exemplary commitment to community, education, economy and health. 55 projects were submitted to the Commission for approval (attached). Projects were listed by county, project, organization and type. Mr. Platt called to approve the Trust funded projects as submitted. Ms. Cowling motioned to approve. Ms. McRobbie seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The motion carried.

3. **Other Communications.** Ms. Eckert further introduced Connie Brahm who became Communications and Community Engagement Manager for the agency during the pandemic. She spoke to the Commission about panelist engagement noting that 167 reviewed over 600 applications in this grant cycle. Ms. Eckert noted that in partnership with programs staff we want to help panelists see the important work they are doing especially since RAPs have stronger relationships with them. Commissioners were asked to write thank you notes to those panelists in their regions identified by the Partners as having contributed in great ways to the transparent grant paneling process. Ms. Brahm noted that commissioners would be provided with notecards and a list of panelists in their region. Mr. Platt noted gratitude for the number of people willing to participate in this process.

c. **Strategic Planning Update.**

1. **Cultural Equity Advisory Committee Formation.** Mr. Ricci noted as discussed in the budget strategy for this fiscal year the agency hopes to form the Cultural Equity Advisory Committee which will be informed by the community focus group and Chief Equity, Inclusion and Opportunity Officer, Karrah Herring, who is in the process of hiring a senior deputy who will be involved in the process by which these committees form. It is hoped that by the September Commission meeting the structure, job description and list of potential members will be formed.
2. **Additional Underserved Community Focus Group Report.** Jamal Smith, previously with the Indiana Civil Rights Commission and currently with IU Health, spoke to the Commission about the findings from the second round of focus groups that were assembled in Paoli, Muncie, and Fort Wayne. He noted while the first round of focus groups were primarily with communities of color in Gary/South Bend, Marion County and Evansville, this second round focused on rural communities. He continued on differences between the two rounds noting that the original groups focused on access for communities of color and the feedback reflected the energy of society around George Floyd. In addition, the first sessions were held virtually, and the second-round groups were assembled in person. He continued that participants were not involved in the arts formally but included healthcare workers, educators, attorneys and others active in their communities. Mr. Smith provided a full report and noted while themes were similar to those from the first round of focus groups the whys were different. For instance, lack of access in the racial space was because there was no access to the greater good. In the rural space, the reasoning was because they are remote and disconnected. Mr. Smith touched on themes such as capital resources, social capital, cultural connection, and communication and noted being conscious about what access means across the board is important. Ms. Stemer noted the issues are clearly multifaceted, complicated, and more than the arts community alone can solve. Mr. Smith noted that in an example of one community leader who ran a food pantry what mattered was that she was doing the work. He continued that while many funds go through big corporations to trickle down into the community, community leaders such as the woman in the foot pantry example gain the real traction in these communities. Mr. Bolser

questioned in relation to the social capital piece and the idea of access relative to networks, if Mr. Smith got a feeling of how the Commission could assist in developing those networks and get access to build social capital in underrepresented communities. Mr. Smith spoke to building relationships as personal practice in establishing intentional relationships not necessarily tied to an end point. Mr. Platt thanked everyone for the robust discussion and Mr. Smith for his work.

- 6) Regional Partner Report.** Regional Arts Partner representative Larry Pejeau from Region 8 thanked the Commission for their responsible leadership during the pandemic which had a great effect on arts and culture organizations in the state of which new artists and organizations were brought out in the process. He further noted that he was retiring and Anne McKim from region 10 and Anne Monical from region 4 would be serving as co-chairs for the Partners. He further noted that the Partners can be a great asset in establishing the networks that Mr. Smith noted in his report. Mr. Platt thanked Mr. Pejeau for his work for the arts and culture sector in the state.
- 7) FY 2022 Officer Election.** The proposed slate of officers was presented to the Commission for approval. Officers submitted were Alberta Barker, chair; Anne Valentine, vice-chair; and Dusty Stemer, secretary. Mr. Platt asked for any discussion or further nominations. Hearing none, Mr. Platt called to approve the slate as presented. Mr. Bolser motioned to approve. Ms. Cowling seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The motion carried.
- 8) Old Business and New Business.** Ms. Barker noted thanks to the Commission, staff, and regional partners for the amazing amount of work that has been accomplished in the pandemic year, which helped many arts organizations survive. She noted she looked forward to the coming year and executive leadership transition. Mr. Platt thanked the Commission and staff for all their work in caring for the sector and delivering services this past year.
- 9) Adjournment of Quarterly Business Meeting.** Ms. Barker called to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Valentine motioned to approve. Mr. Bolser seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.