

Indiana Arts Commission
Quarterly Business Meeting

Friday, March 12, 2021
520 Park E Blvd, New Albany, IN 47150
Allen Platt, Chair

MINUTES

Members Present via-teleconference: Lisa Abbott, Alberta Barker, Chad Bolser, Ruth Ann Cowling, Dave Haist, Greg Hull, Walter Knabe, Laurie Burns McRobbie, Jake Oakman, Larry Pejeau, Kelsey Peaper, Allen Platt, Sofia Souto, Dusty Stemer, Anne Valentine

Members Absent: Libby Chiu

IAC Staff Present via-teleconference: Bridget Eckert, Stephanie Haines, Miah Michaelsen, Stephanie Pfendler, Deanna Poelsma, Lewis Ricci, Chapin Schnick, Paige Sharp, Anna Tragesser

Guests: Rebecca Holwerda, Cody Estep (Intern), Benjamin Thomas (Intern)

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions.** Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) Chair, Allen Platt, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked all in attendance to introduce themselves. All present as listed above. Due to COVID-19 the Commission conducted business by teleconference per Office of the Governor Executive Order 20-09.
- 2) **Approval of Agenda and December 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Platt presented the March 12, 2021 agenda and December 11, 2020 meeting minutes for approval. He asked for any discussion or corrections. Hearing none, Commissioner Ruth Ann Cowling motioned to approve. Commissioner Dave Haist seconded the motion. By roll call vote all were in favor. The motion carried.
- 3) **Executive Committee and ED Reports.**
 - a. **Agency Financials.**
 - i. **February FY 2021 YTD.** IAC Deputy Director Miah Michaelsen presented the FY21 February year to date comparative budget financial statement (attached) and noted the agency is on target in all budgeted areas as the agency nears the end of the fiscal year. She noted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act line item will change slightly by year end due to some Arts, Culture and Destination Marketing Organization (ACDMO) grants being returned for unutilized funds and ineligible expenses. Ms. Michaelsen further apprised the committee of updated State Budget Agency directives. She noted while travel restrictions remain and unnecessary expenses are monitored, hiring and paid internship restrictions have been lifted which will allow the agency to hire a new Communications and Community Engagement Manager. She noted the placement will be announced as soon as State Budget Agency (SBA) approval is confirmed. Ms. Cowling questioned what will happen to the returned ACDMO CARES funding. Ms. Michaelsen responded that those funds were earmarked from the State's unrestricted CARES funding through the SBA. She noted while the agency has requested the possibility of reallocating those funds, she assumed the approximate \$5 – 7K will be returned to the SBA.
 - ii. **FY 2022 – 2023 Budget Development.**
 1. **Move of Executive Committee and QBM to late in the Month.** IAC Executive Director Lewis Ricci reported that the June Executive Committee and Quarterly Meeting are being moved to June 16th and June 25th, respectively, to allow time between the end of the budget session and the quarterly meeting grant and budget approvals for the Commission to develop and make an informed recommendation on best funding scenarios.

2. **History of IAC Budget Applied and Scenario Possibilities for COF and PG&S Meetings.** Per Commissioner Anne Valentine's request, a recent history of how the agency has apportioned grant funding will also be provided. Mr. Ricci continued that the agency budget is progressing through the legislature with the suggested 15% reduction across all agencies and it remains to be seen if the reduction holds. He noted there is also the possibility there will be a holdback on final appropriations, as has been set by precedent. He noted possible scenarios will be provided for Committee on the Future and Programs, Grants and Services Committee input.
3. **Cultural Trust Report.** Ms. Michaelsen presented the Cultural Trust Financial Update (attached) for the 2nd quarter of the fiscal year and noted interest for investment instruments. She noted the Commission drew \$40K from the Trust to fund Arts Project Support grantees designated Arts Trust Projects. Ms. Michaelsen further noted the extensive marketing campaign of IAC Director of Marketing, Bridget Eckert, in spotlighting these communities to inspire plate renewal and reverse the downward trajectory of plate sales. She continued that while plate renewals are up 4% from this time last year, the agency will assess if these projects impact long term trends. In addition, the highest engagement rate for communications is around the Trust projects. Mr. Platt questioned if low number plates are still available. Ms. Eckert invited Commissioners to contact her directly if they would like a low number plate.
4. **NEA Likely Inclusion in New CARES Legislation.** Mr. Ricci reported that the newly signed stimulus package designated \$135M for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) with 40% of that funding earmarked for State Arts Agencies (SAAs) and regional organizations. Mr. Ricci estimated the average allotment per agency at \$800K. He noted parameters for distribution have yet to be communicated. In addition, the stimulus package included replenishment of the Paycheck Protection Program and unemployment for gig workers and the agency would continue to connect the sector with those opportunities.

b. Office of the Governor.

- i. **Appointments.** Mr. Ricci noted the next vacancy for the Commission will be in June of 2021 with the completion of Allen Platt's second four-year term. Commissioners Anne Valentine, Dave Haist, Laurie McRobbie, and Walter Knabe are up for reappointment for a second term on June 30th of 2021. Mr. Ricci noted he is working with the Office of the Governor to make sure we focus on diversity in filling Mr. Platt's position. Mr. Ricci continued that the agency can submit nominees at the first of the month to the Governor's Office and encouraged Commissioners to send any nominations through the agency.
- ii. **\$10M Arts, Culture and Destination Marketing Organization Support Grants.** Mr. Ricci reported that of the 477 grantees only 11 did not submit final grant reports, which are being pursued, since the state must also report on the unrestricted funding that came to the states. He thanked IAC Deputy Director of Programs, Paige Sharp, IAC Grants Manager Deanna Poelsma, and contractor Joshua Gilstein for their work in helping organizations through the process.
- iii. **2021 Agency Goals Adoption.** Mr. Ricci presented the 4, 2021 agency goals that were approved by the Office of the Governor for Commission approval. He noted these approved goals then cascade down to the Executive Director and staff members. The goals were provided in a handout to the Commission. Mr. Ricci noted goals included pathways to learning for all; Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion advancement; Continuing to respond to the field through the pandemic; and transitioning the agency to a new Executive Director upon his retirement. Mr. Platt called to approve the agency goals. Commissioner Alberta Barker motioned to approve. Commissioner Laurie McRobbie seconded the motion.

- c. **Personnel Update.** Ms. Michaelson noted that the agency has been working through filling the Community Engagement Manager position and the Commission should expect an announcement next week. She further noted current interns for the agency include Cody Estep and Victoria Hedrick, both from Butler University, and Benjamin Thomas from Indiana State University.
- d. **Values Planning and Expansion.**
 - i. **Cultural Equity Information Gathering/Underserved Community Focus Groups Scheduled this Spring: Ft. Wayne, Muncie, Paoli.** Mr. Ricci reported the agency is continuing the focus group work with Jamal Smith who will be conducting 3 additional groups in Ft. Wayne, Muncie, and Paoli in spring. Mr. Ricci noted excitement around the data garnered from the first round and augmenting further understanding with communities of color and rural populations.
 - ii. **Culminating Values Discussion for Commissioners – Hour Two of This Meeting!** Commissioner Chad Bolser noted he and Commissioner Anne Valentine would be facilitating an hour-long discussion with commissioners in a closed session following the meeting to build out the values work that was prepped with Karen Gahl Mills to better search and prepare for a new executive director.
- e. **Programs, Grants and Services Items.**
 - i. **On-Ramp Local Expansion.** Ms. Tragesser presented the On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator 2021 expansion opportunity for Commission approval. A handout was included which delineated the program scope. Ms. Tragesser noted this program is a response to surveys assessing the impact of COVID- 19 on artists and an advisory group recommendation to expand the On-Ramp program. She noted artists who have participated in the On-Ramp program have fared better than their national counter parts during the pandemic. In addition, the Indiana Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) will contribute \$208,000 made available from the CARES Act to cover all costs to train and equip five new local teams to facilitate On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerators in their local community in addition to the IAC's centrally administered program. The IAC will contribute additional funds for direct financial support (fellowships) to participants to put the lessons into action. Mr. Ricci noted because the timeline for approval of fellowships does not coincide with commission meetings, the advisory committee is being granted temporary authority to approve funding. Mr. Platt called to approve the On-Ramp expansion, funding from Indiana Small Business Development Corporation, acceptance of the selected providers and services, and to also cede approval of fellowship expenditures to the advisory committee. Mr. Haist motioned to approve. Mr. Oakman seconded the motion. By roll call vote all were in favor. The motion carried.
 - ii. **Shuttered Venue Operators Federal Grants.** Ms. Michaelson noted the Small Business Administration, who is administering these funds, has released the guidelines for these grants but has yet to open the application portal. She noted the timeline to open the application may be stalled because the agency is well versed in for profits and non-profit entities are also eligible to apply.
 - iii. **Grant Demand Expansion and Equity Issues – A First Look.** Ms. Sharp presented data on big picture trends in the IAC's core programs, namely Arts Organization Support (AOS) and Arts Project Support (APS), and growth from FY16 to FY20 (handout attached). She noted that this data is to start the Commission's discussion on equity in these core programs and to begin thinking about how to re-strategize based on the figures. Ms. Sharp discussed current funding strategies of the IAC, which has been to fund broadly through smaller grant amounts, and how APS grants address gaps in areas where arts organizations do not exist in the state. It was noted while the number of grantees and grantee budgets have grown, the IAC budget is not growing at the same rate. With the growth in grantees in the current funding model, which is based on per capita funding to each region, this means that less funding is available to fund APS grants. Of further note, while AOS I, II and APS funding is commensurate with the percentage of the population in region 7, AOSIII category grantees, which are the largest

budget grantees and who mainly reside in region 7, skew this funding equity. Ms. Sharp noted key takeaways from this data is that demand for IAC funds is outpacing the IAC's budget and inequity is increasing with growth of organizations and thus award amounts, especially as outlined in region 7. Discussion followed on AOSIII grantees and equity. It was noted that while these organizations are supposed to operate multi-regionally the reality is, as gauged through final grant reports, they mostly operate in their own regions. The other component is that because these organizations are funded based on budget size, AOSIII organizations receive bigger grants. Ms. Sharp noted this is food for thought for the Commission to consider as national trends show other state arts agencies responding through moving towards equity. She continued that growth in the field will continue this upward trajectory so how we fund orgs may need to change. Mr. Platt appreciated the information, noting understanding whether we are diluting funding and the agency's impact and ability to make catalytic change is worthwhile to keep in our minds for future discussions.

- 4) Regional Partner Report.** Regional Arts Partner representative, Larry Pejeau, reported on the work of the Partners. He noted all Arts Organization Support and Arts Project Support applications are in and panels are being organized. A Panelist webinar is scheduled to orient them to the process. He thanked the IAC staff for their support in streamlining the application and getting funds out to the field this year.
- 5) Old Business and New Business.** Commissioner Walter Knabe noted that Commissioner Laurie McRobbie also served on the On Ramp advisory committee where her input assisted him in his decision making. He also noted Ms. Sharp and Ms. Tragesser provided a great structure and format to help the committee navigate the qualified applicants. Mr. Platt thanked the staff for expediting the meeting so that they would have quality time to work in their executive session.
 - a. **Commissioner Engagement Opportunities.** Mr. Ricci noted that due to the barrier to connection in the virtual world, a list of Commissioner engagement opportunities was administered to all commissioners to see where they would like to serve beyond the structured committee and quarterly meetings.
- 6) Adjournment of Quarterly Business Meeting.** Mr. Platt called to adjourn the quarterly business meeting. Ms. Valentine motioned to approve. Ms. Barker seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all were in favor.
- 7) Convening of Executive Session.** The Commission entered Executive Session at 10:00 am.
 - a. Executive Director Search and Transition
- 8) Adjournment of Executive Session.** The Commission adjourned the session at 11:00 am