

Indiana Arts Commission  
Executive Committee  
May 7, 2008 10:00 a.m.  
IAC Conference Room  
150 W. Market Street Suite 618  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Minutes

Dick Stifel, Chair

Members present via teleconference: Dick Stifel, Jeanne Mirro, Sandi Clark, Ron Stratten, Bill Hopper

Members absent: None

IAC staff present: Lewis Ricci, Michelle Anderson, Dennis Hardin

Mr. Stifel convened the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Mr. Stifel asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2008 meeting of the Executive Committee. Mr. Stratten so moved. Ms. Mirro seconded. Motion passed.

1. **Budget issues and the Governor's Office.** Mr. Ricci began the discussion by saying that the National Endowment for the Arts has announced its nation-wide awards for FY 2009, which includes an increase of about \$100,000 over previous awards for the state of Indiana. Mr. Ricci's sense, through his contacts at the governor's office, is that the governor is considering cutting the IAC state budget for FY 2009 by the same amount. Mr. Ricci's position is that the NEH funds are not intended to replace state funding, and that there is an intention of Congress, which approved the NEH budget, that granted funds be used for the greater benefit of the citizens of the United States. Mr. Ricci reported that there had been an inquiry from the state budget office whether IAC grants (legal contracts) could be terminated. Mr. Ricci's answer to the governor's office was that all state contracts include a termination clause. Mr. Ricci's feeling is that the budget office is considering terminating current IAC grants to the Regional Partners, which cover the period FY 2008-2009. The intent of the governor and his budget office is unclear. Ms. Clark commented that IAC needs to build its case for continued funding for the arts on the state level. Ms. Mirro concurred. Mr. Stifel suggested that a letter be prepared from IAC to the governor, over the signatures of commissioners who were appointed by Governor Daniels – Karen Ellerbrook, Kelly Schreckengast and Sheri Trine, for instance – making the case for continued support. Mr. Ricci suggested that a letter might be written thanking the governor for his recent signing of the Cultural Districts bill, and including some reference to continued funding for the arts. Mr. Ricci also offered that IAC needs to meet with the governor at the highest level (commissioner-to-governor in person) to clarify the mission of the IAC under the current administration. Mr. Ricci agreed to draft a letter and circulate it among the executive committee. Further discussion of this item was tabled until the end of the meeting.

2. **FY 2009 Increases.** Mr. Ricci referred to the handout (attached) “Additional FY 2009 Funds – Sources, Proposed Uses and Relationships to Strategic Plan and State Priorities”. In addition to the increased funding from the NEH, there will be about \$100,000 available from the Cultural Trust and \$8,000 from the Indiana Endowment for the Arts. The question was raised whether the funds from the Cultural Trust should be “kept off of the radar screen” of the governor’s office, considering what seems to be the intent of the governor to cut state funding for IAC. Ms. Clark stated that the governor should be made aware of IAC plans for the Trust funds, since they represent the greater good for the citizens Indiana, but that perhaps final decisions on uses of the funds should wait until after further contact with the governor, as discussed in agenda item #1. Mr. Hopper questioned the legality of “supplanting” state funding with federal (NEH) funding. Mr. Ricci asked for action of the committee whether the proposed FY2009 IAC budget should be forwarded to the office of the budget director including the Cultural Trust funds. Mr. Stratten moved that the budget be so forwarded. Ms. Clark seconded the motion. Mr. Stifel clarified that the question before the floor is that the IAC budget to be forwarded is as it is presented in Mr. Ricci’s handout (which includes NEH and Cultural Trust funding). Mr. Stratten called the question. The motion passed.

3. **Regional Arts Partners Block Grant Formula.** Mr. Stifel referred to the handout “Region Arts Partners’ Regional Block Grant Change Scenarios FT10/11” (attached) prepared by Mr. Ricci and Deputy Director Michelle Anderson. The new funding formula is designed to be integrated at 50% for FY 2010 and 100% for FY 2011. Ms. Clark asked if the Regional Partners have agreed to the new formula, and Mr. Ricci reported that the Partners have agreed. Mr. Stratten moved that the funding formula as presented be adopted. Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The motion passes.

4. **Spring 208 Commissioner Suggestions.** Mr. Stifel referred to the handout “Commissioner Suggestions – Spring 2008”, which includes the names of eight individuals that IAC has settled upon to forward to the governor’s office. There was brief discussion concerning which of the suggested nominees had been contacted by current committee members. Mr. Ricci reminded the committee that the governor’s staff prefers to handle nominee contacts themselves, and that the onus of ascertaining interest on the part of the nominees does not lie with IAC. He went on to say that IAC should proceed with forwarding its list to the governor’s office, and asked for committee action to do so. Ms. Clark remarked that she would like to add one more name to the list, that of John Wayne Clark of the Bloomington area. The committee agreed, at Ms. Clark’s urging. Ms. Clark asked the committee if the list should be prioritized, perhaps emphasizing the Terre Haute vacancy, which is the longest-standing vacancy. Mr. Stifel suggested hand-delivery of the list at a time when it could be discussed with Mr. Vanator of the governor’s staff. Mr. Ricci suggested sending the list without comment, and then scheduling a follow-up meeting with Mr. Vanator, which would surely be agreeable to Mr. Vanator. Ms. Clark moved to approve this plan. Ms. Mirro seconded. Mr. Stifel clarified that the list to be forwarded will include Mr. Clark, with biographical information to be added. The motion passed.

5. **Other items.** Mr. Ricci asked that the committee be prepared to offer a slate of new officers at the June 13<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Business Meeting, at which time new officers will be elected. All current officers volunteered to retain their current positions for another year (Mr. Stifel, chair; Ms. Mirro, vice-chair; Ms. Clark, Secretary/Treasurer). The committee concurred to bring this

slate to the meeting of the full commission. Ms. Mirro asked if any organizations have expressed interest in hosting the 2009 Governor's Arts Awards. Mr. Ricci replied that none have been received so far, and that the deadline is May 31<sup>st</sup> for an organization or city to express its intent to apply. Mr. Stratten reminded the committee that the Advocacy & Awareness Committee, of which he is chair, has offered to iterate the criteria to be met for the host city, and that this discussion will be the primary agenda item at its next meeting. Mr. Stifel asked to return to discussion item #1, to focus upon the next action to be taken. Mr. Ricci will draft a letter to the governor's office emphasizing budget concerns, expectations, and intentions. He will circulate the draft letter among the executive committee later this week. Mr. Stifel asked that the committee meet once again before its regular quarterly meeting, which will be June 4<sup>th</sup>. IAC Executive Assistant Dennis Hardin will work on scheduling the next interim meeting.

Mr. Stifel adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.