Indiana Arts Commission
Quarterly Business Meeting
Herron School of Art and Design
Indianapolis, IN
December 6, 2019

Allen C. Platt Chair

MINUTES

Members present: Kathy Anderson, Alberta Barker, Chad Bolser, Libby Chiu, Ruth Ann Cowling, Dave Haist, Greg Hull, Laurie McRobbie, Jake Oakman, Larry Pejeau, Allen Platt, Sherry Stark, Dusty Stemer, Anne Valentine
Members via-teleconference:
Members absent: Nancy Stewart
Staff Present: Jasmine Bejar, Bridget Eckert, Stephanie Haines, Miah Michaelsen, Stephanie Pfendler, Deanna Poelsma, Lewis Ricci, Chapin Schnick, Paige Sharp, Anna Tragesser
Guests: Adrian Matjeka

1) **Welcome and Introductions.** Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) Chair Allen Platt called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. All in attendance as listed above.
2) **Welcome from Nan Goggin, Dean, Indiana University Herron School of Art and Design.** Dean Goggin provided a welcome and brief overview of Herron noting curriculum goals centered on community collaboration and creative problem solving. Mr. Platt thanked Herron for supporting the health of the arts around us.
3) **Agenda and Minutes.**
   (1) **Approval of Meeting Agenda.** Mr. Platt presented the agenda and called to approve. Commissioner Libby Chiu motioned to approve. Commissioner Ruth Ann Cowling seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.
   (2) **Approval September 2019 Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Platt presented the September 13, 2019 meeting minutes and asked for any corrections or additions. Hearing none he called to approve. Commissioner Anne Valentine motioned to approve. Commissioner Dusty Stemer seconded the motion.
4) **Chair and Executive Committee Report.**
   (1) **Financials.**
      (a) **FY 2020 YTD.** Deputy Director Miah Michaelsen presented the FY 2020 Comparative Budget Financial Statements for October and November and noted the agency is on track midway through the fiscal year. She drew attention to the line item .1 (personnel) overage due to former Director of Marketing Rex Van Zant's retirement payout which was more than projected. It was noted if the agency does not catch up throughout the year, the reserve or federal funds can be utilized. It was also noted the updated Central Indiana Community Foundation balance is reflected in the report. Mr. Platt called to approve. Commissioner Kathy Anderson motioned to approve. Commissioner Sherry Stark seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.
      (b) **Cultural Trust Activity and other investments.** IAC Executive Director Lewis Ricci presented the FY 20 Cultural Trust Financial Update (attached) and noted the fund balance as of September 30, 2019 is $3,619,626.98. Mr. Ricci noted the Commission worked with the Office of the Treasurer to change vehicles of investments which are showing increased returns with $142,878.24 in available interest. He continued that we are in the process of revamping our marketing strategy due to decreased plate

donations which may include shifting public perception of use of the funds. While the Trust has been applied almost exclusively to arts education, research shows plate holders identify with broader support of the arts.

(c) **Federal Audit Possibility and Time Table.** Mr. Ricci reported the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) are in process of systematically auditing all state arts agencies. The NEA met with executive directors through the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) annual meeting to prepare agencies on what to expect and compliance readiness. He continued that agencies are being audited in order of appropriation size and the IAC is anticipating being audited in approximately two years. It was noted the IAC has only been federally audited once specifically for funding provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act during the Obama administration.

(2) **Office of the Governor.**

(a) **Commission Vacancies and Appointments.** Mr. Ricci reported the Office of the Governor has appointed new commissioners Greg Hull, Walter Knabe and Jake Oakman and reappointed Libby Chiu, Dusty Stemer and Ruth Ann Cowling for a second term. It was noted Kathy Anderson, Sherry Stark and Nancy Stewart will be going off the Commission at the end of their second term in June of 2020. Mr. Ricci noted the Office of the Governor accepts nominations and we rely on Commissioners and Regional Arts Partners for suggestions.

(3) **2020 Governor's Arts Awards (GAA).** Mr. Ricci reported on the awards event which will take place in Columbus in conjunction with the Indiana Arts Homecoming (IAH). He noted Commissioner Sherry Stark is assisting in involving local people on the award artist and awardee; local planning; and IAH steering committees. Ms. Stark noted currently included in committees are the deputy mayor, superintendent of schools and heads of the chamber of commerce, visitor's center, and arts council. She noted the location is being viewed as a campus with its multiple, significant architectural assets which will be utilized as venues for the Awards and the Homecoming sessions and keynotes.

(4) **Advocacy FY 2020.**

(a) **Citizen Advocates for the Arts Group Activity.** Mr. Ricci noted a group of citizen advocates in the state that have been organizing around the arts who are interested in having an arts caucus in the legislature and organizing a gubernatorial forum for the arts in conjunction with the IAH and GAA since the group will be gathered there for the conference.

(5) **Executive Director Transition Planning Group.** Mr. Platt reported on the transition planning group which will be chaired by Commissioner Alberta Barker and include Commissioners Anderson, Stewart and himself with others from outside the Commission who have experience in this work. He noted information will be provided as it becomes available.

(6) **2020 Calendar.** Mr. Ricci provided committee and quarterly meeting dates and locations (attached) for 2020 noting the March meeting will be in Wabash with consecutive quarterly meetings in Indianapolis, South Bend and Jeffersonville and will be included in engagement tour activities. Upcoming grant deadlines and workshop locations and dates were also provided. Mr. Ricci noted increased communications to commissioners on opportunities in each region. Ms. Cowling thanked the staff for putting that information together.

4) **Executive Director Report.**

(1) **Staffing update.**

(a) **INverse Intern.** Mr. Ricci reported on the work of current Indiana State Poet Laureate Adrian Matejka in collaboration with the Indiana State Library on creating the INverse poetry archive. Mr. Matejka attended the meeting and spoke to the commission about contribution protocol and engaging an intern to manage submissions and communications to solicit contributions since his term ends on December 31, 2019.

(b) **Butler University Work-Study Student.** Mr. Ricci noted the agency is in discussion with Butler University on securing an intern from their arts administration undergraduate program. He noted challenges of engaging interns from I.U. Bloomington due to travel and scheduling.

(c) **Governor's Summer Internship.** Mr. Ricci noted appreciation for this program and the agency's intention to employ a new intern in the summer of 2020.

(d) **Community Programs and Services Program Officer – Proposed/Job Description Development.** Mr. Ricci noted the agency is proposing a new program officer position for the agency due to growth in community level work which is at a point that it warrants a dedicated staff person to focus and build those relationships and programs in that sector of the IAC's constituents. Currently that work is being divided up amongst program's staff.

(e) **Communications and Community Engagement Manager - Jasmine Bejar.** Mr. Ricci introduced IAC Communications and Community Engagement Manager Jasmine Bejar who joined the agency in October. Ms. Bejar noted her experience in design, public relations and her work with the region 3 partner Arts United.

(2) **Technical Assistance/Capacity Building Updates.**

(a) **Indiana Arts Homecoming.**

(i) **2019, Indianapolis, summary.** Ms. Michaelsen provided a report (attached) on the reach of the 2019 conference noting the event which focused on inclusion, diversity, equity and access (IDEA) brought 340 attendees from 51 counties which included 114 scholarship recipients from 38 counties. Post conference evaluation from attendees showed the field appreciated us tackling the theme, an increased recognition of the importance of IDEA work and interest expressed for more tools for the field to move into this work. She noted challenges with who was present and not present and the extent to which challenging conversations were had and not had. In answer to Ms. McRobbie's question on tensions at the conference, Ms. Michaelsen clarified that this ran the gamut from attendees noting there were not enough diversity of disciplines, such as music organization representation, for example, to not enough of one racial or ethnic group presenters or attendees. She continued that we underappreciated the need for networking and will be thinking of ways to provide more opportunities in future events. Discussion moved to attendee type and demographics and it was noted racial and ethnic groups skew toward Indiana's demographics overall. She noted scholarship programs assist with the access challenges but we also recognize there are barriers to attendance that are bigger than monetary. Mr. Ricci noted in terms of participant type, we are seeing working artists becoming more engaged in the

bigger picture of arts in our states. Ms. Chiu questioned Regional Arts Partner (RAP) participation. Ms. Michaelsen noted Partners are an important conduit for call for proposals and scholarships through the extensive networks they have built. She further noted there is always RAP representation on the IAH steering committee and welcomed thoughts on how to further integrate Partners. Mr. Platt congratulated everyone on the well-organized event and noted he appreciated focusing on IDEA work and asking those tough questions and providing a forum for tough discussions. He noted as our mission of arts every day for everyone, all have to be reached. Ms. Anderson noted her appreciation of including Anne Basting as one of the keynotes and continued on the potential to apply memory care work to engage all kinds of groups using the same creative thinking methodology.

(ii) **2020 (with 2020 Governor's Arts Awards), planning.** Ms. Michaelsen noted the theme will be focused on storytelling as a tool for advocacy, education, audience development and organizational impact which will continue to fold in elements of IDEA work. She clarified this is not about the art of storytelling. A steering committee is being finalized that will provide guidance and assistance with the call for session proposals, logistics and ancillary activities. Meetings begin after first of year and the event is set for October 15 – 16, 2020 in Columbus, IN.

(3) **National Partnerships and Advocacy.**

(a) **Arts Midwest.** Mr. Ricci reported on the Rural Indiana Performance fund which is in partnership with Arts Midwest and is focused on granting in small rural communities. It was noted of the 35 applications received 28 are eligible to receive funding. The number of eligible applicants who will receive funding through Arts Midwest is to be determined. Mr. Ricci further lauded new CEO Tory Allen on wanting to advance enhanced partnerships with the states in their purview.

(b) **National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).** Mr. Ricci noted the NEA may be represented at the 2020 IAH to host a possible grant information session as it aligns with their information session tour of the states.

(c) **National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA).** Mr. Ricci noted new NEA chair Mary Anne Carter was in attendance and is working to make the value of the NEA and arts in America obvious to decision makers in D.C. He noted the NASAA conference will be held in San Juan, P.R. this year and commissioners are open to attend. Ms. Michaelsen noted she attended the past conference which was focused on equity, inclusion and diversity. She noted sessions focused on developing equity in panels and how peer agencies are working through some of those challenges. Ms. Stemer noted if we are looking toward diversity and challenges in that work, wouldn't it behoove the Commission to first establishing a diverse board, since our board is not diverse. Mr. Ricci noted the help the Office of the Governor gives the agency by accepting nominations from the board. He continued on the responsibility of the trustees to identify for the Governor's office those diverse possibilities. Mr. Platt noted one discussion point at the IAH focused on looking at your own organization and seeing where you need to improve and noted there are certainly many groups not represented on our board. Discussion followed on the benefit of expanding the network that can then be recruited through. Ms. Chiu spoke to not always relying on the diverse person to make those connections for you but making those connections yourself.

5) **Special Reading – Adrian Matejka, Indiana State Poet Laureate.** Mr. Matejka thanked Ms. Haines and Mr. Ricci for their work in helping the Inverse poetry archive come to fruition. He also

noted he is the first black poet laureate in the state which speaks to the inclusion and diversity conversation. He read his poem *Map to the Stars*.

6) **Committee Reports.** Mr. Platt asked for everyone to go around the room and let everyone know their favorite art form before our committee reports.

(1) **Programs, Grants and Services Committee, Ruth Ann Cowling, Chair.**

(a) **Program Highlights and Deadlines.** Ms. Sharp noted On Ramp applications are due January 16th and Individual Advancement Program grants are due Feb. 6th and emphasized the importance of having representation from all over the state. She urged Commissioners to get the word out to individuals in their regions who would benefit from either program. She continued on the Arts Midwest Rural Performance Fund which garnered applicants from rural communities in the state the agency has no relationship with, noting the importance of these gateway opportunities to extend the Commission's reach. She further reported on the Quick Impact place based grants which are in partnership with the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) noting public visual arts projects are for main streets to partner with organizations or individual artists. As noted earlier, a new poet laureate will be announced in January. She continued that programs staff is deeply committed to IDEA work and recognizes the field is looking to the IAC as leaders in the state.

(b) **Guideline and Grant Approvals.** Ms. Cowling noted the Programs, Grants and Services Committee discussed and are recommending approval of guidelines and grants as listed here:

(i) **Regional Initiative Grant Guidelines.** Regional Initiative Grant FY 2021 Guidelines for Arts Organization Support I (attached) and Arts Project Support (attached) were submitted to the Commission for approval.

(ii) **2021 Cultural District Guidelines.** The 2021 Cultural District Guidelines (attached) were presented to the Commission for approval.

(iii) **Cultural District Funding Guidelines.** The 2020 Cultural District Funding Guidelines (attached) were presented to the Commission for approval.

(iv) **Arts in the Parks and State Historic Site Grants.** The 2020 Arts in the Parks and Historic Sites Grant Recommendations (attached) were presented to the Commission for approval. Individual Artist and organizations were listed with project overview and grant request amount.

Ms. Cowling called to approve grant guidelines and grants as presented to the Commission. Ms. Stemer motioned to approve. Ms. Valentine seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.

(c) **PACE – Defer Authority to PACE Advisory Committee.** Ms. Cowling noted the Partnering, Arts, Communities and Education (PACE) advisory committee will meet following this Commission meeting and prior to the March meeting to approve a pending application from Region 10. It was noted because of the timing between Commission meetings and the timeline for schools to implement the program, the Commission will need to defer authority to the PACE advisory Committee to approve grant acceptance. It was noted the Commission already approved the grant amount in approving the budget in June. Mr. Ricci added that Ms. Cowling is part of the committee and thus the process will have Commission oversight. Ms. Cowling called

to approve deferral of authority to the PACE advisory committee to approve. Ms. Chiu motioned to approve. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.

(d) **On-Ramp Research Findings Presentation.** IAC Artist Services Manager, Anna Tragesser, reported on the On Ramp entrepreneurial business accelerator and provided information on the self-evaluation of participant's pre and post workshop (attached). Ms. Tragesser continued that the program was presented with a research impact award by the Society for Arts Entrepreneurship which justifies not only the importance of this program to us but also to the field of arts entrepreneurship across the country. It was noted data is being collected across all cohorts with the 3rd cohort forthcoming for May of 2020.

(2) **Committee on the Future, Nancy Stewart, Chair.** Mr. Platt presented in Ms. Stewart's absence.

(a) **Strategic Plan.**

(i) **Progress to date.** Ms. Michaelsen presented the Strategic Plan Activity Report (Attached) which tracks activities as they relate to the strategic plan.

(ii) **Outcomes/Evaluations.** Metris Consultants present on plan evaluation and outcomes at the end of the meeting.

(iii) **Top Tier Plan – Reworked with Transition Items.** Mr. Ricci presented the Top Tier Planning Timeline and Work Plan (attached) which outlines the preparation for the next strategic plan to include research with pre-planning consultants and through community tours. It was noted Commissioner Chad Bolser will serve as chair of the steering committee. Because Mr. Ricci will be retiring at the end of the current strategic plan, the timeline allows for new IAC leadership to weigh in on guiding the plan as well as allowing the top tier goals to inform the job description for said future leadership. Mr. Bolser noted the single most important thing we can do in this process is to ensure that this organization takes the information from the constituents we serve and reflect that in the work we do. Ms. Stark emphasized the importance of the role of Commissioners in articulating the plan and continued that while reliance on staff is tempting pushing, pulling and redirecting where necessary will garner the best plan design. Mr. Ricci echoed that leadership responsibilities will be greater for the Commission to articulate the plan as the guiding tool for trustees in the transitional period from his retirement to new Director. Mr. Bolser added that having a plan that is simple enough to be easily remembered and articulated to anyone is also of great importance. Articulated concept of vision, mission and values.

(b) **Communications Activity.**

(i) **Engagement Tour Next Stop.** Ms. Michaelsen presented the marketing plans for November of 2019 (attached). Planning for advocacy, community services and arts education were noted. Ms. Michaelsen added Ms. Eckert and Ms. Bejar have set ambitious goals for communications. Engagement tour planning was also discussed with the first tour of Evansville being used to guide future planning, although each region will be individualized. The next tour will coincide with the March quarterly meeting in Wabash and a public component is being discussed for that Thursday to allow commissioners to participate. Mr. Ricci noted town hall type meetings are being utilized to inform the strategic plan through our

constituents.

(c) **2020 Governor's Arts Awards.** As discussed earlier.

7) **Regional Arts Partner Update, Larry Pejeau, Consortium Chair.** Mr. Pejeau reported on the December Partner meeting and the cultural competency training provided which noted demographic changes projected in the next 3 or four years. Partners discussed how to take this training to the field and how those conversations might differ in rural and urban areas. He noted this was his last meeting as chair and region 1 partner Donna Catalano from South Shore Arts will be stepping into that role. Mr. Bolser noted the region 5 partner representative will be transitioning out of her position with a new representative coming on. He questioned the process for onboarding new partners and if commissioners can help. Mr. Pejeau noted there are many resources readily available to help guide new partners and suggested the new partner reach out to IAC staff who is ready to assist with grant deadlines and processes. The importance of having commissioner oversight of panel processes as facilitators was noted. Ms. Barker suggested sending those dates out so commissioners could check their calendars before confirming. Mr. Platt thanked Mr. Pejeau for serving as chair.

8) **Strategic Plan Outcomes with Metris – Special Session.** Susannah Laramee Kidd and Rachel Engh from Metris Consultants presented the evaluation plan executive summary (attached) to the Commission via web. It was noted goals from the outset of this work were to understand current evaluation capacity, build recommendations to increase internal capacity, and produce an evaluation plan which outlines a strategic approach to collecting and finding meaning in data. Evaluation questions were presented with metrics and how they are relative to specific strategic plan goals and outcomes. Recommendations were included on how the IAC currently collects, analyzes and shares out data and where we can more effectively and efficiently do that work. Discussion followed on the activity report and engaging with the commission in a strategic way that looks more at goals and outcomes across programs to better help commissioners make decisions on specific programs. Ms. Stark voiced concern, as a proponent of working smarter not harder, that this proposal may add more work for staff. Mr. Ricci addressed Ms. Stark's concern, noting that this plan helps streamline, from the large amount of data we collect, what we need and what we don't need thus making the process more efficient. Ms. Michaelsen added that workload is streamlined as Metris has included an evaluation design table that tracks what we should be evaluating when and how it gets reported. Ms. Chiu questioned metrics in relation to community tours. Ms. Kidd noted the tour is an amazing opportunity to collect data noting it aligned with metrics in evaluation question #4 and community integration. Mr. Ricci continued that being more deliberate and focused on where qualitative and quantitative information match will provide a more compelling case for how we advance communities through the arts. Ms. Valentine noted the overwhelming complexity of what was just presented to get to the endpoint in understanding that this will simply help staff. She suggested we could start at a 30,000 foot view the next time we discuss this. Ms. Stemer concurred that we are glad this is helping staff but perhaps just noting that staff will collect data more efficiently and be able to articulate that data would be enough instead of delineating how that conclusion was made. Mr. Bolser noted the difficulty in measuring what we do and cautioned that as we are measuring our current plan and preparing for our future plan we are not creating what we are measuring. He further noted the value of being cognizant that we do not mix up what we are doing now with the next plan. He continued that this is not disconnected from advocacy and noted that if we cannot articulate metrics and the impact of this organization we are never going to gain the ground we need to with our legislators and the legislative process. He concluded on the merits of being able to tell our story.

9) **Grant Data for Thought and Discussion – Special Presentation.** Ms. Sharp presented on grant funding participation and demographics served (presentation attached) and noted this presentation carries forward a thread from the previous quarter which looked at urban and rural divides. In response to Commissioner Laurie McRobbie's question about grant distribution on the community level, within each county, data was compiled to determine how many actual communities are being funded. Region 8 was provided as an example of a county where most of the grant awards are going to one or two communities with 80% of grant awards going to two

cities. It was noted this information for each region would be shared out with the respective commissioner. Mr. Ricci noted data shown here is not the whole picture, but serves as an indicator that can help position decision making. He clarified this particular data shows the community where the grantee is located, not services. Ms. Sharp provided further information on participation in Arts Organization Support (AOS) noting that the 17 AOSIII grantees serve more than AOSI and AOSII grantees combined with the least diverse group of constituents. Of project-based grant programs Arts Project Support (APS) has the greatest participation overall. In terms of service to racial and ethnic groups it was noted Indiana demographics closely matches grantee service. This was echoed also in terms of regions, which appear to be serving constituents that make up their respective communities except for Region 9 which has a diverse community. Ms. Sharp noted this is valuable information that will help us focus our intentionality in this region. It was further noted that if we create an intentional and specific program, such as PACE we will see that reflected in the data. Deanna Poelsma, Paige Sharp and Chapin Schnick were thanked for compiling this data. Ms. McRobbie noted understanding longitudinal changes overtime by looking at data over 2 – 3 years would be helpful.

10) **Old/ new business.** Ms. Michaelsen thanked Ms. Schnick for running the technical components of the meeting. Ms. Tragesser noted changes in offering community services through the creative community pathway noting if any commissioner is interested in learning about these resources for your community to please join the webinar.
11) **Closing Comments.** Mr. Platt reported that in response to the challenge posed to commissioners to meet with their regional partner, he and Ms. Cowling met with Elsa Conboy in region 10 and discussed challenges and helpful ideas. He noted the next quarter's challenge is to attend one arts event and send a picture to IAC staff to share out at the next quarterly meeting.
12) **Adjourn.** Mr. Platt called to adjourn the meeting. Ms. McRobbie motioned to adjourn. Ms. Stark seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.