

Indiana Arts Commission
Executive Committee Meeting
IAC Offices, 505N, Indiana Government Center
Wednesday, March 4, 2020, 10 a.m. (ET)
Allen Platt, Chair

MINUTES

Members Present:

Members via Teleconference: Alberta Barker, Ruth Ann Cowling, Allen Platt, Nancy Stewart, Anne Valentine

Members Absent:

IAC Staff Present: Miah Michaelsen, Stephanie Pfendler, Lewis Ricci, Paige Sharp, Chapin Schnick

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions.** Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) Chair, Allen Platt, convened the Executive Committee meeting at 10:02 a.m. and asked for all present to introduce themselves. It was noted due to a lack of quorum the Committee would discuss items and reconvene for formal motions and approvals on action items in March.
- 2) **Approval of Agenda and November Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Platt presented the meeting agenda and November 27 and December 6, 2019 meeting minutes and asked for any notes or edits. Hearing none the Committee will formally approve the minutes when reconvened in December.
- 3) **Financials.**
 - a. **FY2020 YTD.** IAC Deputy Director, Miah Michaelsen, presented the Comparative Budget Financial Statement (attached) for January 2020 and noted the personnel line item is slightly over, due, in part, to retirement payout for IAC's former Director of Marketing, with all other line items on target. Ms. Michaelsen continued actual revenue is higher than the state appropriation for the agency since federal funds have been carried forward in alignment with the new federal policies and timelines for expensing. Mr. Ricci noted the February statement will be available for the quarterly meeting and will include one-time expenditures for the office renovation and technology refresh. It was noted the office renovation was included in the approved budget and the technology refresh was not anticipated in this fiscal year.
 - b. **Cultural Trust activity and other investments.** Ms. Michaelsen presented the Cultural Trust Financial Update (attached) and noted a fund balance of \$3,681,282.53 as of December 31, 2019. Ms. Michaelsen continued that while the Commission decision to invest in high yield, long term investments has resulted in increased returns, plate sales continue to decline. She noted the Commission has not drawn from the trust in several years. A new intended focus to boost plate sales and bring visibility to the Trust is being suggested.
 - c. **Cultural Trust benefit revisit.** Mr. Ricci spoke to addressing declining plate sales and increased visibility of the Trust through redefining Trust beneficiaries. Currently, the Trust benefits primarily the Partnering, Arts, Community and Education (PACE)

program. Because the PACE program will end in 2023 and funds being held in the Brown County Community Foundation are intended for that program, utilizing the Trust to benefit communities is being suggested. The proposed refocus would instead benefit Arts Project Support (APS) grantees in each county by designating them an Arts Trust Designee. IAC communications staff will help to tell the Arts Trust Designees' stories through various storytelling avenues to inform citizens of the Trust benefits in their communities and provide the state better ownership of the Trust. Mr. Ricci noted because the Trust is reaching a sizeable amount protecting that should also be a consideration. Ms. Michaelsen added that communications will not use language that would assume a value judgement of the designee as, for example, the *best* of their county. Language will only refer to the designation. Mr. Ricci continued that the suggestion to refocus the Trust is based on the precedent set by bicentennial projects which provided a designation along with the project grant. He continued that the Commission will need to vote to change the Trust designation. If the designation is approved, the Commission will then also approve which designees receive funding from the Trust along with approval of APS grants in June.

4) Office of the Governor.

- a. **Appointment Priorities and Upcoming Vacancies.** Mr. Ricci noted second terms for Commissioners Kathy Anderson, Sherry Stark and Nancy Stewart conclude on June 30, 2020.
- b. **Call for prospective commissioners, emphasis on diversity.** Mr. Ricci noted the agency is working on a more diverse and robust nominations list to send to the Office of the Governor. He continued on the effort to improve the nomination process by connecting with nominees to determine if they are interested in moving forward in that process, without making an obligation to them, and communicating why qualifications of nominees are necessary and important for the Commission. Discussion with Office of the Governor liaison Rebecca Holwerda to approve these processes is scheduled.
- c. **New Personnel Policies and Inquiry on Behalf of Staff Members.** Mr. Ricci reported State Personnel has suspended any personal identification pronouns in online signatures until a definitive policy from the State Personnel Department and the Office of the Governor is approved.

5) Advocacy Look Forward.

- a. **Arts engagement tour and Arts Homecoming 2020.** Mr. Ricci reported on the Region 3 engagement tour with a robust agenda that includes a meeting with the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership Mayors and Commissioners Caucus, a grant writing party in Fort Wayne and a town hall in Wabash. Mr. Ricci spoke to the agency's deliberate strategy to build advocacy through these regional tours that will roll up to our 2020 Indiana Arts Homecoming. Mr. Ricci thanked Commissioners David Haist, Nancy Stewart and Chad Bolser for their involvement in planning this tour. Mr. Ricci noted he has been transparent with the Office of the Governor in his goal to boost advocacy by citizens in the state as these efforts may impact the way citizens communicate with the Office and they are supportive.
- b. **Engaged Arts Advocacy Coaches.** Mr. Ricci reported Sally Gaskill, emeritus commissioner and state representative of Americans for the Arts, and Terry Whitt

Bailey, former head of Community Development for the City of Muncie are spearheading advocacy initiatives and working on plans to train and involve citizens who are interested in advocacy work.

- c. **Senate/House Arts Leadership Committee.** Mr. Ricci reported Senator Ron Grooms has taken the lead to create an arts leadership committee in the house and senate. The initial configuration of the group will consist of 12 legislators (6 senators and 6 representatives from both parties) and 12 representative citizens. Mr. Platt noted his appreciation of Senator Grooms in this work and Senator Ford in advocating for the arts in this way and creating an outlet for citizen advocates.
- 6) **Current Strategic Plan – Progress to Date.** Ms. Michaelsen reported the state's Management Performance Hub will soon include data from the agency. This will be a public portal which will provide a great tool to retrieve information for advocacy and community engagement efforts and to better understand grants in communities over time. Ms. Michaelsen noted the agency is attempting to provide the Commission with a deep dive into certain agency activities rather than reporting on the list of strategic plan activities as we near the end of the current plan.
- 7) **Up-coming Top-Tier Plan Update.** Mr. Ricci reported the agency is in the research phase leading up to the next strategic plan. He reported on the leadership team assembled to assist in this work. Chad Bolser will be the lead Commissioner in this endeavor. Karen Gahl Mills, former director of Cuyahoga Arts and current IU faculty, will lead a planning service with the Commission to discuss and assess the success of our current plan. Commissioner Anne Valentine will help us assess advocacy in the state and former Civil Rights Commission Director, Jamal Smith will be assisting in terms of diversity and inclusion.
- 8) **IDEA Update.** IAC Deputy Director of Programing, Paige Sharp, presented the agency's inclusion, diversity, equity and access (IDEA) accomplishments for 2019 and goals for 2020. She noted State Personnel Department Inclusion and Diversity Manager, Shayla Pulliam, is going to provide implicit bias training for staff and regional arts partners who will extend that out into the panelist orientation and training process. Ms. Sharp continued on the importance of providing inclusion and cultural training for commissioners as we move forward with development of a cultural equity statement for the agency.
- 9) **Programs, Grants & Services.**
 - a. **On-Ramp 2020 Cohort.** The On Ramp entrepreneurial program cohort was presented to the Committee for approval. It was noted the cohort aligns with priority areas articulated in the 2020 guidelines and include artistic career experience, statewide representation, artistic discipline, race/ethnicity, and underserved populations. Ms. Sharp noted approval to take part in the training program includes approval to be a part of the fellowship program. The training will take place in Lafayette May 7 – 10, 2020.
 - b. **Rural Indiana Performance Fund 2020.** Ms. Paige submitted the Rural Indiana performance Fund which is a program administered through Arts Midwest. Mr. Ricci noted this program day lighted the reality that the Commission currently has no policy in place for grants approved by a third party.
 - c. **OCRA Partnership.** Ms. Sharp reported that the Quick Impact Place based (QuIP) Grants administered by the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) application deadline is March 6th. Because the IAC is partnering to fund public art centered applications, the Commission will need to cede authority to the QuIP review team to fund

applications. Mr. Ricci reiterated that because we do not have a formal policy on third parties who grant on our behalf, the Commission will need to consider this as we begin to develop more partnerships. Previously, only Regional Arts Partners granted on our behalf and now we have include Arts Midwest and OCRA. He noted having a policy in place is important because the trustees of the Commission are responsible for the funds going to those programs and because of our association with those grants. As we go forward eliminating the need to cede authority except for extenuating circumstances, while making sure you are exercising the authority you are given as a Commission is the goal.

All items presented were discussed and agreed to by consensus to be formally voted on when the Committee reconvenes prior to the March quarterly business meeting.

10) Begin Closed Executive Session.

- a. Personnel – Leadership Transition
- b. Legal Items

11) End Closed Session.

12) Old Business. None discussed.

13) New Business. None discussed.

14) Adjourn. Mr. Platt called to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned by Committee consensus at 11:25 a.m.

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

FRIDAY, March 13, 2020

**Eagles Theatre
Wabash, IN**

Allen C. Platt, Chair

Minutes

Members Present: Ruth Ann Cowling, Allen Platt, Nancy Stewart

Members via teleconference: Alberta Barker

Members absent: Anne Valentine

Arts Commission staff present and *via teleconference*: *Jasmine Bejar, Bridget Eckert, Stephanie Haines, Miah Michaelson, Stephanie Pfendler, Deanna Poelsma, Lewis Ricci, Chapin Schnick, Paige Sharp, Anna Tragesser*

- 1. Convene meeting.** Executive Committee Chair Allen Platt convened the meeting at 10:32 a.m.
- 2. Approval of November 20 and December 6, 2019 meeting minutes.** Mr. Platt motioned to approve the presented minutes. Commissioner Nancy Stewart seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The motion carried.
- 3. Motion to recommend to the full Commission approval of the Fiscal Year 2020 year to date financials.**
- 4. Motion to recommend to the full Commission approval of the 2020 On Ramp Cohort which includes approval of the fellowship.**
- 5. Motion to recommend to the full Commission approval of Rural Indiana Performance Fund grantees as selected by Arts Midwest.**
- 6. Motion to recommend to the full Commission approval to cede authority to QUIP review team to make funding decisions.**
Mr. Platt called to approve all above stated motions (items 3 – 6). Ms. Stewart motioned to approve. Commissioner Ruth Ann Cowling seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The motion carried.
- 7. Adjourn.** Mr. Platt called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Stewart motioned to adjourn. Ms. Cowling seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.