Indiana Arts Commission
Programs, Grants and Services Committee
Indiana Arts Commission Office
Thursday, February 27, 2020

Minutes

Ruth Ann Cowling, Chair

Members Present: Ruth Ann Cowling, Anne Valentine
Members via Teleconference: Kathy Anderson, Alberta Barker, Jake Oakman, Allen Platt, Dusty Stemer
Members Absent: Dave Haist, Greg Hull
IAC Staff Present: Jasmine Bejar, Miah Michaelsen, Stephanie Pfendler, Deanna Poelsma, Lewis Ricci, Paige Sharp, Anna Tragesser

I. **Welcome and Introductions.** Committee Chair, Ruth Ann Cowling, called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and asked for everyone to introduce themselves. Due to lack of quorum, the Committee proceeded by consensus to reconvene in March for formal motions and approvals. All in attendance as listed above.

II. **Consent Agenda and Minutes.** Ms. Cowling presented the February 27, 2020 agenda and asked if the Committee had any changes. Hearing none the Committee proceeded by consensus. Ms. Cowling presented the November 14 and December 6, 2019 minutes and asked for any discussion or concerns. None noted. Hearing none Ms. Cowling noted the Committee will approve when reconvened in March.

III. **Capacity Building Program Update.**

a. **Indiana Arts Homecoming 2020.** IAC Deputy Director, Miah Michaelsen reported on the Indiana Arts Homecoming (IAH) scheduled for Oct 15 – 16, 2020. It was noted the IAH Steering Committee met for the first time with IAC staff and event consultant Sara Peterson in January to provide guidance on the story sharing theme and call for proposals. Ms. Michaelsen further explained the goal of the conference which is to apply story to advance the arts specifically for advocacy, program and organization development and building a brand.

b. **Staff Activities.** IAC Deputy Director of Programs, Paige Sharp, reported programs staff attended a retreat to help identify goals for the year. She noted, since July 1st, the IAC has presented to over 1200 people through conferences, webinars, and workshops. She noted online community engagement and Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access video content has garnered over 1600 views from organizations and individual artists collectively which shows constituents are utilizing our capacity building tools. Ms. Tragresser further reported on the grant writing workshops she held throughout the state which reached over 200 people at the in-person gatherings. She noted the importance of making the grant writing process accessible. Commissioner Kathy Anderson questioned if Ms. Tragesser felt there were any take away surprises from these events. Ms. Tragesser noted she didn't realize how hungry artists were for this type of capacity building program. She further spoke to building a cohesive curriculum to mimic discussion at these events to be recycled into various mediums.

c. **Cultural Competency Trainings.** Ms. Sharp noted Shayla Pullium, Inclusion and Diversity manager for the State of Indiana, will be providing implicit bias training to IAC staff and Regional Arts Partners. She discussed the benefit of Partners understanding this concept to inform panelist orientations. It was noted cultural competency training will also be provided for Commissioners as we seek to inform the agency's cultural equity statement. Commissioner Anne Valentine noted the implicit bias tool provided by Harvard. Ms. Sharp further emphasized the importance of training to get all stakeholders on the same page.

d. **Research.** Ms. Sharp reported on continued research with Ball State University, the Public Policy Institute and the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at I.U. on research of the agency's constituent groups: communities, organizations and artists. She spoke to the importance of understanding where communities are in their work, how Cultural Districts impact the state and the needs of artists. It was further noted Accelerate Indiana Communities will be distributing community data through their networks since that is where we can connect with community leaders. IAC Arts Education and Accessibility Manager, Stephanie

Haines, noted further research initiatives which will help the IAC better understand how to best support arts education in the state.

IV. **Grant Program Update.**

a. **Paige's Update.**

i. Regional Initiative Grants. Ms. Sharp reported on the current Arts Organization Support (AOS) I and Arts Project Support (APS) grant cycle, noting AOS II and III organizations do not apply in this year since they are on a two year cycle. She reported of the 15 arts organizations who submitted letters of intent (LOI) to apply, 10 of those are completely new to the program. It was noted an LOI was received from all regions except region 10 which is the Evansville area. It was noted while there were no new applicants who submitted LOIs from this region, we can expect there will still be returning applicants from this region. Ms. Sharp continued on the usefulness of the LOI in understanding growth in the program and determining whether or not new applicants are eligible to continue through the process. Ms. Haines noted the more rural a community is the more likely that community will submit an APS grant.

1. **Cultural Trust Designees**. Ms. Michaelsen presented the proposed strategy to boost the visibility of the arts license plate which supports the Cultural Trust by designating one APS grantee in every county an Arts Trust Designee. IAC communications staff will then select one grant recipient per region to be featured in marketing efforts as the agency seeks to put a face to who is benefitting from the Trust and build connections to motive plate purchases. It was noted while APS grantees are usually handled through the Regional Arts partners, the IAC will not be relying on Partners for communicating related marketing. Commissioner Dusty Stemer suggested making short promotional videos that can then be distributed to media outlets in the regions who have designated amounts of time to give to non-profits such as the IAC. Mr. Ricci noted this program idea was built out of the precedent set by Bicentennial Celebration projects. He further noted this will be a forthcoming action item for the Commission to change the focus of the use of the Trust.

ii. Arts Midwest Special Performance Fund. Ms. Sharp presented the 2020 Rural Indiana Performance Fund recipients (handout attached) of which the IAC partnered with Arts Midwest on this special program. She noted 28 communities applied and we are able to grant 10 of those. Those 10 have no previous history with the IAC and all communities have populations of less than 9,000 which shows the rural reach of these projects.

iii. Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) Partnership. Ms. Sharp reported on the IAC partnership with the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) through their Quick Impact Place Based (QuIP) grants which also prioritizes rural Indiana. Handout attached. The deadline for communities to apply is March 6th and applicants will be reviewed by Commissioner Nancy Stewart, Art Spaces Executive Director Mary Kramer, and IAC Deputy Director Miah Michaelsen. It was noted the Commission will need to approve ceding authority to this review team to make funding decisions. Ms. Sharp continued that this program seeks to incentivize relationships with main street groups and artist communities.

b. **Anna's Update.**

i. Cultural Districts/Creative Community Pathway. IAC Artist Services Manager Anna Tragesser reported on the creative community pathway for potential Cultural Districts with letters of intent due the week of March 1st. She noted we will know who the spotlight communities are by the June quarterly meeting.

ii. Cultural Districts Funding. Ms. Tragesser presented the Cultural District 2020 Funding requests (attached) by district with amount requested and project synopsis. It was noted all cultural districts are requesting the full amount of $5000 except for the Carmel Arts and Design District which has not requested any funding. Ms. Tragesser reminded the Committee that designated districts are able to request up to $5K to support the long range plan and the Cultural District Consortium work plan which has identified what Cultural Districts would like to see happen across the state. Ms. Tragesser further spoke to the leadership being exhibited by Districts through their collaboration with each other and their investment in collaborative projects. It was noted the Commission will not approve these project proposals since Cultural Districts have already been designated and the Commission approved the budget which included these specific funds for the Districts. Ms. Valentine questioned if there are any concerns over the Carmel district disconnecting from the program by not requesting funds. Ms. Tragresser noted although they did not request funding, Carmel is an active partner in other ways as a thriving District. While Ms. Tragesser had no concerns over this non-request, she noted the IAC continues to build relationships with the District, since they have had some turnover in leadership over the past year.

iii. **Artist Services.**

1. **Individual Advancement Program (IAP).** Ms. Tragesser reported Individual Advancement Program applications closed on February 6, 2020 and resulted in 84 applications for the visual arts year. She noted the impact of the guideline changes have made the competitive program more equitable and continued on the direct correlation between grant writing workshops and those who have applied. It was noted the eligibility committee had to assess project content on a couple applications to determine whether or not they could move forward in the process. Mr. Ricci noted this underscored the need to assess criteria language in the guidelines to address problematic content, who has the authority to pull an application and who can make that recommendation. He continued that clarifying our processes is integral as we consider how we utilize public funding and as a body that responds to legislative officials. It was noted the eligibility committee decided to let those problematic applications go through the paneling process.

2. **On-Ramp.** Ms. Tragesser presented the On Ramp program cohort recommendation made up of 40 representatives from all 11 regions with diverse artistic disciplines, races, and career stages. She noted those who applied and those who are being recommended to take part in the cohort. Approval includes anticipating all to apply for the $2000 to support their work after they complete the entrepreneurial workshop. All agreed by consensus to approve the cohort when reconvened in March.

c. **PACE.** Ms. Haines reported on the 4 currently active sights located in New Albany, Wabash, Marion and Indianapolis. She noted the agency is seeking to fill the region 10 partnership. Ms. Sharp continued that the agency has decided if we cannot secure a partnership in region 10 we will let it go in consideration of the time the program will need and the issue of publishing data in a timely manner. Ms. Haines noted the agency is looking ahead to the conclusion of the in school programming and how to publish the research. Mr. Ricci continued the 2 audiences identified for this information are schools, to share best practices for community partnerships, and legislators, to help undergird the worth of investing in our education system. Ms. Cowling noted she can see the value in providing this data to school corporations who may want to cut art and music from their programs. Ms. Anderson noted as the agency seeks to bolster storytelling in the field, we should use storytelling to make the data more impactful. The Committee agreed.

V. **Stephanie's Update (Education and Accessibility).**

a. **Accessibility.**

i. **Task Force.** Ms. Haines reported on the accessibility task force advisory board the agency has assembled to help the agency best serve our constituents. It was noted the board consists of representatives from Art Mix, the Governor's Council with Disabilities, the Indiana Deaf History Museum, Cardinal Services, the National Center on Disability, and Sic for Independent Living and is scheduled to meet twice a year with availability to be on call to assist with questions. Ms. Sharp noted we have seen an immediate impact with relation to our grants and how we communicate accessibility to or grantees.

ii. **IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access).** Ms. Sharp reported on IDEA accomplishments and goals for 2019/2020 with details delineated in the attached handout. Goals were highlighted and include creating an IDEA taskforce, improving the paneling processes, and facilitating focus groups with underrepresented citizens. Ms. Sharp spoke to the creation of a cultural equity statement for the agency and the need to train commissioners first in order to have a good understanding of cultural issues prior to making this statement.

b. **Poet Laureate.** Ms. Haines reported new Poet Laureate Matthew Graham will be active in reaching out to the regions as he has set a goal to visit all 92 counties.

c. **Poetry Archive.** Ms. Haines reported the Inverse poetry archive, launched with former poet laureate Adrian Matejka, will be closing the submission window at the end of April with communications sending a push for entries. It was noted the intent is to publish the first public interface of the archive this summer.

d. **Poetry Outloud.** Ms. Haines reported on the February 15th event noting 14 students from 9 regions participated. The winner, Dalia Elkhati, from Franklin Central High School located on the far southeast side of Indianapolis will be representing Indiana at the national championship in Washington D.C. in April.

VI. **Old Business.**

a. **Veterans.** Mr. Ricci noted the agency is continuing to understand how to better serve the veterans community. He reported the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Rural Health (ORH) have announced plans to expand the telehealth component of

Creative Forces®: NEA Military Healing Arts Network to Indianapolis' Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center. This is only one of 3 new sites chosen this year to extend the program into communities. In relation, Mr. Ricci has been invited by the Second Lady, Karen Pence, to attend an Exhibit at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. which is showcasing work from veterans in the program.

VII. New Business. None discussed.

VIII. Adjourn. Ms. Cowling adjourned the meeting by Committee consensus at 2:36 PM.