

FY2019 ARTIST FELLOWSHIP PANEL REVIEW

BOARD REPORT

Literary and Performing Arts Artist Fellowship and Fellowship Project Panel Meetings

Wednesday, July 18 and Thursday, July 19, 2018



LITERARY ARTS PANEL ARTIST FELLOWSHIP REVIEW

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2018

9 a.m. through 3rd Round

Truckee Meadows Community College, Dandini Main Campus, 7000 Dandini Boulevard, Red MT #214, Reno

Reviewed **53** applications, in the following areas:

- 9 Creative Nonfiction
- 17 Fiction
- 4 Playwriting
- 13 Poetry
- 2 Prose
- 5 Screenplay
- 2 Writing for Young Adults
- 1 Web Serials

Number of Audience Members: 4

NAC PANEL CHAIR: Gail Rappa

PANELISTS

- **Mark E. Cull**, author and Publisher of Red Hen Press, Los Angeles, CA
- **Jennifer 8. Lee**, CEO of Plympton, a literary studio which works on innovative publishing projects, San Francisco, CA
- **David Potorti**, Literature Director, North Carolina Arts Council, Raleigh, NC

PANEL PROCESS

Before the panel meeting: Panelists read all of the work samples, wrote comments and scored each of the 53 applications.

Round One: is a silent round with no discussion, using their scores, panelists rated each application with scores of 1 to 5, with 1 the lowest and 5 the highest. Applications with average scores of 10 and above went on to the next round.

Round Two: 25 applications were discussed and scored. 9 applications with average scores of 12.6 and above went on to next round.

Third/Final Round: (discussion) panelists decided to discuss and score the 9 applications. They decided the 4 applicants that should receive a Fellowship and 3 applicants the Honorable Mention Grant. The panelists recommend the following:

FY19 LITERARY ARTS, ARTIST FELLOWS: each receiving \$5,000 grant

Applicant #32, Ann Keniston, Reno, poetry

Final Round: Average Score 13.17

Panel Comments: "This was one of the work samples I liked the most. Couplets was a good choice rather than describing general abstractions something is actual being said. We are hearing thoughts and coherent vignettes (occasional poems) which were quite well done. The two-line structure works really well with this material, although these are not formally "odes." The material is lucid and the line breaks add interest. Beautiful free-flowing language. I enjoy the subjects of these poems."

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LITERARY ARTS, ARTIST FELLOWSHIP GRANT (continued)

Applicant #41, Lindsay Wilson, Reno, poetry

Final Round: Average Score 13.17

Panel Comments: “Intent is clear. Single lines broken across two. Variance in terms of line breaks, stanzas. This is a poet who knows what they are doing. Observational poems. I like this very much. In this case the changing line spacing and structure served to draw focus the work rather than distract from it. So vivid, with a lovely and meditative rhythm. There is not a wasted word here. The line breaks add a lot to the poem's power. This is mature writing in a strong and consistent voice.”

Applicant #19, Mark Maynard, Reno, fiction

Final Round: Average Score 13.3

Panel Comments: “A high score for me. I appreciate everything from the little details to the structure of starting with the dead bodies and jumping back. Nice scope and sophistication of characters. Well executed in a small setting. Overall story was quite good. Interesting to have petty insertions of objects – like barbell. Felt like the writer fashioned this complete work and it all made sense. Characters feelings made sense, they were almost archetypal but I still enjoyed writing and watching them. Thought the writer has an excellent grasp of writing.”

Applicant #23, Sherry Rosenthal, Las Vegas, fiction

Final Round: Average Score 13.3

Panel Comments: “Ambitious range, appreciate the range and scope of ambition and the curlicues that tie it all together. Well executed, overarching storyline seems like it would be emotionally satisfying. I like hippos. This is a novel or application where knowing the background of the author would sway the impact of the story. I like the writing. In many ways I thought this was the type of story that would pull me into literature. Wanting to see other places, this did that very well. The author was the master of his or her universe. They knew all the details so that was great it is not a new story but I was still engrossed. It was handled in a great way and made me want to read the rest of the story. Clearly the author has done a lot of research.”

FY19 LITERARY ARTS HONORABLE MENTIONS each receiving a \$500 grant:

Applicant #03 – Final Round Score 13: Brittany Bronson, Las Vegas, nonfiction

Applicant #11 – Final Round Score 13: Annie Reed, Sparks, fiction

Applicant #10 – Final Round Score 13: Amana Skenandore, Las Vegas, fiction

PERFORMING ARTS PANEL ARTIST FELLOWSHIP REVIEW

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017

9 a.m. through completion

Truckee Meadows Community College, Dandini Main Campus, 7000 Dandini Boulevard, Red MT #214, Reno

Reviewed **34** applications, in the following areas:

- 4 Choreographer
- 2 Composer
- 1 Costumer Designer
- 3 Dance Performer
- 15 Music Performer
- 2 Storytelling & Spoken Word
- 5 Theater Director
- 2 Theater Performer

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PERFORMING ARTS, ARTIST FELLOWSHIP GRANT (continued)

Number of Audience Members: 3

NAC PANEL CHAIR: Joe O'Neill

PANELISTS

- **Tien Hsieh**, classical pianist, Folsom, CA
- **Jeffrey Herrmann**, Managing Director, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Seattle, WA
- **Helanius J. Wilkins**, choreographer, performance artist and Assistant Professor of Dance, University of Colorado – Boulder, CO

PANEL PROCESS

Before the panel meeting: Panelists reviewed all of the work samples, wrote comments and scored each of the 34 applications.

Round One: This is a silent round with no discussion. Panelists viewed and/or listened to the applicants' work samples, using their original scores, panelists ranked each application with scores of 1 to 5, with 1 the lowest and 5 the highest. Applications with average scores of 11.67 and above went on to the next round.

Round Two: 15 applications were discussed and scored. Applications with scores of 13 and above went on to next round.

Third Round: 9 application with discussed and 8 applications went on to final round

Final Round: Panelists discussed the remaining 8 applications and decided the 4 applicants that should receive a Fellowship and 3 applicants the Honorable Mention Grant. The panelists recommend the following:

FY19 PERFORMING ARTS, ARTIST FELLOWSHIP GRANTEES: each receiving \$5,000 grant

Applicant #31, Troy Heard, theater director, Las Vegas

Final Round: Average Score 14.33

Panel Comments: "This was outstanding applicant. The three samples were so different. So much variety. "Bring It On" had a big budget and cast but was so legible while they were singing and dancing. They know how to operate at that level. The motel scene showed bravery in range. "Carrie the musical" – no budget, but the action was still great. Clever approach to special effects. This person can work with lots of budgets, different scenarios. Resourceful and solid director. Impressed with this work, especially the second sample – "Motel." It showed forward thinking. Especially in what was written about how it came to be. I saw risk taking in all three work samples. Great choreography in first one. Impressed with the use of space in "Carrie." High level of commitment."

Applicant #17, Jennifer Grim, music performer/flute, Las Vegas

Final Round: Average Score 13.67

Panel Comments: This is a strong, technical player. Selected challenging and rigorous pieces. Championing composers of color. Would like more description about the artist's philosophy and choice of artists. Impressive at a technical level. Well accomplished. I found myself locked into noticing tone, texture, range, rhythm. Found a sense of individuality in how it was executed and complexity of work. Distinctive. Memorable. Doesn't sound or feel like anything else. Found this artist to reflect high artistic quality and integrity. In skill, precise, understated yet dynamic. Love the fact there is diversity in the programming which we need more of. Refined phrasing.

Applicant #27, Ann Marie Pereth, theater director, Las Vegas

Final Round: Average Score 13.67

Panel Comments: Very talented director. Someone who knows what they are doing. Responded to all three reflection. Moment to moment acting work is clear, coherent design choices, nothing flashy but well done. This

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PERFORMING ARTS, ARTIST FELLOWSHIP GRANT (continued)

artist knows what they are doing – not overly showy or flashy. If the work is great it feels like there is an invisible hand and I felt that a lot in this work. Fascinated by how the applicant creates a sense of motion through manipulating sets and props. Made me feel like I was experiencing shifts in the work, makes for scenes to move fluidly without interruption. I would be curious to see more of this persons work. Impressive contrast of work samples, enjoyed their work. Timing was great. It kept me entranced. Very mindful words. It also helps to have excellent actors.

Applicant #19, Mykola Suk, music performer/piano, Las Vegas

Final Round: Average Score 13.67

Panel Comments: Beautiful performer. This feeling of life came through to me. Spritely. Great verve. Subtle, dynamic. Would have liked more in the application about how they choose pieces, approach work. It's clear how seriously they take the craft and how dedicated they are to teaching students. Real passion came through in the playing and made me curious. Invited me into the score. Brought something to life for me that was unexpected. I love surprises like that appreciate diversity of samples provided which represented the depth of the artist. Nuanced. Dynamic work. Superb repertoire pieces. Great technique. Could have edited out more of the orchestra so we could hear more of the artist's playing. Great diversity of work samples. Appreciate bar talking.

FY19 PERFORMING ARTS HONORABLE MENTIONS GRANTEES each receiving a \$500 grant:

Applicant #9 – Final Round Score 13.33: Jason Nious, dance performer. Las Vegas

Applicant #21 – Final Round Score 13.33: Raja Rahman, music performer/piano, Las Vegas

Applicant #3 – Final Round Score 13.33: Rosie Trump, choreographer, Reno

FELLOWSHIP PROJECT GRANT

The Fellowship Project Grant is designed to support individual artists from all disciplines who have received the maximum allowed number of the NAC fellowships (two or more) and meet all Fellowship Program eligibility requirements.

Reviewed 2 applications, from the following applicants:

Dayvid Figler

Writer/performer from Las Vegas

Eugene Shapiro

Music professor at College of Southern Nevada, jazz composer, guitarist, bandleader of The Shapiro Project Jazz quartet in Las Vegas.

Number of Audience Members: 0

NAC PANEL CHAIR: Joe O'Neill

SAME PANELISTS: Tien Hsieh, Jeffrey Herrmann and Helanius J. Wilkins

PANEL PROCESS

Before the panel meeting: Panelists reviewed all of the work samples, wrote comments and scored each of the 2 applications using the following matrix: Up to 25 points for Potential Impact, up to 25 points for Feasibility, and up to 50 points, for Artistic Strength.

Round One: The lead panelist introduced the applicants and their proposal, viewed work samples and panelists discussed and scored the two application using their original scores.

Final Round: Panelists discussed the applications, scored and recommend the following:

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FELLOWSHIP PROJECT GRANT (continued)

Applicant: Eugene Shapiro, jazz musician, Las Vegas

Final Round: Average Score 91.67

Proposal Summary: Create a digital audio recording of his original jazz compositions, followed by a concert at The Smith Center.

Panel Comments: Responded to this proposal. Drummer is fantastic. Guitar solo in “Planet X” is insane. Very dedicated to the form. Appreciative of direct in person contact that will be made with audiences and the ability to continue to connect audience and artist. The recording allows post performance engagement. Budget is generous is realistic, tremendous impact for the genre of jazz for him to continue this production and make it a reality. Jazz is a struggling genre and he has made it a point to add contemporary components to his new recording to make it accessible. Outline of event is very clearly stated.