

NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL BOARD MEETING - teleconference

Wednesday March 15, 2017

2:00 pm

Nevada Arts Council
716 N Carson St, Suite A
Carson City, NV 89701

Present:

Board	Julia Arger, Chair Irma Varela Joe O'Neill Gail Rappa Jerry Schefcik Ryrie Valdez
Staff	Susan Boskoff, Executive Director Linda Ficklin, Administrative Services Officer Cathleen Wyatt, Administrative Assistant Fran Morrow, Artist Services Program Coordinator Maryjane Dorofachuk, Arts Learning Program Coordinator Teresa Moiola, Grants Program Coordinator Ariana Cramer, Grants Program Assistant Kelli Du Fresne, Community Arts Development, Program Assistant
Guests	Claudia Vecchio, Director, DTCA Rosalie Bordelove, Deputy Attorney General Beverly Smith, Grant Applicant

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting convened in open public session, via conference call, at 2:00 p.m. Julia Arger, chair of the Nevada Arts Council (NAC) Board, welcomed everyone, and asked for introductions. (*Attachment A: Public Meeting Notice/Agenda*).

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment in person or submitted via email.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 12, 2016 – For Possible Action

Arger requested a motion to approve the minutes from the NAC Board Meeting on December 12, 2016. (*Attachment B: Minutes from NAC Board Meeting December 12, 2016*)

MOTION: APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 12, 2016: Moved by Irma Varela; seconded by Joe O'Neill. Passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM JANUARY 26, 2017 – For Possible Action

Arger requested a motion to approve the minutes from the NAC Board Meeting on January 26, 2017. (*Attachment C: Minutes from NAC Board Meeting January 26, 2017*)

MOTION: APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM JANUARY 26, 2017: Moved by Joe O'Neill; seconded by Ryrie Valdez. Passed unanimously.

REVIEW AND APPROVE PANEL FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS OF FY17 FOURTH QUARTER JACKPOT GRANTS – For Possible Action

Jackpot Quarterly Grants of up to \$1,000 are designed to support first-time or sudden opportunity arts and arts learning/education projects initiated by artists, teaching artists, schools, nonprofit organizations and public institutions. Twelve applications were submitted for the FY17 Fourth Quarter Jackpot Grants.

A panel of specialists reviewed and scored the 12 applications from 10 artists and two arts organizations requesting support for projects and activities scheduled to occur between April 1 and June 30, 2017. The panel reviewed application narratives and required support materials using the GO™ system, and met via conference call to discuss and score applications. The Jackpot Grant Scoring Rubric now allows for Creation, Public Project, Organizations and Arts Learning scoring on Jackpot grants. This removes differences in overall scores for the Jackpot Grant applications regardless of project type as all are scored out of 100 possible points. The panel scores resulted in an overall funding recommendation of \$8,477 with available funding for the quarter of \$10,000. No application scores were below the 60% threshold for no funding established by the board. The panel unanimously recommended funding the three applicants scoring above 90 at 100 percent and funding the remaining 9 applicants at a 0.68% overall increase. One applicant withdrew post panel review, leaving the recommended funding at \$9,088. (*Attachment D: FY17 Fourth Quarter Jackpot Grants Panel Funding Recommendations.*)

FY17 Fourth Quarter Jackpot Grants panel recommended funding:

- **Keely Cobb**, Carson City (Carson) - Requested \$1000 to support artists and materials for a self-produced theatre and dance performance titled "Relations." This project is an evening-length theatre and dance performance at the Potentialist Workshop in Reno and will be performed by a cast of six professional Reno-based dancers. The show will run April 27-29, 2017. *Average Score: 82.3% Recommended Funding: \$879 Actual Award: \$879.00*
- **Pierette Kulpa**, Reno (Washoe County) - Requested \$1000 to support travel costs associated to visit Galleria Persano in Turin, Italy for the applicant to develop a "Pistoletto Project". The project is a study of the piece L'etrusco which bridges two major areas of Pistoletto's output: his mirror paintings and his copies of famous historical sculptures. The findings will be presented at the American Association of Italian Studies Conference in Columbus, Ohio and in a workshop at Sierra Nevada College where the applicant is an adjunct professor. *Average Score: 89% Recommended Funding: \$951 Actual Award: \$951.00*
- **Wendy Kveck**, Las Vegas (Clark County) - Requested \$1000 to support an artist panel entitled "The Artist as Culture Producer: Living and Sustaining a Creative Life" scheduled for April 10, 2017 at the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art. The panel features a diverse group of visual artists to discuss the role and impact of visual artists as culture-producers in their extended communities. The panel is headlined by Minneapolis-based artist Sharon Loudon and titled after her second book. She is joined by Brooklyn-based artist Clarity Haynes and Las Vegas-based artists Andreana Donahue, Justin Favela and Wendy Kveck. The grant would support panel, artist and travel fees. *Average Score: 92% Recommended Funding: \$1,000 Actual Award: \$1,000.00*

- **Linda Lister**, Las Vegas (Clark County) – Requested \$400 to support marketing and artist fees for a “Hamlet Festival” a new inter-disciplinary literary and musical festival honoring Shakespeare’s Hamlet at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Running from May 1-6, 2017 the festival features lectures from professors of English and theatre as well as a lecture recital, an art song recital, and the world premiere of a new English translation of Ambroise Thomas’ French opera Hamlet. *Average Score: 86.3% Recommended Funding: \$369 Actual Award: \$369.00*
- **Metro Arts Council**, Henderson (Clark County) – Requested \$1000 to support the costs to photograph and document art in public spaces in Clark County. This request is for Phase 1 of the project, which will research and photograph the public art in Clark County and prepare the images for transfer to a digital map. The photographs will be used in the development of a digital map of these public artworks to be completed in Phase 2. *Average Score: 75% Recommended Funding: \$801 Actual Award: \$801.00*
- **Restless Artist’s Theatre**, Sparks (Washoe County) - Requested \$1000 to support material fees for a production of “A Behanding in Spokane.” This original play by Martin McDonagh will open at Restless Artist’s Theatre on May 5, 2017 for an 11 performance run. A Behanding in Spokane’s rights are held by Dramatists Play Service, and for 11 performances, the rights will cost \$1,100. *Average Score: 87% Recommended Funding: \$929 Actual Award: \$929.00*
- **Deon Reynolds, Eureka** (Eureka County) - Requested \$1000 to support the costs associated with his photographic essay of contemporary cowboys working in the Great Basin. The applicant will travel to rural Nevada ranches to capture traditional spring buckaroo ranching activities. Funding will support material acquisition of black and white film and film processing. *Average Score: 87% Recommended Funding: \$929 Actual Award: \$929.00*
- **Eugene Shapiro**, Henderson (Clark County) - Requested \$500 to support the applicant’s concert presentation during the International Jazz Day Celebrations with his Jazz Quartet the Shapiro Project. The event will take place on April 30, 2017 at the West Las Vegas Library. It will feature playing and presenting information on jazz artists including John Coltrane, Wes Montgomery, and Horace Silver as well as original jazz compositions. *Average Score: 91.7% Recommended Funding: \$500 Actual Award: \$500.00*
- **Beverly Smith**, Las Vegas (Clark County) - Requested \$950 to retain a consultation to assist in the publication of the applicant’s collection of short stories. The applicant seeks to collaborate with Ms. Binnie Wilkin a renowned librarian and storyteller to improve her short stories for eventual publication. The collaboration will include creative sessions, editing sessions, and strategic planning. *Average Score: 80.3% Recommended Funding: \$815 Actual Award: \$815.00*
- **Suzanne Williams**, Reno (Washoe County) - Requested \$1000 to support travel to New England for the applicant to engage in research for her historical novel, “No Saints, No Heroes.” *Average Score: 93% Recommended Funding: \$1,000 Actual Award: \$1,000.00*
- **Luke Witosky**, Reno (Washoe County) - Requested \$1000 to support material fees for the creation of a contemporary Native American ceremonial vest that will be the embodiment of the applicant’s relationship to his heritage. As a Cherokee citizen, this heritage exists in solidarity with the plight of native people’s rights from criminal acts and exploitation of their sovereignty. This piece will be

homage to the old Cherokee Legend of Two Wolves. *Average Score: 85.7% Recommended Funding: \$915 Actual Award: \$915.00*

- **Evan Pellegrini**, Yerington (Lyon County) - requested \$1000 to support the costs associated with frame a collection of the applicant's artwork. *Average Score: 77.7% Recommended Funding: \$0 Actual Award: \$0 - Withdrawn by Applicant*

MOTION: TO APPROVE FY17 FOURTH QUARTER JACKPOT GRANTS FUNDING RECOMMENDATION: Moved by Irma Varela; seconded by Gail Rappa. Passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR'S REPORT – NAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TRANSITION – For Discussion Only

Arger introduced Claudia Vecchio, Director of the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs (DTCA,) noting that she had been included in the rigorous recruitment process for Boskoff's successor.

Vecchio thanked Arger for her help with the process, as she had not previously done a recruitment in the arts community. She informed the Board that they were collaborating with regional and federal partners, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA), the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA), Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF), to better understand what this position entails in 2017, and beyond. They've also been very helpful in writing the job posting, making it more marketable. Vecchio went on to explain that it is taking longer than normal to list the job posting because the position is held by Susan Boskoff as a classified position, but per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 233C.4091, and the Department of Human Resources, this position is unclassified. As a result, the funding of the position going forward must be allocated as an unclassified position, and was not previously transferred over from a classified position by the legislature. Therefore, Human Resources (HR) has to recode the position before it can be posted, the Interim Finance Committee (IFC), who will meet on April 4, 2017, must approve the change in the position. Vecchio anticipates a 6-8 week application process, finalists will then be interviewed by the selection committee, and staff, and then on an individual basis with the Board. Board can make their recommendations to either Arger or Vecchio. Per the NRS, Vecchio will appoint the position with input from the Board, possibly in June or July. There will be an interim person, though not ready to disclose who that will be.

Board member Gail Rappa asks about the impact of changing position from classified to unclassified. Vecchio answers that it should not have any impact.

Board member Joe O'Neill asks if position will be based in Carson City or possibly Las Vegas. Vecchio answers Carson City.

Board member Irma Varela asks if they are doing a national search for the position. Vecchio answers yes. One of the preferred qualifications is to have someone who has experience in, or understands well, the issues of the Western United States.

Board member Jerry Schefciks asks how the Board members will conduct their interviews. Vecchio answers that it will probably be via Skype, if not available, it will be by phone, and if possible, in person.

Arger then gives kudos and thanks to Vecchio for embracing input from a multitude of areas, stating her belief that the attention to detail and inclusion of input will result in the strongest candidate possible.

Vecchio thanks Arger for her input and help, and expresses her willingness for communication with the Board.

CHAIR'S REPORT ON ADVOCACY AND BOARD ACTIVITIES – For Discussion Only

Arger thanks the Board and staff for their tremendous efforts toward making the 50th Awards Celebration, Fridays National Roundtable conversation on the arts, and Saturdays Poetry Out Loud State Finals, such a grand success. Everyone played a key role in welcoming NEA Chairman Jane Chu to Nevada. Chairman Chu and her two staff members, Andi Mathis and Meredith Raimondi, said that in all of their previous forty-six state visits, they had not received such a warm and personal reception. They did an amazing number of site visits, and we had many positives to show them. The Celebration Dinner at the Nevada Museum of Art (NMA) was electric, with colleagues from seven counties joining us. Arger thanked Senators Joyce Woodhouse, David Parks, Mark Manendo, Mo Denis, and Tick Segerblom, all from Las Vegas, and Senator Ben Kieckhefer, Assemblywoman Amber Joiner, and Assemblyman Mike Sprinkle, from Reno, for joining us. Then thanked the legislators who had other commitments, and could not join us, but who sent their regrets with best wishes for a wonderful event. As advocates, we should contact those legislators who could not attend, and tell them in our own words, how the NAC's 50th Anniversary generated a sold out attendance, and unmistakable enthusiasm from grantees, partners, and constituents, who came from all corners of the state; Pahrump, Moapa Valley, Tuscarora, and Glenbrook. Continue that conversation to explain how the Arts Council support is critical to their work as legislative leaders, and members of our state's cultural workforce.

The NAC's message to the Legislature is simple, we are requesting that the Legislature restore the \$100,000.00 cut to the agency's grants budget, and consider increasing the grants budget during this session. Please recall that the Legislature boosted the grants budget last session by \$200,000.00. Reducing that increase this session by half, when there is no deficit, makes little sense, and will negatively affect our grantees. During the budget presentations at two legislative committees that Board members attended, by video conference or in person, staff provided information based on our FY17 grant awards with this scenario; that our FY18 grant recipients would face a nearly 13% in their awards dollars. As a Board, we believe that now is the time to increase, not decrease, public funding for NAC grants, that this investment 1) grows the capacity and program offerings of our arts organizations, 2) provides arts education opportunities for our pre k-12, and 3) provides incentives for our statewide arts industry to invest in their local economies. Board members, your active advocacy on behalf of the NAC is critical, so please, each of you, commit to maintain communication with your legislators, particularly those serving on the Assembly Ways and Means, and Senate Finance Committees, now through the end of the session. In order to share updates and budget information in a timely manner, we may be scheduling additional Board conference calls.

My sincere thanks to Susan and the entire NAC staff for a fantastic, super successful series of events last week, a truly sensational kick-off for the Nevada Arts Council's 50th Anniversary yearlong celebration. Thank you for attending, participating, and enjoying all the terrific events.

Rappa thanked Boskoff and staff for the work that went into producing all the events for those three days. She was impressed that Chairman Chu had been taken on so many site visits, and had been kept very busy with a full schedule while here, understanding how much coordination that took.

Ryrie Valdez, Board member, also thanked Boskoff. Stated that she experienced Poetry Out Loud for the first time, and was inspired, said Boskoff did amazing job with the event.

Boskoff asked Rappa how she felt about an Elko student coming in second. Rappa replied that it was thrilling, and she was happy she was able to stay for the event. They discussed how the top three placements were from rural schools.

Arger asked staff to keep the Board informed as to how Hunt does in the Finals in Washington DC. Dorofachuk will send out a link to the video when she gets it from the NEA.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – REPORT ON AGENCY ACTIVITIES – For Discussion Only

The NAC 50th Anniversary Celebration took a village to produce, and everyone pitched in to make it successful. One of the performers Shana Tucker texted late Tuesday night notifying that she had forgotten to apprise us of her tech requirements for her performance Thursday, to which Boskoff informed of the unlikelihood that the NAC would be able to procure the equipment in such a short amount of time. Though Ms. Tucker was in San Diego recording a record, she called around Reno and was able to obtain the necessary equipment at a reasonable price. Boskoff praised the staff with respect to the confidentiality of the NEA Chairman's visit, and marketing the 50th without mentioning the visit, until the NEA was able to confirm and release the details of her first visit to Nevada to the public. The City of Reno committed up to \$2,000.00 for the Roundtable, ensuring that the McKinley Center could be setup at the same time that staff was setting up the NMA for the 50th. Boskoff relayed praise from our regional and national guests. From NEA Chairman Jane Chu in particular, who appreciated the attention to detail that went into all aspects of the planning and execution of the events. She noted that there was not one state that produces a printed program for the Poetry Out Loud competition comparable to the one created by the NAC. That some states do not even produce a flyer with the kid's names on it. Boskoff gave kudos to Dorofachuk and the agency for continuing to do that.

The Folklife Program staff is busy doing grant site visits, fieldwork, and documentation, and finishing-up *Rivers and Headwaters Regional Initiative*. Dorofachuk continuing to follow up after the two successful Fine Arts Standards update meetings, working with the Department of education.

The *Legislative eXhibition Series* continues to be changed out every three weeks, with photo exhibit *Hyperion* by Christopher Tsouras of Henderson, followed by *At War With Ourselves* mixed media by Jen Graham of Reno, on the 20th. April 10th, *Painting What I Love* by Kathryn Grider, of Spring Creek. *Into the Sunset* mixed-media by Myranda Bair of Las Vegas on May 1st, and *The First Woman – Lucy* by Eyob Mergia of Las Vegas starting May 22nd. On March 27th we say goodbye to Gig Depio's *Negotiating the Influence of Culture* Office eXhibition Series, which filled our office with joy, color, and action. We welcome Gail Rappa, of Tuscarora, and Elaine Parks, of Los Angeles, with their *High Desert Alchemy* Gallery running through June 2nd, and the Reception & Artist Talk on Tuesday, May 23rd, from 5:00-7:30 p.m.

April will start the Fellowship Grant deadlines, this year featuring the visual arts, which is administered by Artist Services and the Grants Program staff. The Artist Fellowship Grant deadline is April 6th, and the Fellowship Project Grant is April 13th.

We have two new people; Stephen Reid holds an MFA in sculpture from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, a BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University, and is an adjunct art

professor at Western Nevada College at Carson City. Stephen has just been hired to fill the Artist Services Associate/ Art Installer position, which is a Manpower position. Denise Duarte has filled the Community Arts Development Program Associate position in Las Vegas. She ran the public art program for Clark County, is presently working with the Left of Center Art Gallery in North Las Vegas, which should go very well with the work Community Arts Development has been doing to help North Las Vegas establish its Arts and Culture Commission. She's also a working artist, very well known in Southern Nevada and statewide, she begins April 10th.

There will be Community Arts Development Team training in Las Vegas April 10-13, and will come to Carson City the 17th-20th. There will be an Arts Town meeting in Fallon on April 19th, which Board member Valdez will also be attending. Another in Elko on April 25th, which will be attended by Board member Rappa. Followed by the Rural Roundup April 26-27 in Elko. Dorofachuk will go to the Poetry Out Loud Finals in Washington DC April 24-27. There will be an Arts Town meeting in Yerington on May 9th, and a Focus Group meeting in Hawthorne on May 10th. May 16-19 is the Arts Learning Grants Panel Review. Partners in Excellence and Project Grants panel reviews, which will be held in a public meeting at Whitney Peak Hotel, and these will either be video/teleconferenced or live streaming events. NAC will also allow for public comment via written comments throughout. May 15th is the 1st Quarter Jackpot deadline for FY18. NAC received one of the NEA's Creativity Connects Grants, which will focus on Sparks. The City of Sparks Creativity Connects Initiative Roundtable will be held in June.

Boskoff believes that the procedure being undertaken to recruit her successor will speak to potential candidates, conveying that this is serious and thoughtful, and thinks it is fantastic.

Arger thanks Boskoff for her guidance and leadership.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was submitted in person or via email.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Moved by Irma Varela; seconded by Joe O'Neill. Passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathleen Wyatt, Administrative Assistant III
Nevada Arts Council

List of Attachments on file with original minutes in NAC offices:

- Attachment A: Public Meeting Notice/Agenda
- Attachment B: NAC Board Meeting Minutes, December 12, 2016
- Attachment C: NAC Board Meeting Minutes, January 26, 2017
- Attachment D: FY17 Fourth Quarter Jackpot Grants Panel Funding Recommendations