

NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL BOARD MEETING

Monday, March 26, 2018

4:00 p.m.

Via Conference, Call

716 N Carson St., Suite A

Carson City, NV 89701

Present:	Board	Julia Arger, Chair Joseph O’Neill, Vice Chair Gail Rappa Mark Salinas Jerry Schefcik Annie Zucker
	Staff	Tony Manfredi, Executive Director Linda Ficklin, Administrative Services Officer Sierra Scott, Grants Specialist Kim Schlesener, Grants Specialist Pat Atkinson, Folklife Specialist Rebecca Snetselaar, Folklife Specialist
	Absent	Edward Estipona, Board Member Eric Strain, Board Member Ryrie Valdez, Board Member

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting convened in open public session at 4:00 p.m. Julia Arger, chair of the Nevada Arts Council (NAC) Board, welcomed everyone, and asked for introductions. (*Attachment A: Public Meeting Notice/Agenda*)

Arger took roll call/confirmed quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment in person or submitted via email.

APPROVAL OF NAC BOARD MINUTES (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

Arger addressed the approval of minutes from the NAC Board Meeting on December 14, 2017. (*Attachment B: Minutes from December 14, 2017 Board Meeting*)

MOTION: APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 14, 2017: Postponed until next meeting.

Mark Salinas, Board Member: Asks about meeting minutes terminology. What's the difference between excused verses absent?

Tony Manfredi, Executive Director: It may be historical terminology. We're going to look at reworking the minutes. To that point, I don't know that there's an excused verses an unexcused absence, I think it's just absent.

Julia Arger, Board Chair: We can look into that. It's possible that if you serve on the Board in a Governor appointed capacity, if you miss meetings for no reason, or do not stay in contact, you can be removed from the Board. Could you look into that Tony, in the NRS?

Manfredi: We will look into that.

Salinas: Under the NRS it's three absences. I'm writing policy for our municipality, so I'm looking at our state's NRS. I'm writing the language for my own Cultural Commissioners, so that jumped out. It would be good if we spoke to someone at the Governor's Office and get some clarification.

Arger: Yes, we'll make sure that happens. Thank you Mark, and Tony as well.

Annie Zucker, Board Member: Joined the meeting, apologized for being late.

DISCUSSION, REVIEW AND VOTE OF FY18 4TH QUARTER JACKPOT GRANT PANEL FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS, FOURTEEN APPLICATIONS, PANEL RECOMMENDED \$11,949.03, AVAILABLE FUNDING IS \$10,000.00. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION) (Attachment C: Jackpot Score Sheet, Attachment D: FY18 Fourth Quarter Jackpot Grant Recommendations)

Manfredi: With regard to our fourth quarter Jackpot grants, and the funding, we've been working on our funding model. We've continued to find ways that I think will really enhance the way that we grant out the funding for the Jackpot panels. Both in a way to make sure that we are rewarding excellence, and at the same time, utilizing the funds that we have available, as well as using the panelist recommendations to help drive the activity. From your packets, please pull out the first page, showing the scoring, and the Excel spreadsheet showing the recommendations. I'll walk you through our thought process here as part of the discussion.

FY18 Fourth Quarter Jackpot Grant Recommendations:

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.

Fourteen applications were submitted for the FY18 Fourth Quarter Jackpot Grants. A panel of specialists reviewed and scored the applications – from eleven artists and three arts organizations – requesting support for projects and activities scheduled to occur between April 1st and June 30th, 2018.

The panel reviewed application narratives and required support materials using the new GO Smart system, and met March 12th by conference call to discuss and score applications. The Jackpot Grant Scoring Rubric allows for Creation, Public Project, Organizations and Arts Learning scoring on Jackpot grants. All applications are scored out of 100 possible points.

This quarters Jackpot review panel was chaired by NAC Board Member Annie Zucker.

Panel members included:

Bobbie Ann Howell, visual artist – Las Vegas

Tami Shelton, arts learning & dance – Reno

Beverly Patton, music – Las Vegas

McKenzi Swinehart, theatre – Reno

I want to focus on the scoring procedure, and what we're looking at here. You'll recall in past meetings that we looked at funding anyone who received a panel recommended score of 95-100 to receive 100% funding. 90-94 = 90% funding, 85-89 = 80%, 80-84 = 70%, 75-79 = 60%, 0-74 = zero percent funding. The challenge with this activity is that we've typically always had more grant awards, based on the panel recommendations, than the \$10,000 we have to award. This scoring rubric takes into account for that. Looking at the spreadsheet that has the average panel percentage, and the average panel scores, it's based from the top score down to the lowest score. You'll see the average panel percentages are based on the average panel scores. The panel recommended amount in the column to the right shows what a dollar amount of that would be, based on \$1,000. So if you look at Sierra Nevada Ballet, they received a 96.75% on their average panel percentage, the panel recommended amount is \$967.50.

The panel scores resulted in an overall funding recommendation for 14 applications of \$11,949.03. Which is \$1,949.03 over the available funding of \$10,000 for the quarter. So what we have done, over the last two board meetings and adjustments, is that we've applied our scoring table. Look over at the adjusted amount, you'll see that we have fully funded anyone who received that 95-100% score, which is the \$1,000 you see. Moving down you'll see \$900, a \$670, which is the percentage amount of the \$745 that they requested. Down in the red areas, you'll see we have someone who received a 76.5%, being able to fund them \$46 towards their request of \$1,000.

What staff has looked at is that, we need to make an adjustment here. What we should look at is what we could fully fund based on our scoring scenarios. In other words, not give someone \$46 for a \$1,000 grant, because they can't do the work appropriately. So if we take away that \$46, you'll see up in the additional funds category \$5, \$4.23, and \$36.77, is what we are recommending applying to the final recommendation numbers. That gets us to the panel recommended amount, going top to bottom, until we run out of money. In the final recommendation scenario you'll see that money ends at \$700, for Amanda Alvey. We won't be able to fund Dean Reynolds Photography at \$46, instead we'll use that money to reach the panel recommendations in the final recommendations column. The difference in this from the last board meeting, and what typically happens in this grant funding scenario, is that we never really know what we're going to get in terms of grant submissions, how good the work will be, or how the panel recommendation will play out. What we've added here is a way to still try to meet the funding table that we've put together, still take into account the panel recommended amount, and still put our grantees in a place where we're not going to fund them at a level so low, that they can't do the work. On the Jackpot scoring procedures on the narrative page, it reads, "during the panel meeting, the panelists discuss each application, and provide their final

score for each applicant. Those scores are then averaged, and the average panel percentage is multiplied by that request amount to find the panel recommended amount.” We then apply that Jackpot funding table that I described, and we adjust the amount. The biggest take-away here is that bullet point that says the funding will stop at the last person that is able to be fully funded at the adjusted amount. We feel that allows us to fund these projects at a good level that meets the panel recommendation amount and funds excellence.

Zucker: Tony, I think this is tremendous work, and a lot of great insight. As you said, A. there’s nothing Deon Reynolds could have done with \$46. Like you say, if you can’t fund them to do the project, then we might as well do it the right way. I think this will really step up people’s applications, knowing that you need to be in the top to get funded. That you can’t submit the same application that you submitted for ten years, and you’re not always guaranteed to get funding, so you need to step up your game artistically, and with the application.

Manfredi: Thank you. We feel like we’re really looking at this, and based on the Board feedback, and wanting to go down this path, we feel really good about it as well.

Arger: Any other questions or comments for Tony?

Gail Rappa, Board Member: I have a question for Annie. I’m looking at the scores across for Deon, we have everything from a 90 to a 59. So, was it pretty cohesive? The discussion when they discussed their final scores to get to that average?

Zucker: I’m trying to remember his in particular, I feel like there was less agreement over his, and I think it was more about semantics and confusion about what the project would go towards. I’m trying to remember, it was for a photography project. I think they were confused as to what the funds would actually go towards.

Linda Ficklin: His was actually for a website.

Zucker: Oh, it was for the website, that’s what it was. It was for his updated website. I think there was more confusion on what the intent of the website would be.

Rappa: Ok, I’m just always curious when there’s such a range like that. It’s pretty significant.

Zucker: There was a lot of agreement on all of the other applicants, if you look across. I’m trying to remember what that argument was. I want to say it was about whether it was for his art, or whether it was the promotion of his art.

Rappa: OK. Thank you.

Salinas: I have a question about the jurors of this Jackpot, and the last Jackpot. There were two familiar names, and I just wanted to know what the policy was for rotating these jurors out, so you get some fresh eyes in the mix.

Manfredi: We’re in the process of accessing all of that as well. Our Jackpot grants, we have historically pulled together a group, and Linda, confirm with my response here, it was a two-year period. We pulled together a group of panelists that we would draw from, depending upon availability, disciplines, things of that nature. That’s why you see some repetitive panelists show up in our Jackpot panels in particular. Historically the agency has put together a memorandum and an agreement for a two-year process.

Salinas: Are we paying that invoice for two juror sessions, and so in this case, just trying to get our service back? Before the contract expires?

Ficklin: No, what we did Mark, was we gathered about a total of ten panelists that we have to draw from, and we got them on a two-year memorandum. They’re only paid if they actually do

reviews, and we call them to do a panel. But we base it on the kinds of Jackpots we have, their discipline, and their availability.

Salinas: OK, thanks for explaining it.

Ficklin: We actually have a call out now on our website for the next two years to get some panelists.

Salinas: Thank you.

Rappa: I think we had talked about it in one of the other meetings as a discussion item that we possibly have it be one of the requirements of the Fellowship grant that they serve on the panels? Does anyone remember that?

Salinas: I think it's a great idea.

Manfredi: I don't know Gail if I've heard of that, but I think it's a great idea to look at that.

Rappa: I think we need to tap in, especially for the Fellowships. I don't think anyone would balk at it, having to serve on a panel in reward for a \$5,000 Fellowship.

Julia: And they would still have the flexibility of their own availability.

Rappa: Yes, absolutely. Specifically if we're talking about both groups, the visual and the literary, and the performing. That's a lot of applicants. I think that's a good idea.

Arger: Are there any other questions, comments? Ok then, Annie are you going to present for the record, the reports from the panel? You don't need to repeat what Tony already went over, but we do need to read into the record the applicants.

Zucker: Ok, I can do that.

FY18 4th Quarter Jackpot Grant Panel Funding Recommendations

- **Sierra Nevada Ballet - Reno:** requests \$1,000 to support partial choreographers' honoraria for its "Brew, Brats and Ballet" (BBB) performances hosted by Reno Little Theater and Carson City's Brewery Arts Center. BBB showcases new and original short works performed by the SNB company and members of its Apprentice Program.
Average Panel Score: 96.8% Recommended Funding: \$1,000.00
- **Todd R. Green - Minden:** requests \$1,000 for an Arts Learning Jackpot for a lecture and hands-on demonstration of string, flute and percussion instruments from many different parts of the world. This teaching project would be attended by approximately 150 students grades 6-12 as well as local senior citizens.
Average Panel Score: 96% Recommended Funding: \$1,000.00
- **The Clark County Children's Choir - Las Vegas:** requests \$1000 to support the 5th annual choral festival for local charter and private schools. The event theme is "I Dream a World." Funding would go toward offsetting the costs of the theater rental so they could keep the participation costs low for all to participate.
Average Panel Score: 95.3% Recommended Funding: \$1,000.00
- **Chelsie Kern - Reno:** requests \$1,000 to help bring artist June Canedo to Reno for an exhibition in the Holland Gallery, as well as host a speaking/educational forum in conjunction with Holland Project, the Downtown Library, and Reno Advancement for Gender Equality (RAGE). Funding

will support the installation/preparation of the exhibition in the Holland Gallery; promotion of the exhibition and panel event; shipping; the execution of the panel event; and artist stipends.
Average Panel Score: 90.5% Recommended Funding: \$905.00

- **Sandra Neace - Sparks:** requests \$745 to help take her original one-person play, "A Taco Truck On Every Corner ... Or Dreaming In English," to The Prague Fringe Festival. Funding would be used for the participation fee and marketing materials needed to promote the play.
Average Panel Score: 90.5% Recommended Funding: \$674.23
- **Erika V. Paul - Sparks:** requests \$1,000 to support a hands-on improvisation presentation for the Nevada State Music Teachers 2018 "IN TUNE WITH EXCELLENCE" Conference. The presentation is called "Faking it with Style and Smarts" and was created for the local branch of the Northern Nevada Music Teachers Association. Funding would support learning material copies for attendees, artist fees and travel/meal expenses, advertising/promotion/marketing fees.
Average Panel Score: 89.3% Recommended Funding: \$836.77
- **Paula Jacoby-Garrett - Henderson:** requests \$980 to support creation of a catalog for artists and visitors of the upcoming exhibit MONUMENTS at The Studio at Sahara West Library Art Gallery in Las Vegas. Funding would be used to support printing the catalogs.
Average Panel Score: 88.5% Recommended Funding: \$784.00
- **Phillip Zawarus - Las Vegas:** requests \$1,000 to support the purchase of materials for the final installation piece of the visual art installation "Hyperborea." The installation is a digitally fabricated archipelago conceived from the work of 2nd Year undergraduate architecture and landscape architecture students under the advisement of Phillip as a faculty member at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
Average Panel Score: 86% Recommended Funding: \$800.00
- **Eugene Shapiro - Henderson:** requests \$1,000 to support a concert at the Winchester Cultural Center celebrating the International Jazz Day 2018. The concert will feature music of great Jazz artists and will be free and open to the public. Funding would support artist fees and rehearsal fees.
Average Panel Score: 85.8% Recommended Funding: \$800.00
- **Linda Lister - Las Vegas:** requests \$1,000 for production and marketing of a new CD of her original compositions. She is a soprano soloist and composer and the tentative title of the CD is "Pleas to Famous Fairies: Songs by Linda Lister."
Average Panel Score: 85.5% Recommended Funding: \$800.00
- **Orgonym dba ARTECH - Reno:** requests \$1,000 to support the 3rd year of the Washoe County School District Sculpture Competition. This is a community partnership and entries come from

all Washoe County High Schools, alternative schools and a few middle schools. Funding would be used for marketing support, build additional podiums, painting walls and adding lighting.
Average Panel Score: 83.5% Recommended Funding: \$700.00

- **Amanda Alvey - Sparks:** requests \$1,000 to create and hold an acting and music class for teens. The class is called "Audition Skills: Musical Theatre and Beyond!" and would culminate in a showcase for the students. Funding would support scholarship opportunities to bring underprivileged students into the class.
Average Panel Score: 81% Recommended Funding: \$700.00
- **Deon Reynolds - Eureka:** requests \$1000 to support creation of a new website for his photography based art.
Average Panel Score: 76.5% Recommended Funding: \$0.00
- **Karen Quindo Miller - Las Vegas:** requests \$1,000 to support the solo exhibition of her immersive video installation titled, "I AM GREAT?" at Winchester Cultural Center. Funding will be provided towards materials for the benches, boxed canopies for the projectors, drawing materials for the workshop and paid compensation for artist assistance.
Average Panel Score: 74.8% Recommended Funding: \$0.00

Arger: Do we have a motion to approve fy18 fourth quarter jackpot grants funding recommendation?

Jerry Schefcki: So Moved

Arger: Do we have a second?

Mark Salina: Second

Arger: All in Favor?

All voting members present approved.

Arger: Any opposed? Hearing none, motion passes unanimously. Please read the final award amount for the record.

Sierra Nevada Ballet - Reno: requests \$1,000. *Average Panel Score: 96.8% Recommended Funding: \$1,000.00 Award Amount: \$1,000.00*

Todd R. Green - Minden: requests \$1,000. *Average Panel Score: 96% Recommended Funding: \$1,000.00 Award Amount: \$1,000.00*

The Clark County Children's Choir - Las Vegas: requests \$1000. *Average Panel Score: 95.3% Recommended Funding: \$1,000.00 Award Amount: \$1,000.00*

Chelsie Kern - Reno: requests \$1,000. *Average Panel Score: 90.5% Recommended Funding: \$905.00 Award Amount: \$905.00*

Sandra Neace - Sparks: requests \$745. *Average Panel Score: 90.5% Recommended Funding: \$674.23 Award Amount: \$674.23*

Erika V. Paul - Sparks: requests \$1,000. *Average Panel Score: 89.3% Recommended Funding: \$836.77 Award Amount: \$836.77*

Paula Jacoby-Garrett - Henderson: requests \$980. *Average Panel Score: 88.5% Recommended Funding: \$784.00 Award Amount: \$784.00*

Phillip Zawarus - Las Vegas: requests \$1,000. *Average Panel Score: 86% Recommended Funding: \$800.00 Award Amount: \$800.00*

Eugene Shapiro - Henderson: requests \$1,000. *Average Panel Score: 85.8% Recommended Funding: \$800.00 Award Amount: \$800.00*

Linda Lister - Las Vegas: requests \$1,000. *Average Panel Score: 85.5% Recommended Funding: \$800.00 Award Amount: \$800.00*

Orgonym dba ARTECH - Reno: requests \$1000. *Average Panel Score: 83.5% Recommended Funding: \$700.00 Award Amount: \$700.00*

Amanda Alvey - Sparks: requests \$1000. *Average Panel Score: 81% Recommended Funding: \$700.00 Award Amount: \$700.00*

Deon Reynolds - Eureka: requests \$1000. *Average Panel Score: 76.5% Recommended Funding: \$0.00 Award Amount: \$0.00*

Karen Quindo Miller - Las Vegas: requests \$1000. *Average Panel Score: 74.8% Recommended Funding: \$0.00 Award Amount: \$0.00*

ADVOCACY DAY REPORT BY TONY MANFREDI AND JOE O'NEILL REGARDING ADVOCACY DAY 2018 IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON MARCH 12-14. (DISCUSSION ONLY)

Manfredi: Joe O’Neill and I were rookies this year at Arts Advocacy Day. We’re going to split up the presentation, so Joe will start detailing out how things went, then I’ll follow up with a recap. Joe, it’s all you.

Joe O’Neill, Board Member: Take it away, it’s the Joe Show for the next two minutes. For those of you who have been before, you know that Americans for the Arts does a very good job on the orientation on the Monday before Arts Advocacy Day. I’ve summarized what was experienced at the orientation: Day one was the orientation and Legislative Review of the National Arts Action Summit. It was a very in-depth and intense review and explanation of the congressional meetings, legislative and political updates, and facts and figures pertaining to the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA,) current tax policy, and arts education programs. The noon lunch and the speaking program included a question and answer period with Congressman Jim McGovern. He is the second district of Massachusetts. Advocates asked really great questions of him, preparing ourselves for Arts Advocacy Day. Including our own Jennifer Hemme from the Nevada Thespians, who was part of our delegation. Jennifer’s question asked if it was appropriate to correlate current sensitive issues with support for the arts and NEA funding. As a high school drama teacher, Jennifer, and her question was heartfelt, related to the recent shooting in Parkland, Florida. How kids in the arts have a sense of place in community. Continued support for funding increases go a long way to produce arts programs and activities for youth that feel like they don’t belong, or are outcasts. She weaved the two things together to show Congress that arts learning, education, and healing, can all go hand in hand, and that’s why the arts are so important. The Congressman agreed with her, said it was an excellent question, and the room applauded for her. I was very proud that a delegate from our Nevada, a good delegation, was able to bring that up. After lunch we had breakout sessions, and attended a brief meeting, “Strengthening the Creative Economy through the Create Act.” Americans for the Arts has the booklet for the Arts Advocacy Day that we received on their website. I would encourage you to go and read it, because all of this information about current legislation, bills about the new tax policy, it’s all listed there. The Create Act is something that I was really interested in. Current legislation that was introduced by Senator Tom Udall, he’s a Democrat from New Mexico, and Representative Debbie Dingell, she’s a Democrat from Michigan, on Arts Advocacy Day 2017, to support artists and strengthen and create economy. A comprehensive bill aimed to support the nation’s creative entrepreneurs, through loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration. The legislation outlines steps to better invest in our country’s workforce, creative economy. To serve more thoroughly the people, places, and programs, that make our nation’s economy prosper, in all its cultural, social, and commercial forms. Through the entire trip, and meetings that we had, the language that is being stressed, is to use the arts industry. A lot of you may remember the Arts and Economic Impact Survey that was done; communicating to our congressional leaders, and also to our state legislation, that the arts has a very wide net, very broad reaching, and create a lot of jobs. Not only within the industry, but outside. After the breakout sessions, the Nevada delegation convened for a planning meeting and briefing on the events of day two, our method of approach, and breaking down. Joining Tony and myself at the National Arts Action Summit with Sarah O’Connell of Eat More Art!, Las Vegas, was Sharon Chadwick, the State Chapter Director of Nevada Thespians, Jennifer Hemme, Board Member of the Nevada Thespians, and three students with us. Brendan, Jory and Josh too, were coming to us from the Reno area, and one from Boulder City in the south. That evening, Tony, myself, and Sarah went to the 31st Annual Nancy Hanks

Lecture on Arts and Public Policy at the John F. Kennedy Center of the Performing Arts. It was an enlightening discussion from Lonnie G. Bunch, a founding director of The Smithsonian National Museum of African American History, and Richard D. Parsons, he was a Board Member, of The Smithsonian National Museum of African American History. Dr. Carla Hayden, who is the Librarian of Congress, moderated it. The second day we met very early at the Russell Senate Building, in the Kennedy Caucus Room. For Arts Advocacy Day kickoff, the 2018 Congressional Arts Leadership Award was presented to Congressman Leonard Lance, a Republican from New Jersey, and featured remarks by NEA Chairman Jane Chu, and members of Congress. We met with all six offices from Nevada representatives on our Capital Hill visit. Tony and a few others went and met with Senator Dean Heller. Myself, and a small group, met with Representative Jacky Rosen's office. These meetings were less than thirty minutes. On our journey over to the Cannon House for the meeting with Representative Rosen, we stopped for a short visit on the Capital Lawn and viewed the 7,000 pairs of shoes of students that were used to symbolize 7,000 children killed by gun violence since the 2012 Newtown shooting. It was very moving. For me personally, it took me right back to October 1st here in Las Vegas. I just want to close by saying that we are fortunate to live in this state, who has congressional leaders who support the arts. All six of them were very receptive, and understanding, and they get it. How the arts make Nevada a better place to live. Remarks were very positive. The highlight of the discussion centered on the student's dialogue in just about all of the meetings, and how important programs in the arts are to them. It really helped to shape the advocacy message of continued support for the NEA, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH,) and other talking points. If you haven't heard already, the omnibus bill was passed through, and the NEA and NEH were funded at \$153 million for the remainder of this year. But the fight continues for the FY2019 funding. Thank you. Arger: Thank you Joe.

Salinas: Thanks for attending that for us. Which elected officials did we actually make face time with?

O'Neill: The face time was actually with Senator Dean Heller, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto. Tony met with Representative Dina Titus and can elaborate on this, the other three, Jacky Rosen, Ruben Kihuen, and Mark Amodei from District Two, were not present at the meetings, we met with their aides.

Salinas: Ok, thanks.

Manfredi: Thanks Joe. To follow up on my meeting with Representative Titus, it went very well. The best meeting of the trip. She is very supportive of the NAC and aware of the work we do. I shared the Creative Industries Report for her district and she was thrilled to see it. It also happens to be the most impressive map in our state grouping. One of the other things I thought I would bring to the discussion is what we learned, in terms of how to be effective at Arts Advocacy Day. We have an advocacy group in Nevada called Cultural Alliance Nevada. They are reaffirming and recommitting themselves to help in this work and set up all the meetings for Arts Advocacy Day. This was extremely helpful. Three members of CAN were scheduled to attend but at the last minute their plans changed so I became State Captain. This was a little nerve wracking given I have never attended but I spoke with representatives from Americans for the Arts and they were extremely helpful in helping me prepare. I also spoke with members from Nevada Humanities who have had experience in this work and they too were very helpful. The best knowledge came from going through the process. We worked on coordinating our stories during our planning

session, the pre-sessions were very informative in regards to providing talking points, and encouraging listening vs. over talking during the meetings. It was great that we had students in attendance as Congressional Representatives are naturally drawn to them. Based on this experience, I now have many ideas of ways we can improve on how the Nevada Arts Council prepares our story to tell as well as how we insure a consistent message with other state attendees.

Arger: Thank you Tony and Joe for the report and for attending on behalf of the Nevada Arts Council. I'll now give my chair report. Welcome to Spring! This time of year reminds us how quickly the seasons disappear as we transition. And the tug of war between the snow and frigid temperatures and the sunshine and daffodils of spring keeps us all flexible and creative.

The Thirteenth Annual Nevada Poetry Out Loud State Finals were held in Reno at KNPB Channel 5 On March 3rd. Our sincere thanks yous are extended to Maryjane Dorofachuk, Arts Learning Director, who did an excellent job not only coordinating the State Finals Competition, but directing and coordinating the entire Poetry Out Loud program in each county around the state. We also thank all the hard working staff who helped Maryjane. This year's first place winner, Gabrielle Hunt, a senior at Yerrington High School, and representing Lyon County, will now represent Nevada in Washington D.C. on Tuesday, April 24th. In 2005, the first year of Poetry Out Loud here in Nevada, 200 students, coaches, teachers and parents participated. This year, more than 3,600 students, 40 teachers and 27 schools across the state were involved. What a powerful legacy for the Nevada Arts Council and the program's co-sponsors, NV Energy Foundation, Nevada Department of Education, the NEA, The Poetry Foundation, Cultural Alliance Nevada (CAN), Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, and KNPB Channel 5. We also give recognition to the additional sponsors, Art Works, Carson City Square, KUNR and Dynagraphics. Gailmarie Pahmeier, who served as the Master of Ceremonies, was Reno's first Poet Laureate and is a creative writing professor at UNR. The exceptional panel of judges included Joe Atack, Mary Holsclaw, Vogue Robinson, Michael Ursell, and Lindsay Wilson. We are certainly grateful for their time and expertise

In the email from Isaac Brown I forwarded to you last Friday, the funding for the NEA is set at almost \$153 million, an increase of \$3 million over the current level, which is fantastic. It demonstrates how effective the continuing grass roots efforts and hard work of the national Arts organizations such as NASAA, NEA, and Americans for the Arts remains.

March 23, 2018
From: Isaac Brown, Legislative Counsel
Vol. 18:03

After weeks of intense and at times highly contentious negotiations, the Senate overwhelmingly passed and sent to the President for signature a \$1.3 trillion spending bill that will fund government agencies for the remainder of fiscal year 2018. The legislation sets the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) appropriation at almost \$153 million, an increase of \$3 million over its current level. The bill also reiterates Congress's

support for the federal-state partnership that allocates 40% of the NEA's grant dollars to state and regional arts organizations.

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) sent out their March Report to Councils on March 15th which you hopefully received. We will soon be receiving information on the 2019 budget and will be alert to any calls for action. Please note that Congress holds the ultimate responsibility despite President Trump's proposed elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Fortunately for the Arts, both the House and Senate have strongly rejected past elimination attempts. As a Board, our primary advocacy focus remains meeting with both business leaders and legislators to explain the benefits of public funding for the arts in Nevada. These one on one opportunities are an effective tool to educate our lawmakers, both on the state and federal levels. I will forward Sue Struve's email where you can view NASAA'S New Arts Advocacy videos:

- American Ingenuity
- Art Heals
- Student Success
- Art in Our Everyday Lives

Sharing the valuable information on the positive economic impact of the arts at the state level is a very effective message to our lawmakers. Consistently, they are concerned about money and telling them the remarkable number of creative-sector jobs in Nevada will spark their interest and gain attention. In Nevada, the Arts and Cultural Share of the Total Gross State Product (GSP) is 4.3%. This helps translate to 39,304 jobs. Nationally, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that arts and cultural production accounts for \$763 billion dollars and 4.2% of the U.S. economy, contributing 4,916,922 jobs.

NASAA has a prepared two page "talking points" list of why both chambers of Congress voted to sustain funding for the NEA in February. I will send you this list.

The main bullet points include:

- Eliminating the NEA would undermine a sector that drives American prosperity. The arts and culture contribute \$730 billion to the U.S. economy, yielding a \$26 billion trade surplus and creating 4.8 million jobs.
- Eliminating the NEA will not balance the federal budget.
- Every NEA grant dollar leverages more than \$9 in matching funds and other contributions.
- The NEA and states have an exemplary state-federal partnership.
- The NEA's programs address top policy priorities for lawmakers and citizens alike.
- Rural areas and low-income communities would suffer disproportionately from reductions in NEA funding
- A solely private funding model will leave too many communities behind.

To summarize, the evidence shows that federal investments in the arts are truly "efficient, effective and accountable." Gathering this valuable treasure of information will help each of us with our own "talking points" as we prepare to approach next year's state legislative session, as well as communicate with our Congressional delegation in Washington D.C. Keep advocating for the ARTS!

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment in person or submitted via email.

ADJOURNMENT

Arger requested a motion to adjourn and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 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: Minutes from December 14, 2017 Board Meeting
- Attachment C: Jackpot Score Sheet
- Attachment D: FY18 Fourth Quarter Jackpot Grant Recommendations