

**Kentucky Arts Council Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
March 22, 2013  
noon – 3 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Mary Michael Corbett, Todd Lowe, Everett D. McCorvey, Sonya G. Baker, Wilma Brown, Paul Fourshee, John S. Hockensmith, Ronald E. Johnson, Henrietta Venable Kemp, Helen Mountjoy, Josephine Richardson, Andee D. Rudloff, Kathleen T. Setterman, Randall C. Vaughn, Roanne Victor and Jayne Moore Waldrop

**Members Absent:** none

**Others Present:** Kentucky Arts Council staff members including Lori Meadows, Chris Cathers, Emily Moses, Marl Renfro, Dan Strauss, Heidi Taylor-Caudill, Sandy Etherington, Sandie Lawrence, Sarah Schmitt, Charla Reed and Jean St. John

**Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet:** Deputy Secretary Lindy Casebier

**Guests:** Victoria Faoro, executive director, Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

**Note taker:** Heidi Taylor-Caudill

**Call to Order**

Mary Michael Corbett, board chairperson, called to order the quarterly meeting of the Kentucky Arts Council board of directors at noon Friday, March 22, 2013, in the Brown-Forman Corporation Kentucky Room at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort, Ky.

**Attendance**

With 16 board members in attendance, Corbett declared a quorum to be present.

**Comments**

Lori Meadows, executive director, introduced Corbett as the new board chairperson. Corbett expressed enthusiasm for working with everyone on the board, and thanked Todd Lowe for his service as chairperson from Dec. 2005 to Feb. 2013.

Everett McCorvey, vice chairperson, and Meadows spoke on Lowe's tenure as chairperson, in which he promoted a healthy, supportive board that is very involved in the arts in their local communities. Meadows presented Lowe with a gift of the gavel and sounding block that he used as chairperson at board meetings. All present offered a standing ovation in Lowe's honor.

**Approval of minutes from last meeting**

The minutes from the Dec. 18, 2012, meeting were approved by the board.

*A motion to approve the minutes was made by Randall Vaughn, seconded by Kathleen Setterman. The motion passed without objection.*

### **Report by Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet**

Lindy Casebier, deputy secretary, thanked Lowe for his service on behalf of the Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet. He welcomed Mary Michael Corbett to the board. On April 8 – 9, Corbett, Meadows and Casebier will travel to Washington, D.C. for [National Arts Advocacy Day](#). Sponsored by [Americans for the Arts](#), this high-profile event offers participants an opportunity to make the case for the arts to members of Congress and other elected officials.

### **Consent Agenda**

Members were asked to review their abstentions and note if there were any additions or deletions. There were no changes to the list of abstentions.

Meadows provided an overview of the following grant programs:

- Arts Access Assistance Grant
- TranspARTation Grant

General discussion followed.

*A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Sonya Baker, seconded by Helen Mountjoy. The motion passed without objection.*

### **Review of the Executive Director**

No monitoring reports were due at this meeting.

### **Governance Process**

Advocacy best practices update:

- Wilma Brown, Lowe, Henrietta Venable Kemp, Jayne Moore Waldrop, Kathleen Setterman and John Hockensmith participated in Arts Day activities on Feb. 13.
- Corbett invited board members to come to [National Arts Advocacy Day](#) in Washington, D.C., April 8 – 9. Meadows, Casebier and Corbett will visit members of the Kentucky congressional delegation to develop a stronger conversation with them about arts issues and let them know how the Kentucky Arts Council supports arts across the entire state.
- Brown praised the arts council for sending board members information about which legislators had attended Arts Day. They were asked to thank the legislators, particularly those from their local area.
- McCorvey described a conversation with Congressman Andy Barr (6th Congressional District) following an opera performance. He thanked Congressman Barr for his work with the arts in advance.
- McCorvey commented on the Lexington community's response to possible changes in the local performing arts scene. This attention has prompted administrators at the

University of Kentucky to look more closely at the accomplishments of students and educators in the [College of Fine Arts](#).

- McCorvey had a positive meeting with Tom Shelton, superintendent of Fayette County Public Schools, about developing an arts-centered high school in Lexington. Shelton recently took a group of people in the community interested in the arts to visit the [School for Creative & Performing Arts](#) in Cincinnati. Students at this school receive training in the more technical aspects of the arts, such as stage management, set design, lighting design, etc. Shelton is interested in fostering something similar in Lexington.
- Setterman talked about inviting legislators from the Ashland area and local elected officials to an annual luncheon hosted by her organization, the Paramount Arts Center. Legislators often come to performances at the Paramount. These visits provide the groundwork for conversations about the impact of the arts on economic development at a local and state level.
- Brown encouraged board members to come to [Kentucky Writers' Day](#) on April 24. The event presents another opportunity to advocate for the arts. There is a lot of interest this year because Frank X Walker will be inducted as state poet laureate.
- Waldrop spoke about the [Kentucky Writers' Hall of Fame induction](#) and the interest shown by the Lexington Mayor's Office. Meadows worked with other panelists to nominate the first group of writers.

### **Executive Director's Operational Update**

Meadows provided an overview of the following arts council projects and events:

- The arts council has started providing information to local elected officials on the positive role of the arts in their communities. Local support will be even more important in the future as arts organizations struggle to remain open after several years of downturn in the economy and decreases in state and federal funding.
- Kentucky Crafted: The Market (March 1 – 3) was very successful with a decrease in expenses and an increase in the number of exhibitors, attendance and booth revenue.
- The Poetry Out Loud state competition was held March 12 in Frankfort. Gabby Thompson, a sophomore from Boyd County High School, won and will represent Kentucky in the national competition April 28 – 30 in Washington, D.C. Cheyenne Carter from Western Hills High School was the state runner-up. It is possible the Poetry Out Loud program could be discontinued with the arrival of the new National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) chairman.
- National Arts Advocacy Day: Jim Clark, president and CEO of LexArts, and Barbara Sexton Smith, president and CEO of Louisville Fund for the Arts, plan to travel to Washington, D.C., for Arts Advocacy Day. They will accompany Meadows, Corbett and Casebier in talking with lawmakers about the importance of NEA funding to the state of Kentucky.
- Creative industries research study: The arts council has been moving forward on the project. Arts council staff is working to put together a summary of those items that should be included in the study. They are looking at examples from other states and

participating in conference calls with the [National Assembly of State Arts Agencies](#) (NASAA) about their recommendations.

- NASAA reports: In February, the arts council received a request from the Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet to provide information on how a reduction of federal funding would affect the agency. Governor Beshear planned to take this information supplied by agencies across state government to the National Governor's Association Winter Meeting. The arts council requested the information from NASAA, which provided several documents showing where federal funding goes in the state. These documents included information about arts funding in each of the six Kentucky congressional districts and a statewide overview.
- State poet laureate nomination: [Frank X Walker](#) is the new state poet laureate and will be inducted in a ceremony at Kentucky Writer's Day on April 24. The selection process appears to have worked well. Past poets laureate met to review the recommendations and then provided a short list of candidates who would be excellent spokespeople for the literary arts in Kentucky. A board committee consisting of Brown, Waldrop and Vaughn made the final selection from the short list and this choice was sent to the Governor's Office for approval.
- Staffing update: Heidi Taylor-Caudill, administrative associate, will be leaving the arts council at the end of March to finish a graduate degree in library and information science. Jean St. John joined the arts council in March as arts education director.

### **Board Discussion on Ends: Kentuckians value the role of arts in society**

Victoria Faoro, executive director of the [Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea](#), spoke about the origins of the Artisan Center as well as its impact on Kentucky's image, relationship with the arts council, benefits to artists and craftspeople, and 10th anniversary celebration.

General discussion followed.

### **Next Meeting**

The next quarterly board meeting will be in Lexington on June 14, 2013.

### **Agenda for Next Meeting**

Probable agenda items for next meeting:

- Grant approvals as applicable
- Monitoring reports

### **Other Important Dates:**

- June 14                      Quarterly Board Meeting, Lexington
- September 2013        Quarterly Board Meeting, Covington
- December 2013        Quarterly Board Meeting, Hopkinsville
- March 2014              Quarterly Board Meeting, Frankfort
- June 2014                Quarterly Board Meeting, Owensboro

### **Board Meeting Evaluation**

McCorvey led the review of the meeting:

- Corbett complimented the public value report for its visual appeal and concise representation of information.
- One member suggested rearranging the layout of the meeting so that the audience is seated on either side of the u-shaped board table, instead of behind it.
- Several locations were discussed for upcoming board meetings.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Corbett at 3 p.m.