

Kentucky Arts Council Board Meeting Minutes
The Grand Theatre, Frankfort
March 22, 2019

Attendance

Board Members: Paul Fourshee, Dior Cotten, Lindsey Jaeger, Angela Rice, Nathan Mick, Everett McCorvey, Janell Samuels, Sallie Lanham, Elizabeth Griffith

Visitors: Allen Jackson, Frankfort fire department; Daniel Finks, artist

Staff: Chris Cathers, Emily Moses, Sandie Lawrence, Dave Blevins, Jean St. John, Mark Brown

Guest speaker: Jeremy Wooldridge, Grand Theatre

Vice Board Chair Comments

KAC Vice Board Chair Everett McCorvey called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. McCorvey opened the meeting by discussing the death of famed Kentucky glass artist Stephen Rolfe Powell who passed away the week prior. McCorvey said the arts community was shocked and saddened by his passing. McCorvey said he sent condolences to Powell's family and wanted to mention his name at the board meeting and noted his many contributions to the arts in the state and throughout the world. He also mentioned the passing of landscape photographer James Archambeault, who passed away in February. McCorvey discussed how important it is in the arts in Kentucky to continue to provide opportunities to support new artists. He said one of the KAC Board's ends statements is artists are able to live and work in Kentucky. He said Powell and Archambeault were two artists who were able to fully live and work in Kentucky and are known throughout the world.

Board member Nathan Mick shared a personal story of when he was a student at Centre College, studied abroad, and ran into Stephen Rolfe Powell coincidentally during the trip. Mick talked about how fortunate it was for students at Centre to study with Powell and his great contributions to the Centre community, as well as the state and the discipline.

TAH Deputy Cabinet Secretary Regina Stivers Report

Tourism, Arts and Heritage (TAH) Cabinet Deputy Secretary Regina Stivers told the board the Governor's School for the Arts would be housed at the University of Kentucky this summer. She said the program director is very excited, the students are excited, and they are also excited about working with Everett McCorvey. Stivers said she was unable to attend The Kentucky Crafted Market but said Cabinet Secretary Don Parkinson visited The Market twice and had many good things to say about the event. She said she knows the arts council staff put many hours into the event. She said she had heard several comments from people about how wonderful Market was. Stivers said the staff had also hosted Kentucky Arts Day at the Capitol Rotunda and it was a wonderful event. Stivers said Department of Travel Commissioner Kristin Branscum was announced as one of the new members of the Brand USA Board of Directors, which will be beneficial to the state. The large international equestrian event Equitana will be at the Kentucky Horse Park in 2020. Stivers said it is known as a great family show. The TAH Foundation is up and running. The Foundation has a board and wants to expand its board. The board needs a member or members from western Kentucky. There foundation currently has funding for a horse show. She said the funding is a draw for other potential donors and funders. She said after the

legislative session is over, the Cabinet will be concentrating on further building the foundation and funding. Stivers said Chris Cathers has been formally announced as executive director of KAC. She said she is so proud of him and that they talk often. She said the arts council has a great team with fewer employees doing more work than before. She said the staff is appreciated by the cabinet.

McCorvey said the World Equestrian Games opening ceremony was modeled from an Equitana event. He said he was sure the events would bring many people to the horse park.

Stivers concluded by thanking The Grand Theatre for hosting the arts council's board meeting.

Minutes from December 2018 board meeting: McCorvey asked for any changes or corrections to the minutes. None was suggested. A motion to approve was made by Nathan Mick, seconded by Paul Fourshee, approved by all.

Executive Director Report

KAC Executive Director Chris Cathers thanked The Grand Theatre for allowing the arts council to host our board meeting at the facility. He said the arts council has had a great relationship with The Grand and its director, Bill Cull. He introduced Jeremy Wooldridge, who was representing The Grand, to the board.

Cathers said staff has worked with Folklorists in the South and sent surveys to different folklorist groups to help determine the future of FIS.

He said the staff hosted Arts Day in Kentucky on Feb. 22. He said he appreciated Board Member Sallie Lanham for coming and volunteering to take photos with Kentucky Arts Partnership groups. He said KAC invited groups to participate in the day including the Governor's School for the Arts and UK Arts Administration program. Artists demonstrated during the day on the mezzanine level. The day saw 23 legislators who came and met with their KAP groups for photos and 56 groups who attended. Attendance was down from previous years but it was a good opportunity for KAC and the KAP groups to get in front of legislators

Cathers said the Kentucky Veterans project was traveling currently. It started at the Capitol then went to Kentucky Artisan Center, and The Market. The exhibit has sold more than \$4,000 in artwork for Kentucky veterans. He was very pleased with the turnout. The exhibit was going next to the Veterans Center in Hanson, the first of the four centers that will have the exhibit. Since March of last year, we have sold more than \$9,000 in work from traveling exhibits.

Cathers said Poetry Out Loud was March 5 at The Grand Theatre. Mary Kate Godfrey from Elizabethtown High School was the winner.

Cathers said The Market was March 15-17 at the Kentucky Horse Park. He said several board members visited The Market and thanked them for doing so. He said he was very appreciative of the staff who worked hard to put The Market on. The 10 staff members saw more than 8,000 visitors during the event. He said KAC had great feedback from exhibitors and visitors and said the horse park worked out really well for us this year. He said KHP Director Laura Prewitt was very helpful to the arts council and said other agencies contributed to the success of The Market including Department of Travel and the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea. He said Commissioner Branscum gave the arts council advertising funds for promotion and Artisan Center Director Todd Finley assigned retail staff from his agency to

assist in running cash registers. He said the Kentucky Department of Transportation put signs out on Interstate for us two weeks before the show.

Cathers said Kentucky Writers Day is April 24 and invited the board to join the event. He said KAC was partnering with the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives for the event.

Cathers said Larkspur Press was featured on CBS Sunday morning and told the board members they each had a piece from Larkspur Press at their seat to take home. Larkspur, owned and operated by Gray Zeitz, is a former Governor's Awards in the Arts recipient.

Cathers briefly discussed Monitoring Reports 2.7 (Grant Panels and Processes) and 2.8 (Opportunity/Interim Grants.) He said the arts council had to suspend interim grant opportunities for the current fiscal year due to the budget cut sustained in the biennial budget. Board member Paul Fourshee said it was unfortunate the funding was not available for interim grants as they were beneficial to individuals and organizations in many ways. McCorvey agreed and said he hoped to see the grants return in the future.

Guest Presentation – Jeremy Wooldridge, The Grand Theatre, Frankfort

Jeremy Wooldridge gave a brief history of The Grand and said it offers diverse programming that has led to change in the community over the years. He said The Grand hosts exhibits and shows; has enhanced tourism; is open about 48 weeks a year, offers a live event series, children's series and student series. He said its most recent year in operation saw nearly 17,000 visitors. The Grand operates with one full time staff and many volunteers.

Staff Presentations

Dave Blevins, KAC arts marketing director, shared initial statistics from the recent Kentucky Crafted Market and gave a brief history of The Market numbers. He said this year's public attendance was 8,022 guests. He said the show had 120 exhibitors and there were 103 wholesale buyers. He shared many comments from exhibitors and guests alike who were thrilled with the venue. Blevins said a majority of the vendors he spoke with during the show expressed their opinion that The Market should be held at the Horse Park again next year.

Cathers then thanked the board for helping to attain sponsorships for The Market.

Mark Brown, KAC folk and traditional arts director, told the board about attending the latest National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) conference in October 2018. Brown said folklorists who work for state arts agencies across the country gathered for a pre-conference to discuss and articulate goals for the field. He said those goals include exploring folk and traditional arts in community life, as well as in the broader arts sector and society as a whole.

Brown said KAC is partnering with the Kentucky Folklife Program at Western Kentucky University to establish the Folklife Network. They are hosting four meetings across the state and the first meeting was held at The Market. Attendees included Kentucky Community Scholars and others who discussed their visions of what they want the network to be. Thirty people attended. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for Paducah, Bowling Green and Columbia. Brown also discussed work with the Cargill Foundation and South Arts which has created the In These Hills project. The project promotes folk and traditional artists in Appalachia Kentucky, along with Tennessee and North Carolina. The project kicked off programming

with a master folk artists fellowship grant, a \$9,000 award. Three artists were selected from each state to receive the award. The Kentucky artists were Doug Naselroad, luthier; Will Bowling, square dance caller; and William Parsons, luthier. The program will also allow the arts council to fund three additional apprenticeships this year in ARC counties.

Jean St. John, arts education director, attended a professional development conference at NASAA for arts education directors from state arts agencies. St. John said the focus of the conference was on the effects of community trauma on arts learning, as well as resilience. She said the group heard from social workers who discussed childhood traumatic stress and the impact on students' learning. St. John also announced she was leaving the arts council at the end of the month to join My Nose Turns Red Youth Circus Theatre as executive director. St. John and her husband founded the company.

Board Discussion

McCorvey suggested the board invite businesses to host meetings at The Market. He feels that there is now name recognition in Lexington and Louisville associated with Kentucky Crafted.

Cathers said the Governor's Awards in the Arts recipients names have been sent to the Governor's Office for approval with a list of potential dates for the awards ceremony. He showed a sample of this year's Governor's Award. He said we are waiting for the Governor to choose a date so we can move forward with the event.

Board members shared with one another the events happening in their own communities, including exhibits and performances of their own work or work they are involved with. (Detailed information is inaudible on the meeting recording.)

McCorvey asked the board to review abstentions and email updates to KAC.

Cathers said he encourages the board to become more involved with arts council events as there are many things going on and varying levels of opportunity.

Meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.