

Kentucky Arts Council Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2015
Noon – 3 p.m.

Members Present: Wilma Brown, Mary Michael Corbett, Jo Curriss, Paul Fourshee, Lacy Hale, Ron Johnson, Helen Mountjoy, Andee Rudloff, Randall Vaughn

Members Absent: John Hockensmith, Todd Lowe, Everett McCorvey, Darlene Mazzone, Josephine Richardson, Kathleen Setterman, Jayne Waldrop

Others Present: Sen. Mike Wilson, Jamie Boler, Marissa Butler, Zac Bush, R. Craig Cunningham, Darrell Edwards, Katie Frassinelli, Lauren Milliken, Jesse Ray Sims, Jennifer Sims, Kellie Steen, Barb Thomas and arts council staff members Lori Meadows, Dan Strauss, Tammie Williams

Note Taker: Tammie Williams

Welcome and Comments from guests: Mary Michael Corbett called the meeting to order. Corbett welcomed Senator Mike Wilson. Sen. Wilson thanked the group. Sen. Wilson spoke about his involvement and the importance of local arts organizations.

R. Craig Cunningham, director of the Downing Museum, welcomed the group. Cunningham gave a brief history of the museum. Jerry Baker and Joe Downing were friends. Baker was a collector of Downing's work. Baker decided to build a permanent location in Kentucky to house Downing's work. The Downing museum has a collection of nearly 1,200 pieces of Downing's work.

Greetings were given from Darrell Edwards, executive director of Orchestra Kentucky; and Zac Bush, education director of SkyPAC and co-founder of the Hear BG committee. The Hear BG committee is fundraising to create a Bluegrass Music Museum and performance space. Others in attendance were Barb Thomas, director of the Gallery on the Square; Lauren Milliken, artist; Jamie Bowler, executive director of the Heart of Scottsville; Jesse and Jennifer Sims, artists and owners of Sims Studio, Horse Cave, Ky.; Kellie Steen, education and community events coordinator of the National Corvette Museum; Katie Frassinelli, marketing/communication manager of the National Corvette Museum.

Corbett thanked the guests. Andee Rudloff said Amber Turner of the Public Theatre of Kentucky was unavailable to attend the KAC board meeting but sends her greetings.

Approval of minutes from the March 2015 meeting

Motion to approve: **Paul Fourshee**

Seconded: **Randall Vaughn**

No opposition, Motion carried

Comments by the Board Chair

Corbett thanked Rudloff for coordinating dinner and inviting guests. Corbett thanked the board for their attendance. Corbett spoke about Everett McCorvey's receipt of the 2015 Distinguished Artists Award from the Alabama State Council on the Arts. McCorvey was unavailable to attend the meeting due to performances of It's a Grand Night for Singing. Jo Curriss asked the board to pass along that this year's performances of It's a Grand Night for Singing are dedicated to our military. Corbett talked about the success of Writers Day and the induction of poet laureate, George Ella Lyon. Corbett thanked the line item task force for their efforts. Corbett said the Governor's Awards in the Arts committee met. The 70th Southern Legislative Conference will be held in Lexington, Ky., July 9-13, 2016. Senator Robert Stivers is the conference chair for 2015-2016. Corbett has started preliminary meetings with Sen. Stivers' office. Corbett extended an invitation to interested board members.

TAH Report: No Report

Consent Agenda

Abstentions: **No changes**

Corbett asked board members who had chaired the new conference call panels to give their perspectives. Wilma Brown stated the conference call panel was efficient. Brown served on one of the Kentucky Arts Partnership (KAP) panels. The panelists and the chair met in Frankfort and the audience used the conference call system to listen in. Brown commented on the knowledgeability of the panelists and the professionalism of the KAC staff. Brown asked about comments from the remote audience. Meadows said some audience members had difficulty hearing. KAC is looking into a different microphone system. Meadows told the board under the new conference call system a report is generated with the phone number of the audience members and the length of time they stayed on the conference call.

Lacy Hale co-chaired the Arts Access Assistance panel. Hale said following the materials was easy.

Helen Mountjoy agreed that the KAP panelists were outstanding; Mountjoy said Dan Strauss should be commended on organizing an excellent mix of panelists.

Andee Rudloff spoke of her positive experience as panel chair for the Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship panel. Rudloff said she appreciated the professionalism of the staff and the insight and passion of the panelists.

Randall Vaughn chaired the Al Smith Fellowship for visual arts panel. Vaughn said he enjoyed the opportunity to view the work of Kentucky artists and he appreciated the efforts of the staff and the experience of the panelists.

Corbett asked Strauss for his perspective. Strauss said the process was efficient and worked well. Meadows added that Strauss has to find 20 different panelists per year, which is challenging. Meadows said the KAP panelists were an excellent mix this year.

Vaughn said Fellowship panelists asked if the arts council had an official position on nude works of art. Meadows said the arts council had not had past objections to nude works. The arts council does consider the audience when exhibiting work. Meadows said the board could consider crafting a policy that supports the artist's vision. Brown asked if other states had policies in place regarding artistic expression. Meadows said she wasn't aware of an arts agency having a specific policy in place regarding specific subject matter. Rudloff said the mission statement may be enough and a specific policy may not be necessary. The board discussed the possibility of crafting a statement. Brown and Vaughn volunteered to work with the KAC staff and present it at the September meeting.

Approval of Al Smith Fellowship, Emerging Artist Award, Arts Access Assistance, Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship, Kentucky Arts Partnership, Teaching Art Together and TranspARTation grants.

Motion to approve: **Helen Mountjoy**

Seconded: **Andee Rudloff**

No opposition, grants approved

Governance Process

Corbett asked Ron Johnson to report on the line item task force. The line item task force met with Jenny Wiley Theatre representatives. Jenny Wiley Theatre is interested in applying for Kentucky Arts Partnership status without funding. The board discussed the possibility of organizations receiving KAP status without funding. The board asked the line item task force to present a proposal to be reviewed at the September board meeting.

Corbett announced guest speaker Marissa Butler. Butler is the marketing director for the Bowling Green Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. Butler talked about the Hear BG initiative which is a collaboration of artists, business owners, citizens, educators, legislative and city leaders working to centralize art and music offerings in Bowling Green. The group is looking to promote current offerings through an online calendar, increasing opportunities for new events and pairing additional events including educational opportunities. The group is working with the Kentucky Cabinet of Tourism, Arts and Heritage and representatives from the Americana Music Trail. The Americana Music Trail includes five states, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. The trail focuses on nine music genres, bluegrass, blues, cajun, country, gospel, jazz, rockabilly, rock-n-roll and zydeco. Some of the cities included on the trail are Memphis, Nashville and New Orleans. Owensboro, Ky., is listed as a side trip opportunity. The group is working to get Bowling Green listed as a side trip and eventually have the state of Kentucky added to the trail. Hear BG committee is also fundraising for a multi-media exhibit space. Sam Bush will perform in Bowling Green and a documentary about him will be screened. Meadows asked Butler to ask artists to register with Dunn and Bradstreet. Corbett thanked Butler for speaking with the board.

Executive Director's Operational Update

Meadows said KAC is continuing to look at additional ways to reduce costs. KAP grant funding was reduced by 10 percent. KAC is looking at options to reduce the \$20,000 production costs of the Governor's Awards videos. KAC is decreasing the amount of printed materials and using more online options. KAC is looking for sponsors for some of its programs and events.

Jane Chu, chairman of National Endowment for the Arts, visited Lexington and eastern Kentucky in April. The NEA selected 10 arts agencies to be part of a round table discussion project on creativity and innovation. The event will take place in Kentucky between September 2015 and March 2016.

KAC is working with The Breeders' Cup festival committee on a Kentucky Crafted sales venue at the Livery in Lexington.

KAC has an empty position; Beau Haddock retired. KAC is working with state personnel and the cabinet to change the position to a social media position, which would be a new position to state government.

People are using the Creative Industry Report. A staff member picked up a copy of The Appalachian Voice, while in North Carolina; it had an article on Kentucky's Creative Industry Report. The Senate News had a front page article about creative placemaking and referenced the Creative Industry Report.

KAC is working with the Cabinet for Economic Development and the Workforce Investment Board to set up a training program with businesses, colleges and universities focusing on internships and artist assistantships.

KAC has partnered with Etsy to offer Craft Entrepreneurship training to Kentucky art and craft entrepreneurs.

KAC has been invited by Democratic Women's Caucus and the Tourism sub-committee to talk about the Creative Industry Report.

The Creative Industry Summit will be in Owensboro November 12-13.

Pam Breaux is the new CEO at National Assembly of State Arts Agencies.

KAC is working on projects to highlight the 50th anniversary of the executive order which established the Kentucky Arts Commission, today know as the Kentucky Arts Council. The National Endowment for the Arts is also celebrating its 50th anniversary. The NEA is producing a video focusing on all 50 states. KAC has submitted the requested summary. The NEA's video crew will visit later this year.

Arts Day 2016 will focus on our 50th anniversary.

Corbett asked Meadows to give a brief overview of Monitoring Report 2.8. Meadows explained Opportunity/Interim grants are considered when an organization or community has an opportunity to participate in or present a significant arts program which falls outside regular Kentucky Arts Council funding.

Corbett asked for a motion to approve the monitoring reports.

Motion to approve: **Wilma Brown**

Seconded: **Ron Johnson**

No opposition, monitoring reports approved

Board Evaluation:

Corbett asked Fourshee to lead the board evaluation discussion. Fourshee said the meeting was enlightening. Fourshee enjoyed having guests at the meeting and thanked Rudloff for her efforts.

Curriss thanked the staff for all their hard work. Brown said the Downing Museum was lovely and she enjoyed the surroundings immensely. Vaughn said he enjoyed the meeting and learning about the efforts in Bowling Green. Vaughn thanked Rudloff for her work to have so many people attend the meeting. Hale enjoyed having guests and hearing about the efforts in Bowling Green. Hale thanked the staff and Meadows for providing helpful information. Rudloff thanked everyone for traveling to Bowling Green. Rudloff said she appreciated all the guests, who came to the meeting. Rudloff passed along greetings from Delaire Rowe VSA's new executive director who was traveling and unable to attend. Rudloff extended an offer to provide directions to anyone who was interested in touring Bowling Green. Rudloff told the board that three Kentucky artists, John Romang (Paducah), Jesse Ray Sims (Cave City) and Mark Whitley (Smith Grove), received awards from the Tanne Foundation.

Fourshee thanked Mr. Baker and the Downing Center for their hospitality.

Corbett adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Board Schedule

Sept. 25 - Board Meeting, Hindman

Dec. 11 - Board Meeting, Louisville

Upcoming events:

Sept. 28-Oct. 1 - Performing Arts Exchange, Atlanta

October - National Arts and Humanities Month

Oct. 7-9 - NASAA leadership meeting, Salt Lake City

Oct. 22 - Governor's Awards in the Arts

Nov. 12-13 - Creative Industry Summit, Owensboro

Jan. 20, 2016 - Arts Day/50th anniversary celebration