

Kentucky Arts Council Board Meeting
June 21, 2019
Owensboro, KY

Attendance

Mary Michael Corbett, Paul Fourshee, Luanne Mattingly, Elizabeth Griffith, Nathan Mick, Janell Samuels, Dior Cotten

Absent

Lindsey Jaeger, Angela Rice, Everett McCorvey, Doug Adams, Janice Turpen, Sallie Lanham, Jean Dorton, Andee Rudloff

Staff

Chris Cathers, Sandie Lawrence, Emily Moses

Guests

William Skaggs, Bowling Green; Dan Griffith, Owensboro Symphony Orchestra

Board Chair Comments

Mary Michael Corbett called the meeting to order at 11:58 a.m. She thanked Elizabeth Griffith for planning the meeting and Dan Griffith, executive director of Owensboro Symphony Orchestra, for allowing KAC to use the orchestra's offices for the meeting. Corbett said unfortunately, due to the absence of a quorum, no action would be taken at the meeting. She said an emergency meeting will be held next week to approve grants that are scheduled to start being awarded July 1.

Executive Director's Report

KAC Executive Director Chris Cathers said Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet Deputy Secretary Regina Stivers sends her regards to the board and asked him to share some notes. The Secretary, Deputy Secretary and the Parks Commissioner presented information to a legislative committee about the status of TAH agencies. The Broadway tour of Hamilton had opened at the Kentucky Center. Old Forester's Paris Town Hall was hosting a ribbon cutting soon. The Governor's School for the Arts was taking place at the University of Kentucky this summer.

Cathers said the Kentucky Veterans Project exhibit has sold almost \$4,000 in artwork for participating veterans. He said the exhibit is now in Radcliffe at the veterans' center. He said this project illustrates how the KAC is partnering with other agencies in state government. He said the relationship with the Office of Veterans Affairs has opened a lot of doors. He reported positive feedback from participating veterans. He said the exhibit would move to Danville, then SKyPAC in Bowling Green, then to Hazard, Mt. Sterling and Wilmore before it completes its run in the state.

He said the exhibit sparked a conversation with the Covington/Cincinnati airport about getting artwork into the airport. Cathers said the Governor's Derby Exhibit was in May had 43 artists participating. The arts council hosted a reception for the artists which the Cabinet Secretary and Deputy Secretary attended. He said the Secretary of State Allison Lundergan Grimes bought a piece of work from the exhibit during the reception. Cathers said South Arts had its quarterly board meeting in South Carolina followed by a creative placemaking summit. South Arts is a regional arts organization that serves nine southern states and Cathers is one the board. They have numerous grants. He recognized KAC staff Mark Brown for his work in building strong folk and traditional arts programming that caught the eye of the Cargill Foundation, which partnered with South Arts to award apprenticeships in three Appalachian states, including Kentucky.

Corbett thanked Cathers for serving on the board of South Arts and said she hopes he can get more involved with the board of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. Cathers mentioned the podcasts being created by KAC Communications Director Tom Musgrave. He said the podcasts are great and encouraged everyone to listen. He said Kentucky Writers' Day was in April where new Kentucky Poet Laureate Jeff Worley was inducted. He said the Governor's Derby Celebration was held in May and 20 artists came out to sell their artwork at the event. Cathers said the majority of the KAC grant panels were held in May, with one in June. He thanked board members for chairing panels. Cathers said the Artists Thrive Summit would be in Berea at the end of July and invited board members to attend.

Corbett said she would like to encourage the Kentucky Chamber to come to The Market and find more ways to encourage their members to buy Kentucky art.

Paul Fourshee said he would be interested in a list of businesses, or others, who have corporate art collections. He said he thought the topic would make an interesting podcast. He also suggested a podcast about businesses that support the arts and how they do so.

Guest presentation

Dan Griffith, Executive Director of the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra, welcomed the board and shared the history of the orchestra. He said the orchestra is very grateful for all the arts council has done for the organization and said many things they have accomplished began with grants from the arts council. Griffith said when he came back to the orchestra five years ago, orchestras were struggling in general across the country. He said the League of American Orchestras was trying to figure out where were going. He said Owensboro went through a process of re-imagining the orchestra and the results have been amazing. He said the orchestra is very blessed to be in sound financial position. He said their performances have become must-attend events. He said their reorganization focused on community engagement, education programs, the symphony academy, and creating a new subscription series. He said they have worked hard to engage Owensboro and also travel to other communities. He said they had low attendance when he took on the role as ED and changes have now led to an average audience of 1,159 a concert. He said they have a new music director and conductor, guest artists, and have invested in technology. He said the orchestra has created more partnerships than ever before and have repackaged their branding and marketing.

Staff Reports

KAC Executive Staff Advisor Emily Moses reported on the latest NEA State Partnership Award. The arts council was awarded \$713,525 for the next fiscal year.

KAC Web Manager Sandie Lawrence said the new online grants management system, GoSmart, was in place and ran well for the FY20 application cycle. She said staff, applicants and panelists all reported how easy the system was to use and how much better it was than the previous online application system.

Board Discussion

Corbett said Sept. 10 had been set for the 2018-2019 Governor's Awards in the Arts. The date was chosen in the hopes that the national award winner would be able to join us. She said we are not sure if the ceremony will be in the Rotunda or Governor's Mansion. She said she and Cathers had talked about getting back on track with the annual Governor's Awards and also move it back to October, which is National Arts and Humanities Month.

Fourshee said the most recent Governor's Awards format was different from previous years. He said it would have been nice for awardees to have the opportunity to make an acceptance speech.

Corbett said two years ago it was changed and we were at the Governor's Mansion and we didn't have the resources to make videos as we had previously. She said the recipients did not speak and that was not the KAC's decision. She said we hope to take it back to the Rotunda this year. She said the last ceremony was not as interactive as we'd like.

Dior Cotten asked if there is something the board can do to raise funds for audio/visual assistance to have the videos produced in the future. Corbett said absolutely. Cotten said her workplace uses various a/v companies and she might be able to help with that in the future.

Corbett said she and Cathers were going to be putting together a calendar of events to lay out the upcoming year for board members so they can have more information in advance to plan to attend KAC events. She said KAC was going to do a better job of getting that information to board members in one big picture. She said she'd like to have at least three board members at each arts council event or activity. She said the calendar would be put into a Google document for board members.

Representative Suzanne Miles came into the meeting to say hello and welcome the board to Owensboro.

Corbett said she wanted the governing and nominating committees to meet at the September meeting. She said she would also like for the advocacy and constituencies committee to meet to discuss messaging for the upcoming legislative session. She said Janice Turpen is planning a great time for the board in Somerset.

Janell Samuels said she would like to host the December board meeting at the Maker's Mark Distillery in Loretto. She said there would be an exhibit there that she would like for the board to see.

Cathers thanked the board for visiting Owensboro and thanked Elizabeth for planning the meeting and pre-meeting events.

Corbett thanked the board members who chaired panels. She said it is a great opportunity to learn about the arts in Kentucky and it's fun, too. Cotton agreed and said chairing is a great way to learn more about art. She said it has helped her have a more discerning eye as a buyer.

The meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.