

Kentucky Arts Council Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Sept. 28, 2016
Noon – 3 p.m.

Members Present: : Mary Michael Corbett, Wilma Brown, Jo Curriss, Paul Fourshee, Lacy Hale, John Hockensmith, Ron Johnson, Darlene Mazzone, Josephine Richardson, Andee Rudloff, Jayne Waldrop

Members Absent: Todd Lowe, Everett McCorvey, Kathleen Setterman, Randall Vaughn

Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet: Regina Stivers (Tourism, Arts and Heritage Deputy Secretary), Will Adams (Tourism, Arts and Heritage Legal), Lori Meadows, Dave Blevins, Mark Brown, Chris Cathers, Sandy Etherington, Emily Moses, Tom Musgrave, Sarah Schmitt, Jean St. John, Tammie Williams

Others Present: Todd Finley

Welcome and Comments from guests: Mary Michael Corbett called the meeting to order. Corbett welcomed everyone. Corbett reported that Dan Strauss' recovery was making good progress. Corbett said Strauss sends his regards and hopes to return soon.

Approval of minutes from the June 2016 meeting

Motion to approve: Josephine Richardson

Seconded: Paul Fourshee

No opposition, motion passed

Comments by the Board Chair:

Corbett said the last quarter had been busy. Corbett said the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan was a great meeting. Corbett said those who attended would present later.

Tourism, Arts and Heritage Report

Regina Stivers said Todd Finley, executive director of the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea, was developing projects to offer additional opportunities to Kentucky artisans. Stivers said she had recently attended several festivals and noticed that there were some instances when local artists and products were not represented. Stivers said she would like to have the opportunity to encourage organizers of festivals to use more local artists and products. Stivers talked about speaking with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the request for a feasibility study and project modification for the John W. Flannagan Dam in the Breaks Interstate Park, located in southern Kentucky and Virginia. The purpose of the project would be to allow "enhanced recreation" which would allow operational flexibility, which in turn may increase tourism. However, additional whitewater releases require Congressional authorization.

Corbett asked Meadows to give a brief summary of the TranspARTation grants.

Meadows said TranspARTtion grants enable Kentucky teachers and schools to provide students with high quality arts experiences by providing transportation funding to programming provided by organizations in the TranspARTtation Directory.

Consent Agenda - Grants

Motion to approve: Andee Rudloff

Seconded: Darlene Mazzone

No opposition, motion passed

Abstentions: No changes

Governance Process:

Josephine Richardson gave a report on the Board Nominating Committee.

Corbett reminded the board of two upcoming deadlines: Sept. 30, the deadline for Poet Laureate nominations; and Nov. 1, the deadline for Governor's Awards in the Arts nominations.

Darlene Mazzone gave a report on the Stakeholders Committee. Mazzone said she would be meeting with Everett McCorvey before the December meeting.

Corbett said Kentuckians for the Arts is working on developing direction and would have more information soon. Corbett talked about speaking with Stephen Pruitt, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) commissioner. Corbett asked Meadows for additional comments.

Meadows said Jean St. John, Kentucky Arts Council arts education director, and Kyle Lee, Kentucky Department of Education arts and humanities coordinator, worked together to develop a new grant program, Showcasing the Arts.

St. John said KAC and KDE also partnered to develop another program that will identify two of the lowest scoring Kentucky schools and implement an intensive arts education program.

Corbett asked Andee Rudloff to speak about ArtPrize. Rudloff talked about participating in ArtPrize. ArtPrize is an international art competition in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The competition is decided by expert jury and public vote. This is the eighth year of the competition. Rudloff said it was a fantastic experience.

KAC staff gave reports on their experience at NASAA conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Mark Brown, folk and traditional arts director, said 40-45 state art agency folklorists attended NASAA. Brown said the folklorist peer groups were an important opportunity of professional development networking. The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) realizes the importance of folklorists attending NASAA and reimburses 90-100 percent of folklorists' travel and conference fees. Brown talked about the round table meetings and the opportunity to share information about working with Community Scholars, The Makings of a Master exhibit, the Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grant, Assets Mapping Training and the USDA Farmers Market project. Brown attended several sessions including one on understanding racism, xenophobia and intolerance presented

by the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation. A session regarding Folk Arts, Aging, Health and Wellness addressed the use of folk arts traditions to positively impact an aging population. The Craft Emergency Relief Fund+ (CERF+) presented on the services it provides to artists working in the craft disciplines and its continued pursuit building partnerships with state arts agencies. Brown said he appreciated the opportunity to attend.

Emily Moses, creative industry manager, said the NASAA conference was an amazing experience with culture on display throughout the city of Grand Rapids. Moses enjoyed learning the history behind ArtPrize, which is the largest cash prize competition in the world at \$250,000 for the top prizes, totaling \$500,000 in prizes awarded. The topics of diversity and data were the overarching themes of this year's conference. Moses said meeting with her peer group was beneficial. Moses learned that many state art agencies are experiencing the turnover of long time staff. Moses shared the work involved in fulfilling KAC's broad mission of endeavoring to serve all of the citizens in Kentucky. This mission is unique among state agencies. Moses also took notes and collected information regarding potential panelists for Dan Strauss.

Tom Musgrave, communications director, said his peer group discussed working with budget restraints and the ability to make an impact without significant funds. Musgrave shared how KAC implemented several celebrations that did not require funding including 50 Days of Art, which recognized Kentucky Art Partnership (KAP) groups around the state. Musgrave's peer group discussed the importance of collaborating with sister agencies. Musgrave said Iowa has a tourism app that includes an arts destinations component. Musgrave echoed Moses's statement that KAC is unique in its efforts to provide access to the arts for the entire Commonwealth.

Sarah Schmitt, arts access director, attended the access coordinators peer group sessions at NASAA. Nearly all of Schmitt's travel and conference fees were covered by South Arts, a regional arts organization servicing artists and arts organizations in the southern U.S. During the access coordinator peer sessions reminders and updates of regulatory roles were addressed. Access coordinators received new or updated guidelines regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act. Schmitt said access for all is woven into the culture of KAC. KAC will be receiving a longevity in access award from NASAA. Schmitt was one of two access directors out of 50 that has held the position for at least four years. Schmitt said meeting other access directors is important, especially when looking for potential panelists with expertise. Schmitt received important information regarding updating the section 504 checklist, which is imperative for NEA funding. The community development coordinators sessions focused on working across sectors. The NEA Creativity Connects project supports partnerships between art organizations and non-art sectors. Schmitt said visiting ArtPrize 7 winner, Higher Ground was a learning experience. The building was repurposed as art. A ramp is being built to allow access to the Higher Ground building. Schmitt said Higher Ground was an excellent example of using public art and access to reinvigorate a dead space. Inclusion, diversity, equity and access (IDEA) was a primary focus throughout the conference. Schmitt has already used the excellent strategies presented in the workshop, Bridging Difference and Diversity. Schmitt said the entire city was part of the conference and was an excellent teaching example.

Jean St. John, arts education director, attended the arts education managers peer group sessions. St. John said it was valuable to connect with peers. St. John said NEA

provided funding for her conference fees and travel expenses. St. John said the main focus of her sessions were on the guiding question from NASAA, which is “How can our efforts to characterize inclusion, diversity, equity and access (IDEA) in arts learning support our development as champions for these practices within our agencies, states and the larger arts sector?” The primary outcomes were to articulate an actionable, applicable and evolving model of IDEA for lifelong arts learning in individual states and to gain tools for talking about IDEA from the perspective of an influencer. St. John said the new work in arts education, under the guidance of Dr. Stephen Pruitt, KDE commissioner of education, is reflective of NASAA’s statement. St. John said the first workshop she attended was intensive and interactive. St. John’s group worked using a design thinking practice, which is to learn, practice, discuss and reflect. St. John said there was meaningful conversation and information that encouraged action going forward.

Meadows attended the executive directors peer sessions. Meadows said NASAA is a wonderful professional development opportunity. Unfortunately, all of the arts council staff cannot attend. KAC sends those staff members that have peer groups sessions. NEA pays for some staff to attend, and all staff members drove together to make the trip more cost efficient. Meadows said during the general session, Kentucky was mentioned three times by NEA chair, Dr. Jane Chu. Diversity and inclusion was in the forefront of the executive directors peer sessions. Meadows said KAC had already been working on diversity and inclusion efforts. Meadows said it was encouraging to see NASAA and the NEA focusing on these very important issues. Meadows presented on art in the Promise Zones, economic development and rural creative placemaking in Kentucky, which are other topics receiving national attention.

Moses gave the Creative Industry update. Moses said work continued with KAC, Kentucky Innovation Network and Kentucky Small Business Development Centers partnering to provide learning opportunities for artists. The first workshop will be Oct. 7 in Owensboro. The Creative Industry Summit (CIS) is Nov. 30 at the Lexington Convention Center. The CIS will continue to maximize relationships between artists, creatives and the business community. This year’s CIS will include demonstrations, panel discussions and a presentation of the growing Kentucky gaming community. The CIS will include tracks for visual arts, performing arts and community arts.

Moses said the USDA grant project is on schedule. Moses thanked Brown and Schmitt for conducting the first Creative Asset Inventory trainings in Beaver Dam and Booneville. More than 30 people within and from surrounding counties participated in the trainings. One of the goals of the grant project is to engage members of surrounding counties.

Executive Director’s Operational Update

Meadows shared that Char Downs, a Kentucky artist, also participated in ArtPrize. Meadows said staff attended all of the sessions of NASAA. Prior to attending NASAA a plan is developed so every session at NASAA has a KAC staff member in attendance.

Meadows talked about the annual report, which is written by Musgrave and designed by Katie Lewis. The annual report is electronic, so there aren’t any printing costs.

The Governor's Awards in the Arts is Oct. 21, in the Capitol Rotunda, followed by a public reception. The luncheon for the recipients is in the Governor's Mansion. The board will receive invitations and seating is limited.

The Next Generation Rural Creative Placemaking National Summit is October 12-14 in Iowa City, Iowa. Kentucky, Iowa and Minnesota were invited to present cross-sector collaboration to build deeper understanding of rural creative placemaking. In addition to Meadows, Promise Zone Coordinator Sandi Curd and representatives from Owensboro Healthcare will be presenting.

There has been an increased interest in the creative asset inventory training KAC offers. Brown and Schmitt provide in-person training for groups. There is also a creative asset inventory guide. Kentucky is currently the only state that offers this kind of training.

The NEA partnership application and final report were submitted.

KAC received a charge from the board in 2011 to take efforts to have operating support grantees become more diverse and inclusive. KAC has developed a variety of actions including increasing the diversity performance expectations, providing feedback and training, holding meetings specifically for KAP groups to offer assistance. Despite these efforts, low scores persist within the diversity and inclusion performance expectations of the operating support grants. KAC looked at the lowest scoring KAP grantees over the past five years. KAP grantees that have consistently scored low over the past three to five years have been asked to submit a diversity and inclusion action plan. Technical assistance is available to assist with the development of the action plans. The plans will be included in their FY18 applications, with the intent to increase diversity and inclusion scores, which will, in turn, increase funding. KAP grantees who have submitted plans have said they appreciate the technical assistance offered by the arts council.

KAC's move will begin Friday, Sept. 30. The move will take approximately one week.

Meadows said several staff members will retire in the next few years. Deborah Catlett, database manager retired August 31. Sandy Etherington, fiscal manager, retires September 30. Both Catlett and Etherington have been critical resources for the arts council and will be greatly missed. Meadows thanked Etherington for fantastic work.

Corbett asked if there were question regarding the monitoring reports.

Wilma Brown said Kentucky being in a leadership position was not an accident. The efforts of the arts council staff and the leadership of Meadows was the reason. Brown said Meadows was a visionary.

Approval of Monitoring Reports

Motion to approve: Jayne Waldrop

Seconded: John Hockensmith

No opposition, motion passed

Board Discussion on Ends

Todd Finley, executive director of the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea, gave a presentation. Finley talked about the exhibits at the Artisan Center including "Reveal," a

large format showcase by Monica Pipia, running from Aug. 12 – Nov. 12, and “Have a seat: Chairs by Kentucky Artisans” running from Sept. 17 – Feb. 25, 2017.

Finley said working the satellite store with the arts council at the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) was a pleasure.

Finley said he was working with the state park system to increase the amount of Kentucky-made products available in park gift shops.

Finley talked about upcoming projects at the Artisan Center, including outdoor exhibits and performances.

Richardson said the December meeting is being held at the Artisan Center.

Corbett thanked Finley for his work. Corbett informed the board of the date change of the December meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 5.

Board Evaluation

Brown enjoyed the staff reports.

Corbett thanked the staff.

Mazzone said it was encouraging to hear that KAC is recognized as one of the strongest art agencies in the country.

Richardson said Jane Chu’s visits to Kentucky were important.

Stivers thanked Meadows and the staff for inviting her to observe the Kentucky Crafted panel. Stivers said she would report back on the recent interest from area development directors to meet with Kentucky artists and TAH directors.

Rudloff thanked the board and the KAC staff for their support. Rudloff thanked and offered well wishes to Etherington.

Board Schedule:

Sept. 30 – Kentucky Poet Laureate Nomination Deadline

October – National Arts and Humanities Month

Oct. 12-14 – Next Generation Rural Creative Placemaking National Summit, Iowa City Iowa

Oct. 13 – Master Class, Grand Theatre, Frankfort

Oct. 21 – Governor’s Awards in the Arts, Capitol, Frankfort

Nov. 1 – Governor’s Awards in the Arts Nomination Deadline

Nov. 30 – Creative Industry Summit, Lexington

Dec. 5 – KAC Board Meeting, Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

February 2017 – Arts Day

Feb. 21, 2017 – Poetry Out Loud State Competition, Grand Theatre, Frankfort

April 21-23, 2017 – Kentucky Crafted: The Market, Lexington Convention Center

April 24, 2017 – Writers’ Day, Capitol Rotunda, Frankfort

Meeting adjourned at 1:42p.m.