

Kentucky Arts Council Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Sept. 25, 2015
Noon – 3 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Randall Vaughn, Kathleen Setterman, Helen Mountjoy

Others Present: Mike Dixon; Michael Flynn; Jill Orthman Hatch; Knott County Deputy Judge Executive Larry King; Doug Naselroad; Mayor Tracy Neice; Gail Prewitt; Brett Ratliff; Terry Ratliff; Shoji Masaki; Mike Slone; Sean Starowitz; Bryan Swafford; Knott County Judge Executive Zach Weinberg; Evelyn Wood; Dept. Sec. Lindy Casebier and Executive Director of Legal Affairs Bill Dexter, TAH and arts council staff members Lori Meadows, Emily Moses, Dan Strauss, Tammie Williams.

Note Taker: Tammie Williams

Welcome and Comments from guests: Mary Michael Corbett called the meeting to order. Corbett welcomed Hindman Mayor Tracy Neice. Mayor Neice welcomed everyone to Hindman. Corbett asked all the guests to introduce themselves. Appalachia Artisan Center Master Artist in Residence Doug Naselroad introduced himself and invited the arts council to stop by the Dulcimer Project shop after the meeting. Naselroad introduced guest apprentice, Shoji Masaki. Masaki is a design student from Yokohama, Japan.

Michael Flynn thanked and welcomed everyone. Flynn gave a brief history of The School of Craft and spoke about being part of the Hazard Community and Technical College system. Flynn encouraged everyone to visit downtown Hindman. Meadows thanked Flynn for hosting the board meeting. Flynn said he looked forward to giving a tour of the facility after the meeting.

Artist Terry Ratliff, spoke about learning chair making from masters in the area and his hope to pass along the knowledge. Ratliff and his son, Joseph are part of the Kentucky Arts Council Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program. Josephine Richardson spoke about the quality of the rockers for children that Ratliff makes.

Corbett asked the board and staff to introduce themselves. Corbett thanked the guests for their attendance and hospitality.

Approval of minutes from the June 2015 meeting

Motion to approve: Josephine Richardson

Seconded: Wilma Brown

No opposition, motion carried

Comments by the Board Chair

Corbett talked about the hard work of the arts council staff.

TAH Report: Lindy Casebier talked about working on transition plans after the election. Meadows and the board thanked Casebier for his work. Casebier thanked the board and hoped that this would not be his last meeting. Corbett thanked Casebier, and told Casebier his service to the Kentucky Arts Council was much appreciated.

Consent Agenda

Abstentions: no changes

Brown asked why all the TranspARTation grant applicants were not approved. Meadows answered because not all the applicants met and/or responded to the performance expectations.

Approval of TranspARTation grants

Motion to approve: Wilma Brown

Seconded: Darlene Mazzone

No opposition, grants approved

Governance Process

Ron Johnson presented a proposal from the line item task force recommending that organizations be allowed to apply for non-funded Kentucky Arts Partnership status. The application and assessment process would be the same for all organizations applying for funded or non-funded status. Corbett asked if the board had questions. Brown and Corbett thanked Johnson and the task force for their work. Johnson thanked Meadows and Strauss. Richardson thanked the board for taking action to address the issue. McCorvey asked if a disclaimer sentence needed to be added to distinguish between funded and non-funded KAP status. Johnson said a disclaimer sentence is not necessary. As per the directions on the guidelines, additional questions should be directed to Strauss.

Approval of the new Kentucky Arts Partnership policy

Motion to approve: Josephine Richardson

Seconded: Paul Fourshee

No opposition, proposal approved

Executive Director's Operational Update

The Governor's Awards in the Arts are on Oct. 22. Governor Beshear will present the awards. Minnie Adkins created the awards and will be in attendance. Sam Bush will attend. The luncheon will be at Berry Hill Mansion.

The Creative Industry Summit will be Nov. 12-13 in Owensboro. The two day event will feature speakers and workshops. Pam Breaux, CEO of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA), will be the keynote speaker on Friday. Leonardo Vazquez, The National Consortium for Creative Placemaking, will present sessions on Thursday and Friday. The goal is 200 participants. Berea College Craft Industry is a sponsor.

Todd Lowe spoke about the arts council board becoming a sponsor. Seven board members have committed. Meadows thanked the board for their support. Mazzone asked if sponsorship opportunities were available to the business industry. Meadows confirmed that sponsorship opportunities are posted on the website. Meadows told the board Creative Industry Summit information was emailed to them. McCorvey asked if there was a suggested amount each board member should give. Lowe said any amount would be appreciated. Corbett and Meadows agreed and thanked the board for their support.

The arts council is involved in several partnerships with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). This year is the 50th anniversary for the NEA. There will be celebrations including a panel of past NEA chairs, performances and receptions. The current NEA chair, Dr. Chu is hosting a dinner for state arts agency executive directors and members of the NASAA board.

The arts council was invited to bring Kentucky Crafted artists to the Breeders' Cup Festival in Lexington. Twenty-five Kentucky Crafted artists will exhibit and sell their work at the Livery in Lexington for four days. This activity is an opportunity to showcase Kentucky artists. The arts council will share the space with the Kentucky Distillers Association.

Kentucky Crafted the Market is March 4-6, 2016. University of Kentucky has a home game against Louisiana State University, March 5 at 2 p.m. The arts council is looking at ways the game can have a positive impact on the Market. Meadows talked with the executive director of the Louisiana Arts Council. KAC is inviting artists from the Louisiana Guild to be a part of the Market. Jo Curriss offered to reach out to the president of LSU, Dr. F. King Alexander. Alexander was born in Kentucky. Richardson suggested a sports themed exhibit in the front area of the Market that featured UK and LSU. Richardson suggested that the arts council partner with the Artisan Center at Berea. Berea had a sports themed exhibit last year. McCorvey asked about making an announcement at the UK vs. LSU game. Meadows told the board announcements and advertising at the games are very expensive. Meadows is working on additional ways to promote the Market with Mary Quinn Ramer, president of VistLEX, Lexington's convention and visitors center. Mazzone asked about using billboards. The arts council currently uses billboards in Lexington and is considering using billboards in surrounding cities.

Meadows talked about the recent Etsy training the arts council offered. Etsy is a global, e-commerce website. The training was focused on opening an online business. The arts council partnered with the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED) and the Hazard Community and Technical College (HCTC). The training was held on HCTC's campus. Dr. Greiner, president of HCTC was supportive and attended the training graduation celebration. Emily Moses told the board the arts council is the first state arts agency in the nation to partner with Etsy. The Etsy training is available as a two hour Getting Started workshop or a six-week Craft Entrepreneurship Program course. The arts council is not funding every workshop. The arts council is partnering with communities to help facilitate additional training workshops in other locations around the state. The next two-hour workshop will be in Morehead, Ky., in October. Presently, there are ten communities interested in the Etsy workshops. The Etsy workshops help the arts council meet our mission to foster supportive environments for artists.

The recommendations from the arts council Creative Industry Report and Strategic Plan are helping guide the agency in its efforts.

Meadows spoke with Sec. Bob Stewart and Chuck Fluharty, secretary of the Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) initiative about a new national opportunity to partner with the states of Iowa and Minnesota using the arts and culture to enhance the economy. This opportunity is in the early planning stages.

Meadows talked about the upcoming conversation/discussion the arts council was asked to lead between the NEA and the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) agency regarding the efforts in Kentucky's Promise Zones. Meadows said the work in Kentucky's Promise Zones is different than other states and people are interested.

Meadows thanked the arts council staff for doing an incredible job that could not be done without all of the staff's extra work. Corbett stated appreciation and gratitude of the board for the staff's efforts.

Corbett spoke about the 2016 Southern Legislative Conference, July 9-13, in Lexington and the possibility of a creative industry panel.

Corbett asked if there were questions regarding the monitoring reports.

Brown is concerned about the delivery of arts programming and services in counties that don't have community arts organizations and wanted know if there were options available. Meadows said the arts council can offer assistance through KPAN advisors; however, the initial development of an art organization should begin with the community. Communities can also access the arts education programs that the arts council offers.

McCorvey talked about the importance of arts education in all Kentucky schools.

Meadows said the new commissioner of education is Stephen Pruitt. Commissioner Pruitt's first ninety days will consist of touring the state to listen and understand Kentucky's educational needs. Meadows encouraged the board to attend local sessions.

Corbett talked about scheduling a meeting with Commissioner Pruitt. McCorvey said it was important to offer assistance and support to Commissioner Pruitt.

Corbett asked for a motion to approve the monitoring reports.

Motion to approve: Jayne Waldrop

Seconded: Todd Lowe

No opposition, monitoring reports approved.

Corbett talked about upcoming events including the NASAA conference in October.

Meadows spoke about Master Class, a performing arts showcase and professional development technical assistance program for small presenters, Oct. 15, at the Grand Theatre in Frankfort.

Corbett hoped everyone would be available to attend the Governors Awards, Oct. 22, at the Capitol in Frankfort.

Corbett asked if there were additional questions.

Richardson asked about inviting past board members and arts council executive directors to the 2016 Arts Day celebration. Meadows said the arts council was compiling a list to invite past arts council board members and executive directors.

Meadows gave an itinerary of the places in Hindman the board would be visiting and upcoming events. The tour would begin with The School of Craft, followed by a tour of the Bolen Dulcimer Studio in the Appalachian Artisan Center. Hindman was a recipient of the NEA Our Town grant to support the dulcimer project. Meadows said the Hindman Dulcimer Homecoming is Nov. 5-8. Community Scholars Training began in late September and runs six weeks. The arts council has a long history with Hindman. Randy Wilson, Hindman Settlement School folk arts education program director, has been instrumental in helping Knott County schools apply for the arts council TranspARTation and Teaching Arts Together grants. If time permits, the board would visit the Cody Building incubator studio. The tour would end at the Appalachian Artisan Center.

Board Evaluation

McCorvey thanked our hosts, The School of Craft, The Hindman Settlement School and the Appalachian Artisan Center and asked for comments. Mazzone, Hockensmith and Fourshee commented on the lovely drive to Hindman. McCorvey said visiting Hindman was a wonderful experience. Brett Ratliff, Hindman Settlement School program director, invited the board to return and attend upcoming events in Hindman, including the Dulcimer Homecoming Nov. 5-8 and the Dumplings and Dancing—a heritage food, dance and music event Dec. 4-5. June 5-11, 2016 is Appalachian Family Folk week and

July 24-29 is the Appalachian Writers' Workshop. Corbett thanked our hosts and the board. The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Board Schedule

Dec. 11 - Board Meeting, Louisville

Upcoming events:

Oct. 22 - Governors Awards in the Arts

Nov. 12-13 - Creative Industry Summit, Owensboro

Jan. 20, 2016 - Arts Day/50th Anniversary Celebration

Feb. 23, 2016 - Poetry Out Loud

March 4-6, 2016 - The Market

March 7-8, 2016 - Americans for the Arts Advocacy Day, Wash. D.C.

April 25, 2016 - Writers Day