

Kentucky Arts Council Board Meeting

TAH Office of the Secretary Conference Room, Frankfort, KY

March 22, 2024, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Staff: Chris Cathers, Sarah Schmitt, Nicole Griffin, Macie Lowe, Tom Musgrave, Tamara Coffey, Cynthia Warner, Mark Brown, and Dave Blevins

Board: Lynn Shrader, Lennon Michalski, Dior Cotten, Chris Cathers, Mary Michael Corbett, Stephanie Renner, Randall Vaughn, Margaret Prim, Marcheta Sparrow, Nathan Mick and Wally Dant.

Meeting Began at 1:30 p.m.

Dior Cotten: Calls meeting to order. Asks everyone in the room to introduce themselves as well as those attending online. Cotten then asks Chris to give his introductions and give a formal land acknowledgement.

Approval of minutes of the December 8, 2023 Meeting: Approved by Mary Michael, Stephanie Renner seconded.

Chris Cathers: Report to the Board March 2024

Roll Call for attendance

Land Acknowledgement

A Land Acknowledgment is a formal statement that recognizes the unique and enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.

Today over 170 American Indian Tribes are represented by their members living and working in the Commonwealth. Let us honor those who were here and those who are here now and build on the legacy of stewardship of the land they left for us unto the 7th generation.

Report from TAH Cabinet: Secretary Lindy Casebier via conference call.

Staff Reports

Sarah Schmitt: Arts Day

In January, Kentucky Arts Day was back after a hiatus, and it looked very different than it once did with the giant foam checks and photos. There were meeting with legislators in the morning and a celebration in the Rotunda at noon. Representative Randy Bridges, Representative Beverly Chester-Burton both spoke on the value of the arts. There was a nice reception afterward and Bryan Station High School student string quartet played.

I told Lori I would be happy if there 25 morning appointments and the seats look filled in the afternoon. And, I believe there were closer to 50 appointments with standing room only for the program. And I think this format is going to serve us really well in the future in three important ways.

Less Work: First of all, it's not our event. Yet, we reap the most benefit. We're a small staff that cannot do what was required for a circa 2014 arts day. Furthermore, we cannot advocate. We can provide some staff and communications support and aggregated data. And that's a huge relief to not have a major event going into Market planning. And as staff cannot advocate, this being a KFTA event lends itself to more meaningful engagement. They can simply do and say more than we can. It just makes for a more resource wise, significant event altogether.

Updated advocacy tactics. Even if we could do it like we did ten years ago, that format is still the best way to educate legislators about the worth of the arts. KAP groups used to come to get their checks; everything is EFT now. The photos forked more lightening when print journalism had a different relevance. But, now the legislators get to hear first-hand, from their own constituents, who are equipped with data, why the arts are important for the commonwealth.

A place for individual artists. Last but not least, the old arts day had no meaningful place for arts small businesses, but this format of encouraging anyone and everyone to make meetings with their legislators – and providing them with the resources to do so effectively – lends itself to individual artist participation. A good anecdotal example is Katherine Updegraff White who met with her Rep. Meade who – it turns out – happens to be part of the Sportsman's Caucus. And although she didn't know him well or much about him, she was able to make a connection between her subject matter (of wildlife arts) and his interests. Come to find out he and her husband are part of the same shooting club.

Someone once told me that politics is as simple as who gets, what, when, were, and how. And I think making these connections and doing things this way is certainly a step forward in the "how" for public support for the arts can grow in Kentucky.

Organization Disaster Relief and Preparedness

Last fiscal year we awarded approximately 168 thousand dollars in disaster relief and recovery funding to individual artists, schools, and organizations through open application processes. This was possible through combined general, NEA, and SouthArts funds earmarked to support communities, cultural organizations and the careers of artists located in designated FEMA Public Assistance counties that were affected by the western Kentucky tornadoes in December 2021 or the eastern Kentucky floods in July 2022.

We also had similar NEA funding for the current fiscal year, and it was a perfect opportunity to make good on a strategy recommended by our partners at Performing Arts Readiness and the National Coalition of Arts Preparedness and Emergency Response. From our earliest

conversations with them in December 2021, they advised us that one of the pitfalls in disaster recovery is organizations and their communities feeling “forgotten” once the media coverage ends and the immediate emergency relief period defined by FEMA has expired.

And even though things are considered “cleaned up” to the outside world, the de-stabilization continues. Leaders who weathered the recovery process are burned out and there are other long-term, unexpected consequences of crisis particularly among the smaller organizations that had few staff and resources to begin with.

To address these potential long-term effects of disaster, the Kentucky Arts Council awarded \$95,000 in additional general operating support to the 19 fiscal year 2024 Kentucky Arts Partners in the FEMA designated counties. We did not make them apply for this funding – it was awarded on the merit and thoroughness of their existing KAP application. They’ll receive these funds along with their second FY24 KAP payment.

And, I think our partners were right. This money was well-timed. Six of the 19 organizations we awarded these funds to did not submit a FY25 Kentucky Arts Partnership grant application. And they were the only ones among the 107 that did not re-submit. And they were all among the smaller, most deeply affected organization – like Mayfield Graves County Art Guild. There’s a variety of reasons an organization might not apply, but it’s often a symptom of some type organization de-stabilization like a change in long-time leadership, a physical location move, a financial burden, and so on.

God willing, we won’t be perpetually in the business of disaster relief, and we can focus on disaster preparedness. But, we have a funding strategy and precedent that employs equitable short-term and long-term support for artists, schools, communities, and cultural organizations.

Tamara Coffey: POL stats

The Poetry Out Loud State Championships took place on March 14 at the Thomas D. Clark Center for KY History (Kentucky Historical Society).

Attendance included approximately 175 students & teachers attended. Nine KY schools participated in Poetry Out Loud during the 23-24 school year.

Eight school champions competed to become the State Champion for which one student received a free, all-expenses paid trip to Washington, DC for herself and a chaperone to compete in the National Finals, April 30- May 2. The Kentucky Arts Council's arts education director will also attend in support of the state champion and to connect with state coordinators of Poetry Out Loud programs across the country.

- Williamstown Independent Williamstown High School - State Champion Lexie Wilson
- Clark County George Rogers Clark HS - Runner Up Silas Coogle

- Beechwood Independent Beechwood High School- Runner Up Bella Slone
- Kenton County Simon Kenton High School -Marlee Collins
- Elizabethtown Independent -Kate Shirts
- Allen Co. Scottsville High School - Shaelee Welch
- Saint Xavier HS - Grayson Merrick
- Floyd County Betsy Layne HS - Aspen Nichols

Kentucky Country Day School -Akash Sigdel was ill and couldn't participate

KY Writers' Day

KY Writers' Day will take place in the Brown-Foreman Room at the Thomas

D. Clark Center for KY History on April 24 beginning at 10 a.m. KY Poet Laureate 2023-2024 will read from his work and offer a reflection on his first year as poet laureate. Former poets laureate scheduled to offer a brief reading are Richard, Joe, Sena, Maureen, Frank, George Ella, Jeff, Crystal

There will be a public reception in the Brown-Forman Room following the event at 11 a.m.

Frankfort's Paul Sawyer Public Library will host a two-hour reading by the poets laureate that afternoon beginning at 1 p.m.

Kentucky Writers' Day celebrates the commonwealth's strong literary tradition and the birthday of Robert Penn Warren of Guthrie, Kentucky, the first poet laureate of the United States and winner of three Pulitzer Prizes.

We hope you will all be able to attend!

Dave Blevins: Kentucky Crafted The Market 2024

- Our attendance was 10,120 over the three days:
 - highest in 15 yrs. of tracking that data
- 87 buyer businesses pre-registered or registered at the show:
 - includes businesses from Illinois, OH, Michigan, NC, Indiana,

S. Carolina and California

- Exhibitor attendance was 123 total

- Artist attendance includes 20 new, or first time, at Market
- Guests:
 - Friday agency head meeting
 - KFTA table at main entrance
 - UK Arts Admin students doing Facebook live interviews w/ artists
- Booth awards:
 - Best in Show, Worker Bee Sowing Company (Artisan Center)
 - Best Design, Chad Balster Glass (UK FA Extension)
 - Excellence in Accessibility, Sawdust & Solder (UK AAdmin students)
- Testimonials
 - Best Market sales yet
 - Well organized, including load-in/load-out process

2023

- 9,600+ attendance over three days (highest since 2013)
- 120 buyers pre-registered or registered at show (highest since 2016)
- Artist attendance of 118 after late cancellations
- Artist attendance includes 20 new/first time at Market
- First full show with music and arts programming since 2019
- Record single business wholesale day; orders totalling \$18,000.00
- Exhibitor sales report due 30 days from show close

Cynthia Warner

2024 Poetry Out Loud Details

Date

March 14, 2024

Event times

9:30am-2:30pm ET

Location

Kentucky Historical Society
100 W. Broadway
Frankfort, KY 40601

Students participating statewide: 1689

Teachers participating statewide: 33

9 state finalists

Headcount for finals

141 students

8 teachers

We reimbursed mileage and bus driver pay.

School and State Champions:

- Williamstown Independent Williamstown High School - Teacher: Casey Kirk; Teaching Artist: Dane Hosler – **STATE Champion: Lexie Wilson**
- Beechwood Independent Beechwood High School **Co-State Runner-up Bella Slone**
- Clark County George Rogers Clark HS **Co-State Runner-up Silas Coogle**
- Kenton County Simon Kenton High School Champion Marlee Collins
- Elizabethtown Independent HS Champion Kate Shirts
- Kentucky Country Day School Champion Akash Sigdel
- Allen Co. Scottsville High School Champion Shaelee Welch
- Saint Xavier HS Champion Grayson Merrick
- Floyd County Betsy Layne HS Champion Aspen Nichols

Judges:

- Mitch Barrett

- Jude (JC) McPherson
- Sarah McCartt-Jackson

Emcee – Bo List

Photographer – Kate Decker

Executive Director's Report

Chris Cathers: Happy new year from the Kentucky Arts Council! And we got it off to a fantastic start with Kentucky Arts Day on Jan. 10! We want to thank our friends at Kentuckians for the Arts – Lori Meadows and Teresa Day – for organizing this arts advocacy event. More than 100 people attended the program in the Capitol Rotunda, which featured the unveiling of the special license plate celebrating the arts. This plate is now available in county clerk offices across the state, and a portion of the license plate fee will go to Kentuckians for the Arts to help that organization do the incredible work it does at advocating and showing others how to advocate for the arts.

The main goal of Kentucky Arts Day was to put members of Kentucky's diverse arts community in front of state legislators, and we thank those folks who made appointments to meet with their district representatives and senators to talk about the importance of public funding of the arts in Kentucky. And, of course, we thank the legislators who took the time to meet with constituents, specifically Reps. Beverly Chester-Burton (Jefferson County) and Randy Bridges (McCracken), who spoke to attendees in the Rotunda. Thanks, also to Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet Secretary Lindy Casebier for his participation in the program. We hope you'll take the time to contact these people and thank them for giving their time in support of the arts.

We offer our continued sympathy to the city of Paducah and the tourism industry throughout Kentucky for the loss of Mary Hammond. Mary was the longtime director of the Paducah Convention and Visitors Bureau and, with Paducah being a UNESCO Creative City, was a stalwart for the arts statewide. Her life touched multiple communities, and she will be missed by so many.

Let it be recorded in our board minutes that we recognize the impact and strong support that her life and legacy have on the arts in the commonwealth.

An important topic coming up is the arts standards in public education. To learn more about those and how you can have input into those standards, listen to the [latest episode of KyArtsCast](#). Cynthia Warner, the arts council's arts education director, talks with Jessica Greene of the Kentucky Department of Education about what those standards are and what input the

department needs from the public. So download the latest episode for this informative chat between Cynthia and Jessica.

The January Creative Industry Summit Series webinar on graphic design and working with commercial printers was well-attended, but if you missed it, we've [uploaded it to our YouTube channel](#) for you to review at your leisure. Be on the lookout in the coming weeks for the announcement of February's CISS webinar.

Healing, Bridging, Thriving: A Summit on Arts and Culture in our Communities January 30 with Dr Maria Rosario Jackson

Arts and culture enrich our lives, our communities, and our nation. In this pivotal moment in our history, there is a growing recognition that the arts reveal new ideas, unlock opportunities, and help us confront the many challenges before us. This first-of-its-kind national convening will bring together leaders from across sectors, including government officials; policymakers; artists; arts advocates; academics; philanthropic, labor, and community leaders; and the public. Together we will consider the ideas, policies, and actions we can take to better integrate and elevate the arts and humanities throughout our country.

Co-hosted by the White House Domestic Policy Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, "Healing, Bridging, Thriving: A Summit on Arts and Culture in our Communities" will explore how the arts can contribute to health and well-being, animate and strengthen physical spaces, fuel our democracy, and drive equitable outcomes for communities across the country. Featuring panels, performances, and more, this convening will generate support needed to help ensure that the arts and their benefits are accessible to all.

Pic 1-NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson talks with U.S. Surgeon General Vice Admiral Vivek H. Murthy during the NEA/White House Domestic Policy Council-sponsored summit, Healing, Bridging, Thriving: A Summit on Arts and Culture in Our Communities.

Pic 2- Second Gentleman of the United States Douglas Emhoff speaking at Healing, Bridging, Thriving: A Summit on Arts and Culture in Our Communities.

Pic 3- Co-hosts of Healing, Bridging, Thriving: A Summit on Arts and Culture in Our Communities: NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson and Domestic Policy Advisor to President Biden and Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council Neera Tanden.

Pic 4-Chris and Kim Baker from Kentucky Performing Arts Center, Appalshop during one of the sessions of the summit.

Pic 5- Member of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities.

January Creative Industry Summit Series

Look Sharp! The Key to Well Produced Printed Material

Ashley Reaves, a graphic designer for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, discusses basic principles of graphic design that will help you give your work a more professional, polished look. She also talks about what you can do before sending that file to your printer to make sure you get the best-quality finished product.

February-Marvin Young-Taking Great Photographs

March Creative Industry Summit Series

Please plan to attend the next Creative Industry Summit Series webinar, Artists to Know: Celebrating Women's (Art)Work March 27th at

Register at https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rxS9SkK4Rfmmg8OwTbqCaw.

This webinar will be moderated by Melissa Vandenberg, visual artist/associate professor of art/director of the ECU Giles Center at Eastern Kentucky University. Artists from our programs and recent traveling exhibits will be the guests:

Lakshmi Sriraman, KY Crafted/Fellowship recipient/PAD artist

Alisha Martin, KY Crafted

Elizabeth Mesa-Gaido, Fellowship recipient and friend of KAC

Kate He, Continent to Commonwealth exhibit

Lori Larusso, Fellowship recipient

Tiffany Pyette, Native Reflections exhibit

As part of the [Kentucky State Parks](#) 100th Anniversary Kick-Off, [Cumberland Falls State Resort Park](#) hosted a special Writing Retreat with Kentucky Poet Laureate Silas House. 🖋️ The sold-out event included a guided tour to the falls, along with the writing workshop. Mike Wolfe of American Pickers was in attendance during the workshop. There are two more workshops planned at state parks, with the next being at Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park April 6th-7th.

Kentucky Poet Laureate Silas House on the red carpet for the 2024 Grammy Awards. Silas was among several eastern Kentuckians that were in the running for a Grammy. He was nominated for his role in helping to produce the video for Tyler Childers' "In Your Love."

We were very pleased to welcome just over 10,000 visitors to the show with the actual count being 10,120. That is an increase over last year's attendance of 9,650. The feedback from the exhibiting artists was extremely positive with a number of artists commenting on record sales

days and best show ever comments. One person said they took a \$50,000 wholesale order on Friday and Worker Bee Sewing Co said she was reporting sales in the thousands on an hourly basis Saturday, (her price points are between \$20-\$35). I had others say that they did better in this show on retail days than their last several shows combined. We were pleased with the increase of exhibitors too with 132 this year compared to 118 last year. We welcomed two new Hispanic small business owners and we had four Black owned businesses participate. Half of our exhibiting businesses are owned by women. We also welcomed wholesale buyers from as far away as California, Arizona and Kansas.

We were honored to have our Lieutenant Governor in attendance and appreciate her time on the show floor with the artists. Thank you for helping to coordinate this!

We were pleased to see many of our KAC board members in attendance over the weekend and are appreciative of their support as well. The artists were very complimentary of the strong showing from state park gift shops at this show and many asked that I relay this to the cabinet as well as state parks. Their support and investments are very important. We had a number of agencies participate in our hands-on activities including KY Humanities, KY Historical Society, and KET. The arena looked very nice and the staff of the Horse Park were very attentive to our show needs.

On Thursday, March 14, high school students from around the state competed at the Poetry Out Loud state championship at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort. 🗣️ This poetry recitation competition determined who would represent Kentucky at the Poetry Out Loud National Finals in Washington, D.C. The winner was Lexie Wilson of Williamstown High School. The runners-up were tied, with Bella Stone of Beechwood High School and Silas Coogle of George Rogers Clark High School both coming in second place. Congrats to these talented young people!

Kentucky Writers' Day

A celebration of literary artists in the commonwealth

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Brown-Forman Kentucky Room

Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History

100 W. Broadway St.

Frankfort, Ky.

(all times listed below are Eastern)

10 a.m. | Kentucky Writers' Day Ceremony, Brown-Forman Kentucky Room

Readings by Silas House, Kentucky Poet Laureate 2023-2024, and former poets laureate Richard

Taylor, Joe Survant, Sena Jeter Naslund, Maureen Morehead, Frank X Walker, George Ella Lyon, Jeff Worley and Crystal Wilkinson.

11 a.m. | Public Reception, Brown-Forman Kentucky Room

Enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and conversation with Kentucky writers.

Create a Kentucky Writers' Day Event in Your Community

The Kentucky Arts Council encourages those interested in celebrating Kentucky Writers' Day, but unable to attend the ceremony in Frankfort, to create their own event. Consult the [Writers' Day Planning Guide](#) for ideas suitable for schools, colleges and universities, organizations, businesses, writing and reading groups, community centers, nursing homes and senior centers, and state and local agencies.

Kentucky Writers' Day activities are free and open to the public.

Also happening on April 24:

1 p.m. | Paul Sawyier Public Library Continues the Celebration

River Room

Paul Sawyier Public Library

319 Wapping St.

Frankfort, Ky.

About the Kentucky Poet Laureate Position

The position of Kentucky Poet Laureate was originally established in 1926 by an act of the Kentucky General Assembly. James T. "Cotton" Noe was selected for the position. Poets laureate were appointed to lifetime terms by the General Assembly and at times several people held the position simultaneously. In 1990, new legislation was enacted to provide for the gubernatorial appointment of a state poet laureate for a two-year term. The Kentucky Poet Laureate's duties include promoting the literary arts and leading the state in literary activities, including Kentucky Writers' Day.

Accepting artwork for the Governor's Derby Exhibit

Theme: [Commonwealth Landscapes](#)

Exhibit runs [May 3 - July 1](#)

CALL TO ARTISTS

The Kentucky Arts Council invites all Kentucky visual artists to submit work for consideration in the upcoming Governor's Derby Exhibit May 3 – July 1. The works selected for the exhibit will be on display in the Capitol Rotunda, available for viewing by all visitors to the State Capitol.

Eligibility

All Kentucky visual artists 18 and older are welcome to submit up to two entries for consideration. The work must be original; two-dimensional; include hanging hardware and with a depth of no more than 6 inches. The overall dimensions, including frame, may not exceed 36 inches in height or width, nor be heavier than 25 pounds.

Theme: Commonwealth Landscapes

From the Appalachian Mountains in the east, to the Mighty Mississippi in the west, and the cavernous karst lands and gorgeous gorges in between, Kentucky is filled with beautiful and inspiring landscapes. The arts council invites artists to submit work that captures the many natural wonders that spread across the Bluegrass State.

Consent Agenda

Board reviews abstentions and grants: NEA Emergency Disaster Relief Grants

Board Discussion: Around the Commonwealth. Board discusses events happening around commonwealth and any updates, exclaims appreciation of the Kentucky Arts Council and all the hard work the staff has endured.

Cathers makes closing remarks of appreciation towards the board and staff. Reminds board of upcoming dates to remember: April 24, Kentucky Writers' Day May 3-July 1, Governor's Derby Exhibit

Motion to adjourn at 3:30 p.m. by Stephanie Renner and seconded by Mary Michael.