

**Virginia Commission for the Arts
Minutes, June 15-16, 2004
Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce
Onancock**

Members Present: Dr. Lucius Ellsworth, Barney Annas (attended the first day only), Marilyn Gould, Gary Grant, Bonita Lestina, E. A. McMath, Alice Starr, Beth Temple, Will Trinkle, and Bessida White

Members Absent: Ron Carrington, Roddy Moore, and Rod Taylor

Staff Present: Peggy Baggett, Donna Banks, Foster Billingsley, and Sharon Wilson

Guests: Dr. Benita Brown, Virginia State University; Robert Lenz, Eastern Shore Art League, and Alice Merrill, Art League of Alexandria

Introduction

Dr. Ellsworth, Chair of the Commission, called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. He thanked E. A. McMath for making the meeting arrangements. He expressed appreciation for the tour of the Palace Theatre in Cape Charles and the production at the North Street Playhouse in Onancock on Monday, June 14, and noted that he had asked the Commission staff to send letters of thanks to Arts Enter Cape Charles and to the North Street Playhouse.

Dr. Ellsworth noted that this meeting would be the last one for five members of the Commission whose terms end on June 30, 2004, and stated that Barney Annas, Ron Carrington, Marilyn Gould, Alice Starr, and Bessida White would be greatly missed.

Peggy Baggett then reviewed the agenda of the meeting, noting the addition of reports on the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation and on the new RAND study of state arts agencies.

Dr. Ellsworth reported that he and Will Trinkle had been reappointed by the Governor to five year terms on the Commission.

He thanked Roddy Moore for representing the Commission at the White House for the presentation of the Preserve America award to the Blue Ridge Heritage Initiative.

Alice Starr made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2004, meeting. E. A. McMath seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Update on State Budget

Peggy Baggett reported on the state budget. Although the overall state budget had not received final approval at the time of the meeting, there was no indication that there would be changes in the amount of funding for the Commission proposed by the Governor and approved by the General Assembly. The Commission will receive an additional \$210,000 in state funding in the first year of the new biennium and an additional \$430,000 in the second year. She noted that even with the recent tax increases, there would be little flexibility within the state budget for the next few years unless the economy dramatically improves.

Report of the Executive Committee

Dr. Ellsworth reported that since the last Commission meeting there had been two meetings of the Executive Committee, one by conference call on May 28th and one in person on the afternoon of June 14th. The purpose of the May 28th conference call was to make a decision of whether to proceed with the local arts agency study group. The Executive Committee decided to do so.

The meeting on June 14th was at the request of the Commission staff, who wanted to have an Executive Committee recommendation on several of the grant requests on the agenda of the full Commission meeting. The Commission staff was concerned about the severe fiscal stress on many of the arts organizations across the state. They requested an in-depth discussion of how the Commission can find the balance of helping Virginia arts organizations as much as possible while being prudent stewards of public funds.

Area I General Operating Support and Project Grants

Lu Ellsworth, who had observed the Area I panel meeting, reported that the meeting was one of the best in several years with a strong group of panelists with a wide range of viewpoints, experience, and expertise. Donna Banks presented the panel and staff recommendations on the applications.

Bristol Ballet Company. The advisory panel had discussed this application at great length. The company has a distinguished history but has had considerable turnover in recent years in the position of Artistic Director. There is not an Artistic Director at present, and the dance school has been temporarily closed. The panel had recommended no funding, stating that the company is virtually out of business. However, since the panel meeting, there had been news reports that the company is hiring a new Artistic Director and reopening the school. The board president had confirmed these reports in a conversation with Lu Ellsworth. There was discussion of whether the organization had fulfilled the grant requirement of at least three different programs for the public in 2003-2004. After discussion the Commissioners agreed that the Bristol Ballet had presented three different programs for the public in the current year - the fall repertory performance, the Nutcracker performance, and the spring dance showcase. Although no dancers from the Bristol Ballet were involved in the spring dance showcase, the Bristol Ballet board members organized the showcase. However, the organization did not meet the requirement of notifying the Commission of major changes in the organization after closing the school and terminating the contract of the artistic director. The Executive Committee recommended that the Commission not make the second payment on the 2003-2004 General Operating Support grant, hold 2004-2005 funding as a Priority 2 applicant for this organization, and require the organization to submit a detailed plan of action for the coming year before awarding the grant. The plan of action should include a staffing plan, a list of productions and outreach activities, a complete budget, the resume of the new artistic director, and information on board development. This plan of action will be reviewed by the Commission at its fall meeting before a decision is made on the grant award. Several Commissioners expressed concern about being consistent in the treatment of organizations in crisis. Action on the application was deferred until later in the meeting when recommendations on all of the organizations in crisis could be compared. After the review of all of the General Operating Support applications, the Commission returned to the Bristol Ballet application. Alice Starr made a motion to approve the Executive Committee recommendation. E. A. McMath seconded the motion, which was then approved unanimously.

Marilyn Gould made a motion to approve the panel and staff recommendations on the remaining General Operating Support and Project Grant applications from Area I, and Will Trinkle seconded the motion. Lu Ellsworth noted that the panel had recommended that two of the Project Grant applicants, the Cove Ridge Arts Council and Southwest Virginia Community College, be notified that the Commission will not continue to fund these particular projects indefinitely. The motion was then approved unanimously.

Area II General Operating Support and Project Grants

Gary Grant, who had observed the panel meeting, said the Area II panelists made precise and insightful observations. There seemed to be less confusion this year than in the past about the different roles of the applicant organizations in their communities. Donna Banks presented the panel and staff recommendations on the applications.

Academy of Fine Arts. The Executive Committee had discussed this application. The leadership of the organization is to be commended for undertaking a merger of two organizations with widely different missions. However, the Commission did not consider the former Academy of Music Theatre to be an eligible applicant for General Operating Support since the organization was focused solely on raising funds to renovate the Academy building. There was discussion of whether the FY 05 grant should be based upon the combined income of the two entities, even though the Commission chose not to fund one of the entities in the past. The Executive Committee recommended that the Academy of Fine Arts be funded as a Priority 1 applicant but that the income from the former Academy of Music Theatre not be included as eligible revenue in computing the amount of the grant. Alice Starr made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Executive Committee on the Academy of Fine Arts. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Gould and approved unanimously.

Gary Grant made a motion to approve the panel and staff recommendations on the remaining General Operating Support and Project Grant applications from Area II. The motion was seconded by Will Trinkle and approved unanimously.

Area III General Operating Support and Project Grants

Roddy Moore had observed the Area III panel meeting. In his absence Peggy Baggett reported on the meeting. She noted that there were only five panelists in attendance but that they had attended arts events by most of the applicants within the last year. Donna Banks presented the panel and staff recommendations on the applications.

Arts Council of the Valley. The Commission staff recommended funding this applicant as a Priority 1 organization rather than Priority 2 as recommended by the panel. The panel comments were primarily positive about the application. However, the panel had reviewed two applications from local arts agencies back to back with a higher ranking to the older and more established arts council. Will Trinkle made a motion to accept the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Bessida White and approved unanimously.

Harrison Museum of African American Culture. Donna Banks reported that there had been considerable change in this organization between the panel meeting and the Commission meeting with the sole staff person being laid off and greatly reduced hours of operation. The Executive Committee had discussed this application and recommended that the second payment be made on the 2003-2004 grant if the final report is filed and that the Commission hold 2004-2005 funding as a Priority 2 applicant for this organization and require the organization to submit a detailed plan of action for the coming year before awarding the grant. The plan of action should include a staffing plan, a list of activities for the public, a complete budget, the resumes of volunteer or professional staff, and information on board development. This plan of action will be reviewed by the Commission at its fall or December meeting before a decision is made on the grant award. During the discussion the Commissioners noted that the Harrison Museum serves a unique role in promoting African-American culture in the Roanoke area. However, the organization does not appear to have sufficient infrastructure to move forward or to take advantage of technical assistance opportunities. Action on the application was deferred until later in the meeting when recommendations on all of the organizations in crisis could be compared. After the review of all of the General Operating Support applications, the Commission returned to the Harrison Museum application. Marilyn Gould made a motion to approve the Executive Committee recommendation. E. A. McMath seconded the motion, which was then approved unanimously.

Will Trinkle made a motion to approve the panel and staff recommendations on the remaining General Operating Support and Project Grant applications from Area III. Alice Starr seconded the motion, which was then approved unanimously.

Remarks by Robert Lenz

Robert Lenz, woodcarver and member of the Eastern Shore Art League, had requested time on the agenda to address the Commission. He spoke about the needs of artists and arts organizations located in rural areas. Chair Lu Ellsworth thanked him for his suggestions and referred the proposals to the Policy/Planning/Budget Committee.

Recognition of Commissioners at the End of Terms

Lu Ellsworth and E. A. McMath presented certificates of appreciation and gifts to Barney Annas, Marilyn Gould, Alice Starr, and Bessida White to thank them for their five years of service on the Commission.

Area IVA General Operating Support and Project Grants

Marilyn Gould, who observed the advisory panel meeting, remarked that this year's panel was the best in the past five years and had first hand knowledge of most of the applicants. Bonita Lestina and Beth Temple commented that it was their first panel meeting and that the day was interesting and informative. Alice Starr concurred.

Donna Banks presented the panel and staff recommendations on the applications. She reported that the City of Fairfax Band had withdrawn its Project Grant application.

American Music Stage. Peggy Baggett distributed copies of an email received from the head of the organization on May 28th, responding to the panel comments, and asked the Commissioners to read it. Several Commissioners remarked that this organization has a long history of submitting incomplete or poorly prepared applications and then asking the Commission to reconsider funding decisions. Despite repeated requests from the Commission staff, the organization did not send an annual treasurer's report. It is inappropriate for the Commission to fund organizations that do not track their finances with a comprehensive annual financial report. Beth Temple made a motion to accept the panel and staff recommendation of no funding. Gary Grant seconded the motion, which was then approved unanimously.

Andrew Keegan Theatre. Donna Banks reported that, despite repeated requests from the Commission staff, the organization did not send an annual treasurer's report by the time of the Commission meeting. Beth Temple made a motion to approve the staff recommendation of no funding. Alice Starr seconded the motion, which was then approved unanimously.

Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre. Donna Banks noted the difference in the panel and staff recommendations on this application. There was some confusion among the panelists about the qualifications of the instructors. In reviewing the application after the panel meeting, the Commission staff was able to determine which of the resumes attached to the application were for instructors and which were for board members. The Commission staff, therefore, recommended Priority 2 funding, the same level as Encore Stage & Studio. Alice Starr made a motion to approve the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Beth Temple and approved unanimously.

City of Alexandria. Several Commissioners pointed out that while this application was not as strong as others from Area IVA, the joint marketing project would benefit a wide range of organizations. Lu Ellsworth made a motion to award \$2,000 for this project. The motion was seconded by Beth Temple and approved unanimously. Beth Temple made a motion to approve the staff recommendations for the remaining General Operating Support and Project Grant applications from Area IVA. The motion was seconded by Alice Starr and approved unanimously.

Area IVB General Operating Support and Project Grants

Marilyn Gould, who observed the panel meeting, stated that she had been pleased with the knowledge of the panelists and the level of discussion at the meeting. Donna Banks presented the panel and staff recommendations on the applications.

Community Music School of the Piedmont. Donna Banks pointed out the letter from the Community Music School responding to the panel comments. The Commissioners agreed that the letter included information not in the original application and that the letter made a compelling case for funding. Gary Grant made a motion to fund the applicant as a Priority 2 organization, which is the same level as the Renaissance Music Academy of Blacksburg and the Valley Music Academy of Waynesboro. The motion was seconded by Beth Temple and approved unanimously.

Beth Temple made a motion to approve the panel and staff recommendations on the remaining General Operating Support and Project Grant applications from Area IVB. The motion was seconded by Bonita Lestina and approved unanimously.

Windmore Foundation for the Arts. The Commission initially approved the panel and staff recommendation of Priority 2 for the Windmore Foundation, but on the second day of the meeting the Commissioners reviewed the grant decisions for consistency. At that time E. A. McMath made a motion to fund the Windmore Foundation as a Priority 1 General Operating Support applicant. She noted that the Windmore Foundation is the only arts organization in Culpeper that applies to the Commission and that it is attempting to serve a wide range of audiences with a wide range of programs. It appears to be an efficient small operation. While the application could have been written more clearly, it is obvious that the organization is valued by the community. The motion was seconded by Alice Starr and approved unanimously.

Area V General Operating Support and Project Grants

No Commissioner observed the Area V panel meeting. Peggy Baggett reported that the panelists had positive things to say about every application and had a difficult time at the end of the meeting in setting priorities for funding. Donna Banks presented the panel and staff recommendations on the applications.

Black History Museum & Cultural Center. There was a lengthy discussion about this application. The Commissioners agreed that the organization fills an invaluable and unique role in the Richmond area but needs to build up its organizational structure. The Commissioners asked the staff to offer Technical Assistance funding to help the Museum with administrative issues. Alice Starr made a motion to fund the Museum as a Priority 1 applicant. The motion was seconded by E. A. McMath and passed with no opposition. Bessida White abstained from voting since she serves on the Museum board of directors.

Middlesex Art Guild. Donna Banks explained the difference in the panel and staff recommendations with the staff recommending a grant of \$1,000 as a show of support for a new applicant to the Commission. Marilyn Gould made a motion to approve the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Beth Temple and passed unanimously.

Monument City Music. Donna Banks explained the difference in the panel and staff recommendations with the staff recommending a grant of \$1,000 as a show of support for a new applicant to the Commission. E.A. McMath made a motion to approve the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Will Trinkle and passed unanimously.

Playwrights Premiere Theatre. Donna Banks explained the difference in the panel and staff recommendations with the staff recommending a grant of \$1,000 as a show of support for a new applicant to the Commission. Alice Starr made a motion to approve the staff recommendation. Lu Ellsworth pointed out that the letter responding to the panel comments that was included in the Commission meeting books. The motion was seconded by E. A. McMath and passed unanimously.

Virginia Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. Lu Ellsworth invited Dr. Benita Brown to address the Commission with her concerns about the panel review of the application. Peggy Baggett pointed out the letter distributed to the Commission with a response to the panel comments. There was confusion about the timing of the project and about the specific components for which funding was requested. The Commissioners agreed by consensus that they would like to support the residency by the Kulu Mele Dance Company only. Alice Starr made a motion to award \$800 to the application, restricted to the Kulu Mele fee. The motion was seconded by Bessida White and approved 9-yes, 1-no (Marilyn Gould).

Marilyn Gould made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the remaining General Operating Support and Project Grants from Area V. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Virginia Holocaust Museum. Donna Banks pointed out the letter responding to the panel comments that was included in the Commission meeting books. Bonita Lestina commented that with the involvement of the Virginia Opera the project will be of unquestioned quality and made a motion to award \$1,000. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area VI General Operating Support and Project Grants

Barney Annas, who had observed the panel meeting, stated that the panel discussion was strong and insightful. E. A. McMath concurred, noting that the panelists were well prepared for the meeting. Donna Banks presented the panel and staff recommendations on the applications.

Community Alliance for the Performing Arts Fund. Donna Banks pointed out the response from the organization to the panel comments which was included in the Commission meeting materials. Marilyn Gould made a motion to approve the panel and staff recommendation of Priority 2 funding. The motion was seconded by Bonita Lestina and passed unanimously.

Cultural Alliance of Greater Hampton Roads. Barney Annas stated that he did not agree with the panel and staff recommendation of funding this organization as a Priority 2 applicant. He praised the organization for its new emphasis on advocacy and for the Alli Awards and then made a motion to approve funding as a Priority 1 applicant. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Bessida White made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the remaining General Operating Support and Project Grant applications from Area VI. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Support for Major Arts Institutions

Bessida White, who had observed the advisory panel meeting, stated that the panel did a good job overall, but she had concerns about the recommendation on the Virginia Stage Company. Donna Banks presented the panel and staff recommendations on the applications.

Fairfax Symphony. Marilyn Gould made a motion to fund the Fairfax Symphony as a Priority 1 organization but require the organization to submit a full application for review by the panel again next year. She noted that the Symphony has made progress in addressing the Commission concerns from past years although there is still room for improvement. The motion was seconded by Alice Starr and approved unanimously.

Richmond Symphony. Donna Banks pointed out the letter from the Symphony responding to the panel comments that had been distributed to the Commissioners. There was a lengthy discussion about the Richmond Symphony. Several Commissioners commented that the response about racial and ethnic diversity was defensive and made excuses rather than showing an organizational commitment to diversity. Marilyn Gould made a motion to accept the panel and staff recommendation of Priority 2

funding. Lu Ellsworth asked if the motion could be amended to require the Symphony to send a six month report on its progress in increasing racial and ethnic diversity. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. On the second day of the meeting the Commissioners reviewed the grant decisions for consistency. At that time Marilyn Gould asked if the Richmond Symphony application could be reconsidered. She pointed out that the Richmond Symphony has a long history of high quality and good management, has been fully funded by the Commission for many years, and should be put on notice before funding is reduced. She noted that the Symphony is facing serious challenges with the temporary loss of its major performance venue during the renovations of the Carpenter Center and with the upcoming contract negotiations with the musicians. She also expressed concern about penalizing an otherwise high quality institution on one issue alone. Alice Starr concurred and added that the Richmond Symphony tours throughout the state and is an important resource for many communities. Will Trinkle noted that the organization does not appear to have an official board policy on diversity, which is surprising given the population of the Richmond area. Bessida White reminded the Commissioners that this issue was raised with the Richmond Symphony several years ago and that little progress seems to have been made in the interim. Marilyn Gould pointed out the Symphony has more diversity on its board which now more closely reflects the demographics of the Richmond metropolitan area. Lu Ellsworth proposed that the Commission fund the Richmond Symphony as a Priority 1 organization with 50% of the funds released early in FY 05, 35% mid-year after the Commission receives an update from the Symphony with an official board policy on diversity and a progress report, and 15% when the final report is filed. Marilyn Gould made a motion to approve the suggestion from Lu Ellsworth with the addition of requiring a plan for future action as part of the progress report. This progress report will be reviewed by the Commission at the December, 2004, meeting. The letter of notification should be sent, not only to the Executive Director, but also to the Chair of the board of directors. The motion was seconded and passed, 7-yes, 2-no (Bessida White and Will Trinkle with Barney Annas absent from the meeting at the time of the vote).

Virginia Stage Company. The Commissioners discussed this applicant at length. Some Commissioners were reassured by the letter from the Managing Director in response to the panel comments and recommended a higher level funding than proposed by the panel. Others pointed out that this organization has been in crisis many times throughout its history and that the auditor has called the continued existence of the organization in doubt. Lu Ellsworth noted that if the Stage Company goes out of business, it will be the second major arts institution in Virginia to do so in recent years. Some Commissioners felt that it was time for the Commission to stop funding the organization. The Executive Committee recommended that the Virginia Stage Company be funded as a Priority 2 applicant with the funds being released quarterly after progress reports which address the financial and organizational concerns. Alice Starr made a motion to award a grant as a Priority 3 organization with the funds being released on a quarterly basis. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Gould and approved, 9-yes, 1-no (Bessida White).

Alice Starr made a motion to approve the panel and staff recommendations on the remaining Support for Major Arts Institutions applications. The motion was seconded by Will Trinkle and approved unanimously.

"Short Form" General Operating Support Grants

Peggy Baggett presented information on the "short form" General Operating Support applications. The Executive Committee had discussed two of the applications at its meeting on June 14th.

ShenanArts. ShenanArts was directed to apply using the short form application this year. In the spring, however, the organization informed the Commission of a financial crisis. The staff are not being paid, the property has been sold, and the board is re-evaluating its mission and programs. The Executive Committee recommended that the second payment be made on the 2003-2004 grant if the final report is filed and that the Commission hold 2004-2005 funding as a Priority 1 applicant for this organization and require the organization to submit a detailed plan of action for the coming year before awarding the grant. The plan of action should include a staffing plan, a list of activities for the public, a complete budget, the resumes of volunteer or professional staff, and information on board development. This plan of action will

be reviewed by the Commission at its fall meeting before a decision is made on the grant award. Will Trinkle made a motion to approve the Executive Committee recommendation. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Gould and approved unanimously.

Arlington Arts Center. The Arlington Arts Center was directed to apply using the short form application this year. When the materials arrived, the Commission staff learned for the first time that all of the staff had been let go in the summer of 2003 for financial reasons and that the Center had not presented three different arts programs for the public in 2003-2004, one of the requirements for General Operating Support. The Executive Committee had discussed the matter on June 14th and recommended that the second payment not be made on the 2003-2004 grant and that the Commission hold 2004-2005 funding as a Priority 1 applicant for this organization and require the organization to submit a detailed plan of action for the coming year before awarding the grant. The plan of action should include a staffing plan, a list of activities for the public, a complete budget, the resumes of volunteer or professional staff, and information on board development. This plan of action will be reviewed by the Commission at its fall meeting before a decision is made on the grant award. Will Trinkle made a motion to approve the Executive Committee recommendation. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Gould and approved unanimously.

Will Trinkle then made a motion to approve the short form General Operating Support applications. The motion was seconded by E. A. McMath and approved unanimously.

Jefferson Center. At its meeting on June 14th the Executive Committee had discussed an issue raised by a member of the Area III panel. The Jefferson Center is an unusual organization in that it runs a performing series and an art galley, it is a landlord for other arts groups, and it is the venue for a variety of non-arts events sponsored by churches, colleges, and civic organizations. For the past two years the Commission has matched the entire income of the Jefferson Center in computing the amount of the General Operating Support grant. The panelist had noted that the Commission is being inconsistent in matching the funding for non-arts activities at the Jefferson Center while considering Center in the Square of Roanoke, also a landlord for cultural organizations, and the Carpenter Center of Richmond, a rental facility, as ineligible for operating support. The Executive Committee recommended that the rental income of the Jefferson Center for non-arts activities no longer be counted as eligible income for the General Operating Support grant, beginning with the 2005-2006 year. The Jefferson Center should be notified of this change as soon as possible. Alice Starr made a motion to approve the Executive Committee recommendation. The motion was seconded by E. A. McMath and approved unanimously.

Special Recognition Awards

Peggy Baggett presented information on the four requests for Special Recognition Awards.

Marilyn Gould made a motion to make a Special Recognition Award to the City of Fairfax Band which will be involved in the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the City. She noted that this grant is a one time Special Recognition Award and the Band will not be invited to apply for such an award each year. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Alice Starr made a motion to approve the staff recommendations of \$7,500 each for Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, the Virginia School of the Arts, and the Virginia Performing Arts Foundation and of \$5,000 to the Blue Ridge Institute of Ferrum College. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Local Government Challenge Grants

Peggy Baggett presented the materials on the Local Government Challenge Grant applications. She noted the request from the Town of Broadway for an exception to the guidelines. She also reported that the City of Hopewell application appears to emphasize historic preservation over arts performances. She recommended funding the application for 2004-2005 with notification to the applicant that future

applications should provide a clearer description of the activities to be supported. Bessida White made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the Local Government Challenge Grants. The motion was seconded by Will Trinkle and approved unanimously.

Meeting Procedures

Bessida White recommended that the Commission consider and adopt a formal policy on the role of representatives of applicant organizations at Commission meetings. This policy will clarify what information can be provided on grant applications on the day that grant decisions are being made. Lu Ellsworth referred the matter to the Policy/Planning/Budget Committee.

2005-2006 Tour Directory

No Commissioner observed this panel meeting. Peggy Baggett commented on the changes in the review procedures which seemed to improve the panel process. She noted that the Commission staff will continue refining the site evaluator system. Sharon Wilson presented the panel and staff recommendations of performers to be included in the *Tour Directory*.

Manassas Dance Company. The panel was unable to reach consensus on this application. The Commission staff recommended including the company in the *Tour Directory*. Alice Starr made a motion to approve the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Gould and approved unanimously.

Word Beat. The panel was unable to reach consensus on this application. The Commission staff recommended including the duo in the *Tour Directory*. Bonita Lestina made a motion to approve the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Alice Starr and approved unanimously.

Viva Vivaldi! The panel was unable to reach consensus on this application. The Commission staff recommended including the duo in the *Tour Directory*. Bonita Lestina made a motion to approve the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Will Trinkle and approved unanimously.

Will Trinkle made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the remaining applications for the *Tour Directory*. The motion was seconded by Alice Starr and approved unanimously.

Marilyn Gould and Alice Starr asked about the cost of printing the annual *Tour Directory*. The Commissioners agreed that the *Tour Directory* is a good public relations tool for the Commission and should be continued in its present form. They recommended, however, that the Commission staff investigate the possibility of getting a sponsor for the *Directory* or selling advertising to subsidize the printing costs.

Arts in Education Applications

No Commissioner had observed the panel meeting. Sharon Wilson and Peggy Baggett reported that the panelists were knowledgeable and had a wide range of viewpoints.

Marilyn Gould made a motion to approve the panel and staff recommendations on the Artist Residency and Arts Education Curriculum Development Grants. The motion was seconded by E. A. McMath and approved unanimously.

2004-2005 Grants Budget

Peggy Baggett reviewed the proposed grants budget for 2004-2005. Marilyn Gould made a motion to approve the draft budget, with the changes made during the grant review. The motion was seconded by Bonita Lestina and approved unanimously.

Lu Ellsworth noted that the audit of the Commission recently conducted by the Auditor of Public Accounts showed good financial management and commended Foster Billingsley and the rest of the Commission staff for good work.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Gary Grant gave the report of the Nominating Committee which recommended the following slate of officers for 2004-2005

Chair - Lu Ellsworth
Vice Chair - Will Trinkle
Secretary - E. A. McMath

Lu Ellsworth asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, Alice Starr made a motion to accept the slate by acclamation. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Report on Virginians for the Arts

Peggy Baggett reported that the new Executive Director is working out well and that Roger Neathawk has continued to support the organization by providing office space and by mentoring Trish Poupore as she learns her new job. The new Virginians for the Arts Foundation has been formed. The board of Virginians for the Arts met on May 14th and agreed on an advocacy strategy for the coming year.

Lu Ellsworth commented that the greatest success of the 2004 General Assembly session was state funding for the resource teachers, including elementary art and music.

Marilyn Gould reminded the Commissioners that they should all be individual members of Virginians for the Arts.

Report on the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation

Beth Temple and Peggy Baggett reported on the recent meeting of the board of the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation. Virginia is continuing to get a good return on its annual dues payment. Marilyn Gould expressed her concern that there is still a lack of attention by the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation on helping underserved areas. Peggy Baggett repeated a conversation with the leader of Arts Enter Cape Charles about the value of the Masters of Mexican Music tour.

Report on the Local Arts Agency Study Group

Lu Ellsworth reported on the status of the local arts agency study group. The Virginians for the Arts board has joined with the Commission in sponsoring the study group.

Marilyn Gould will chair the study group. The group will be representative of the entire arts community. To date, Marilyn Gould, Gary Grant, Stephanie Micas of the Arts Council of Richmond, Norma Kaplan of the Arlington County Division of Cultural Affairs, Mark Watson of the Norfolk Commission on the Arts & Humanities, and Marcia Thalhimer of the Virginians for the Arts board have agreed to serve.

The study group will be asked to:

recommend strategies to enhance the grassroots advocacy efforts for the arts in all parts of the Commonwealth

recommend strategies to strengthen the partnership between the state and local arts agencies of Virginia

recommend strategies to build organizational capacity for existing and emerging local arts agencies of Virginia.

The Commission staff will make regular reports to the full Commission on the study group.

Report on State Arts Agencies by the RAND Corporation

Lu Ellsworth announced that a new report has been issued by the RAND Corporation and funded by the Lila Wallace Foundation about state arts agencies. There is concern among the NASAA leadership that while the trends described in the report are accurate, much of the language is unnecessarily inflammatory. The Commission staff will prepare a statement for use by the Commissioners if they are questioned about the report by people in their home communities.

Issues for the Coming Year

Lu Ellsworth asked the Commissioners for their ideas on the major issues facing the Commission in the coming year. The following issues were raised:

orientation of the new Commissioners

advocacy for increased state funding of the Commission

the local arts agency study group

the role of the Commission in the Jamestown 2007 commemoration

increased cultural diversity in the arts

support for arts organizations in severe fiscal distress

evaluation of the new state funding for art and music resource teachers.

Peggy Baggett suggested that one way to help arts organizations in crisis would be to offer additional technical assistance for the coming year. Lu Ellsworth asked her to develop a proposal for review by the Executive Committee. Beth Temple made a motion to raise the limit on Technical Assistance funding with final approval by the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded by E. A. McMath and approved unanimously.

There being no further business, Lu Ellsworth again thanked E. A. McMath for her hospitality and the retiring Commissioners for their service.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

[Grant Award Announcement & List](#)