



October 1, 2014 Commission Meeting
Montpelier, Virginia

Members Present: Faye Bailey, Bob Behr, Lorita Copeland Daniels, Jay Dick, Charles Ellis, Ronald Fabin, Jo Hodgins, Wanda Judd, Sharron Kitchen Miller, John Rainero, Shelley Kruger Weisberg, Grace Han Wolf

Members Not Present: Dorothy Blackwell

Staff Present: Margaret Vanderhye, Mackenzie Byrne, Cathy Welborn, Tiffany Glass Ferreira, Casey Polczynski

Charles Ellis, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:05am. The new commissioners were introduced.

Grace Han Wolf made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 11-12, 2014 Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Wanda Judd and approved unanimously.

Margaret Vanderhye gave an overview of the Governor's directive and General Assembly action on the budget. She then gave an update on the VCA budget and recap of the Executive Committee's decision regarding the Commission's budget adjustments that the Governor called for by September 19th. The budget cuts included: eliminating the Artist Fellowships, cancellation of the 2015 Artworks Conference, moving forward to FY16 the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation dues for FY16, cancellation of the remaining Technical Assistance grant funds, and elimination of Touring Assistance Waitlist funding. These decisions were made to minimize cuts to grantees receiving General Operating Support, Artist in Education Grants, Project Grants, and Local Government Challenge Grants. In 2016, the Commission plans to restore the ArtWorks Conference as well as artist fellowships. Technical Assistance Grants will be limited to one (vs. two) \$1,000 grant per organization.

Margaret Vanderhye stated that the Virginians for the Arts will have its Advocacy Day as planned, although a week earlier than originally scheduled. Jo Hodgins said advocacy messages should include points for funding support and regret for the loss of the 2015 conference. Charles Ellis emphasized the importance of thanking legislators and asking for continued support.

Margaret Vanderhye discussed the guideline changes relevant to the budget adjustments that would be reviewed and voted on in December. Wanda Judd made a motion to accept the changes made to the budget. Sharron Kitchen Miller seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Margaret Vanderhye gave an overview of the Performing Arts Tour Directory Program and statewide panel meeting for inclusion in the FY16 program.

Cathy Welborn discussed the staff recommendation to keep Keith Lee Dances in the tour program for one more year based on their community support, diversity and recommendations from presenters. Jo Hodgins made a motion to accept the panel and staff recommendations for the FY 16 Performing Arts Tour Directory. Faye Bailey seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Charles Ellis gave an overview of the appeals process and criteria specified in the Commission guidelines. He asked the Commission for its response to Synetic Theater's appeal of the Commission's June 2014 decision for reduced funding and asked if Synetic's appeal met the criteria for a revised funding decision. After discussion about the difference between the Theater's artistic excellence and their need for better organization and management, Jo Hodgins stated that Synetic's letter was well written, but that the Theater did not meet the criteria for an appeal.

Jo Hodgins made a motion to deny Synetic Theater's appeal based on Guidelines for Funding. Lorita Copeland Daniels seconded. Wanda Judd opposed. The motion carried. Shelley Weisberg made a motion to review Synetic Theatre as a Major Art Organization in December ; Wanda Judd seconded. Sharron Kitchen Miller requested background notes for Synetic Theater.

Charles Ellis gave background on Windmore Foundation's letter. Margaret Vanderhye described her phone conversation with Ms. Kellie Doyle in which the grant review process was explained and points of management reviewed. Tiffany Glass Ferreira noted that the AIE grant was reviewed by a separate panel and declined based on the fact that it was not new or expanded project.

Charles Ellis noted the Richmond Jazz Society's decision to reject their grant funding and return their check.

Casey Polczynski gave an overview of Poetry Out Loud and Artist in Education programs and residencies. She will recommend revised policies for AIE applications and funding criteria in December.

Tiffany Glass Ferreira gave an overview of the VCA website and social media.

Margaret Vanderhye discussed her upcoming meeting schedule with community leaders and legislators in the Hampton Roads region.

Margaret Vanderhye introduced the meeting host, Doug Smith of Montpelier. He welcomed the Commission to Montpelier and the Center for the Constitution. He described James Madison's true love of art, music and history as part of his Enlightenment philosophy.

Margaret Vanderhye discussed old business including VCA touring artists who performed at the Governor's Mansion. She explained that the Virginia Folklorist Jon Lohman would be speaking during lunch about the Virginia Folklife Program and that the tour of Montpelier would begin at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned 11:52am