



MINUTES

June 11-12, 2014 Commission Meeting

Virginia State Capitol Richmond, Virginia

Members Present: Lisa Alderman, Faye Bailey, Willie Dell, Charles Ellis, Ronald Fabin, Wanda Judd, Sharron Kitchen Miller, Ann Edwards Rust, Marcia Neuhaus Speck, Marcia Thalhimer, Ann Bondurant Trinkle, Shelley Kruger Weisberg

Members Not Present: Tina Lea

Staff Present: Margaret Vanderhye, Foster Billingsley, Cathy Welborn, Tiffany Glass Ferreira

Wednesday, June 11, 2014 – Lisa Alderman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 am

Willie Dell made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2014 Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Marcia Thalhimer and approved unanimously.

Margaret Vanderhye gave an update on the status of the state budget, which to date, had not been passed by the General Assembly. Two options were presented, one with full funding and the other with contingency plans for budget cuts. The Board will need a motion later during the meeting authorizing the Executive Committee to approve the Commission's grants budget once the state budget has been passed by the General Assembly.

Margaret Vanderhye briefed the Commissioners on her initial meetings with the National Endowment for the Arts, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies and Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation. She also discussed bringing the NEA program, Poetry Out Loud, back within the Commission's administration with the addition of a full-time Arts- in-Education coordinator to begin in July 2014.

Margaret Vanderhye reviewed the Commission's 2014-2015 grants / administrative budget. Foster Billingsley stated that General Operating Support (GOS) funding rates are decreasing due to large number of applicants.

Area 1 General Operating Support Grants:

Lisa Alderman gave an overview of the panel meeting stating that panelists were well prepared and thoughtful. Ann Rust made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on Area 1 GOS grants; The motion was seconded by Marcia Speck and approved unanimously.

Area 1 Project Grants:

Ann Rust made a motion to approve the Area 1 Project Grants. The motion was seconded by Marcia Speck and approved unanimously.

Area 2 General Operating Support Grants:

Danville Symphony Orchestra:

Charles Ellis stated that the artistic quality was high and deserving of Priority 1 funding. Wanda Judd made a motion to move the Danville Symphony Orchestra from a Priority 2 to a Priority 1; Willie Dell seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion to move the organization from a Priority 2 to a Priority 1 was put to a vote: Four voted in favor of a Priority 1 ranking and six voted against. The motion failed. Charles Ellis abstained from this vote.

The Prizery:

Charles Ellis stated that he noticed improvement in funding and management. The Prizery is the only presenter in the community, but is still in a deficit situation. Marcia Thalhimer made a motion to make three payments to the Prizery with a mid -year report. Charles Ellis seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Ann Bondurant Trinkle made a motion to approve the staff recommendations for Area 2 GOS with a three payment plan for the Prizery. Willie Dell seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Area2 Project Grants:

Margaret Vanderhye gave an overview of the panel meeting. Ann Rust made a motion to approve the Area 2 Project Grants, Sharron Kitchen Miller seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Area 3 General Operating Support Grants:

Ann Bondurant Trinkle stated the panel had many new members, but that they were thorough in their review.

She stated that the Arts Council of the Valley is active and engaged in the community. Ann Rust made a motion to move the organization from a Priority 2 to a Priority 1.5. Sharron Kitchen Miller seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Ann Rust made a motion to approve the staff recommendations for the Area 3 GOS grants with an upgrade for the Arts Council of the Valley from Priority 2 to 1.5. Sharron Kitchen Miller seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Area 3 Project Grants:

Willie Dell made a motion to approve the staff recommendations for the Area 3 Project Grants. Sharron Kitchen Miller seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Area 4A General Operating Support Grants:

Shelley Kruger Weisberg stated there was a broad range of expertise and talents on the panel.

Alexandria Choral Society: The Commission agreed with the concerns of the panel, but did not feel the organization should be lowered to a Priority 2. Marcia Speck made a motion to move the organization from a Priority 2 to a Priority 1. Sharron Kitchen Miller seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Arts Council of Fairfax County: Marcia Thalhimer made a motion to move the organization from the panelists' recommendation of Priority 1 to Priority 1.5. Marcia Speck seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Torpedo Factory Board: After discussion about its eligibility for funding and a recommendation that the organization should apply for a project grant next year, Marcia Thalhimer made a motion that the organization is not eligible for GOS funding. Shelley Kruger Weisberg seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Willie Dell made a motion to approve staff recommendations for 4A GOS grants with the changes to the Alexandria Choral Society and the Torpedo Factory. Charles Ellis seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Ann Rust abstained from the vote on Lorton Arts Foundation.

Area 4A Project Grants:

Shelley Kruger Weisberg made a motion to approve staff recommendations for the Area 4A Project grants. Willie Dell seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Area 4B General Operating Support

Ron Fabin stated that he was impressed that the Area 4B Panel was so well informed.

Sharron Kitchen Miller made a motion to approve staff recommendations for Area 4B. Marcia Thalhimer seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Area 4B Project Grants:

Shelley Kruger Weisberg made a motion to approve staff recommendations for the Area 4B Project grants. Wanda Judd seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Area 5 General Operating Support Grants:

Willie Dell, Marcia Thalhimer, Wanda Judd attended the panel meeting. All three agreed that the panel was strong, professional and well informed.

CenterStage Foundation: Foster Billingsley met with the organization's treasurer, and after a review reported that the Commission that the organization is eligible for \$84,000.

Henley Street Theater: Although the artistic quality is high, the future financial viability of the organization is uncertain. The Commission agreed with the staff recommendation of a Priority 2 to include a three payment plan and submission of a midyear report to the Commission that will be reviewed by the Executive Committee. The report will address the organization's finances and the pending merger with Richmond Shakespeare Theatre.

Ann Rust made a motion to change the **Northern Neck Orchestra from Priority 2** to Priority 1. Wanda Judd seconded. 4 voted in favor and 6 voted against the change. The motion failed.

Marcia Thalhimer made a motion to approve the staff recommendations for the Area 5 GOS grants. Willie Dell seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Area 5 Project Grants:

Willie Dell made a motion to approve the staff recommendations for all Priority 1 Area 5 Project grants. Charles Ellis seconded. Wanda Judd made a motion to approve Priority 1.5 funding for WNRN Independent Music Radio. Willie Dell seconded the motion and it carried 11-1. Willie Dell made a motion to approve staff recommendations for Area 5 Project Grants. Charles Ellis seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

General Operating Support Short Forms:

Shelley Kruger Weisberg made a motion to approve all GOS short forms. Willie Dell seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Special Recognition Awards:

Sharron Kitchen Miller urged a more thorough discussion at a future time about how to proceed with these Special Recognition Award options and decisions. She made a motion to approve funding for the Blue Ridge Institute. Marcia Speck seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Area 6 General Operating Support Grants:

Faye Bailey attended the Area 6 panel meetings.

She stated that the **Tidewater Classical Guitar Society** is bringing world class artists with excellent credentials to the region and made a motion to keep the organization at its past level of Priority 1. Willie Dell seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Marcia Thalhimer made a motion to approve staff recommendations for Area 6 GOS grants including the Priority 1 for Tidewater Classical Guitar Society. Marcia Speck seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Area 6 Project Grants

Faye Bailey made a motion to approve the Area 6 Project grants. Shelley Kruger Weisberg seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Major Arts Organizations:

Marcia Thalhimer, Wanda Judd and Shelley Kruger Weisberg attended the meeting. All agreed that the panel was made up of leaders in the field who brought great expertise to the review process.

Sharron Kitchen Miller made a motion to approve staff recommendations for the Major Arts Organizations. Willie Dell seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Marcia Thalhimer abstained from the vote on the Richmond Symphony.

Local Government Challenge Grants:

Willie Dell made a motion to approve the Local Government Challenge Grants. Ann Bondurant Trinkle seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Artist in Education Residencies:

Sharron Kitchen Miller, Wanda Judd and Willie Dell attended the panel meeting. All agreed that the panel was fully engaged, prepared and professional and brought a wide range of expertise to the process.

Sharron Kitchen Miller made a motion to accept the Panel's recommendation of Priority 2 for **TC Williams High School**. Wanda Judd seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Artist in Education After School and Summer Camp Programs:

Willie Dell made a motion to fund the staff recommendation of the AIE grants including 100% funding for Alleghany Highlands Arts and Crafts Center and Triangle Players, and moving TC Williams High School to Priority 2 funding. Wanda Judd seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

2015-2016 Guidelines for Funding:

Margaret Vanderhye reviewed Guideline changes for 2015-2016. The Guidelines should receive a vote from the current Board at the June meeting and be ratified next December with the new Commission Board members.. Changes include clarifying language about how an organization becomes or remains in the Major arts organization category and to 501©3 guidelines for Project Grants for New and Emerging Arts Organizations. Willie Dell made a motion to approve the 2015-2016 Guidelines with the identified changes. Charles Ellis seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Updates and Reviews:

Margaret Vanderhye gave an update on Virginians for the Arts.

2014-2015 Grants Budget:

Without the approved budget from the General Assembly, there can only be a discussion, not a decision made at the meeting. The \$125K and \$137K line items will not affect any of the allocated line items if they are not included in the budget. If either is retained in the budget, the funds will be applied to General Operating Support.

Remarks by Secretary of Education Anne Holton

The Secretary spoke to the Commission board and staff, and thanked them for their work on behalf of the arts and creativity in Virginia. She expressed her support for including the arts in our schools' curricula as central to a healthy economy and vibrant communities.

Marcia Thalhimer made a motion to approve moving Poetry Out Loud funding out of grants and into administration and to give the new executive committee and the outgoing executive committee authority to approve the Commission budget once the General Assembly passes a state budget. Willie Dell seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The Board agreed that a formal letter of thanks should be sent to Virginia Repertory Theatre for its management of the Poetry Out Loud. program.

Venue for Future Commission Meetings

Margaret Vanderhye presented the schedule for future Commission meetings:

Wednesday, October 1st, Montpelier

Wednesday, December 3rd, Richmond Ballet Company, Richmond

Wednesday, March 25th, Riverviews/ArtSpace, Lynchburg

Wednesday, June 10th & Thursday, June 11th, Museum for Contemporary Art, Virginia Beach

Report of the Nominating Committee

The nominating committee of Marcia Speck, Marcia Thalhimer and Ann Rust presented the slate of Charles Ellis as Chair, Sharron Kitchen Miller as Vice Chair and Shelley Kruger Weisberg as the Secretary.

Wanda Judd made a motion to approve the new slate of officers. Ann Bondurant Trinkle seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Lisa turned gavel over to Charles Ellis for remarks.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned 1:45pm