

**Virginia Commission for the Arts**  
**Minutes**  
**April 4, 2012**  
**Montpelier, Virginia**

**Members present::**

Deborah Wyld, Lisa Alderman, Willie Dell, Charles G. Ellis, Dr. Gwen Everett , Tina Lea, Sharron Kitchen Miller, Evelia Gonzalez Porto, Ann Edwards Rust, and Marcia Thalhimer

**Staff Present::**

Foster Billingsley, Cathy Welborn, Tiffany Ferreira

**Guests Present::**

Charlotte Anders and Jim Thompson with Virginians for the Arts

Phil Whiteway and Bruce Miller with Virginia Repertory Theatre (formerly, Theatre IV and Barksdale Theatre)

Ann Comfort and Richard Klare with The Montpelier Center for Arts & Education

**Introduction**

Deborah Wyld, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05am. Ann Comfort and Richard Klare welcomed everyone to The Montpelier Center for Arts & Education.

Marcia Thalhimer made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 1, 2011. The motion was seconded by Evelia Gonzalez Porto and approved unanimously.

**State and Federal funding**

The Commission received a preliminary grant award letter from the National Endowment for the Arts. The Commission's funding for 2012 – 2013 has been cut by \$41,000 due to federal funding cuts to the National Endowment for the Arts. Foster Billingsley explained the funding formula for the Partnership Grants awarded to state arts agencies.

Deborah Wyld discussed the advocacy efforts of Virginians for the Arts to restore the 4.5% cut to the Commission's budget. At the time of this meeting the Commission's membership dues to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies and Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation had not been restored.

The Commission staff is not able to present to the Commissioners a 2012 – 2013 grants budget at this meeting. The state has not adopted its biennial budget. The Commission staff has a plan in place if the state has not adopted a budget by the June 13 – 14, 2012 Commission meeting.

### **Update on Executive Director's position**

Deborah Wyld reported on the vacant Executive Director's position. Deborah Wyld and Foster Billingsley were informed that the position will not be filled before the legislative session is finished.

### **Strategic Plan**

Marcia Thalhimer recommended that the Mission Statement in the Commission's Strategic Plan be revised to say "Virginia Commission for the Arts encourages participation and invests in the arts for all Virginians." Ann Edwards Rust made a motion to approve the new Mission Statement. Lisa Alderman seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Evelia Gonzalez Porto made a motion to adopt the 2012-2013 Strategic Plan as presented by the Commission Staff. Willie Dell seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

### **Birthplace of Country Music and Bristol Rhythm and Roots Reunion**

Lisa Alderman discussed the history of Birthplace of Country Music and Bristol Rhythm and Roots Reunion. She also reviewed each organization's current fund raising and management status.

Foster Billingsley reported that Bristol Rhythm and Roots Reunion is ineligible for funding because it moved its incorporation from Virginia to Tennessee at the end of December. The Commissioners discussed whether the organization should return the General Operating funds the Commission has paid out or cancel the second payment. Charles G. Ellis made a motion to withhold the General Operating Support final 15% to Bristol Rhythm and Roots Reunion. Marcia Thalhimer seconded the motion and it was approved.

### **2012 Art Works**

Foster Billingsley gave an overview of the 2012 Art Works budget. The Commission staff is working on the 2013 Art Works conference. It has secured Kathy Mattea as the keynote speaker and performer.

### **Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation**

Deborah Wyld reported on her recent attendance of the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation board meeting. The Commission has not had representation on the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation for many years. Our agency needs representation on this board.

## **Virginians for the Arts**

Charlotte Anders, Executive Director, and Jim Thompson, President, of Virginians for the Arts reported on the changes made to the administration of the organization. Jim Thompson talked about the advocacy efforts in the 2012 legislative session and the plans for future activities. Charlotte Anders talked about Virginians for the Arts message this legislative session which is **arts = business**.

## **Virginia Repertory Theatre (formerly Theatre IV and Barksdale Theatre)**

Phil Whiteway and Bruce Miller gave the history of Theatre IV and Barksdale Theatre. They spoke about the merger of the two organizations and the proposed multi-year plan to gradually reduce funding for Barksdale Theatre. Charles G. Ellis made a motion to not approve Virginia Repertory Theatre's proposed multi-year plan to gradually reduce funding for Barksdale Theatre. Ann Edwards Rust seconded the motion and it carried. Evelia Gonzalez Porto abstained.

## **Election of Nominating Committee**

Deborah Wyld asked for nominations for the Nominating Committee which will propose a slate of officers for 2012 – 2013. Tina Lea, Ann Edwards Rust and Marcia Thalhimer were elected to the Nominating Committee.

## **New business:**

The June 13 – 14, 2012 Commission board meeting will be held at the State Capitol. It will be hosted by Senator John Miller. Senator Miller and Education Secretary Laura Fornash will speak at this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.