

VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

MINUTES

October 10, 2012

Harrison Opera House – Norfolk, Virginia

Members Present: Deborah Wyld, Lisa Alderman, Marcia Neuhaus Speck, Charles G. Ellis, Dr. Gwendolyn H. Everett, Tina Lea, Sharron Kitchen Miller, Marcia Thalhimer, Ann Edwards Rust, Ann Bondurant Trinkle

Members Absent: Willie Dell, Pat Perry, Evelia Gonzalez Porto

Staff Present: Foster Billingsley, Cathy Welborn, Tiffany Glass Ferreria, Lorraine Lacy

Guests: Russell Allen (Virginia Opera Association), Charlotte Anders (Virginians for the Arts), Susan Hirschbiel (Chair of Minds Wide Open), Eric Borenstein and Jane Short (Virginia Symphony) and kb Saine (Sycamore Rouge)

Introduction:

Deborah Wyld, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Russell Allen, President & CEO, welcomed the Commission and gave a brief history of the Virginia Opera Association. There was a short performance by the Virginia Opera Association's Emerging Artists.

Approval of Minutes:

Marcia Thalhimer made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13 – 14, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

2013 – 2014 Tour Directory:

Foster Billingsley presented the panel and staff recommendations on the performers to be included in the 2013 – 2014 Tour Directory.

Sharron Kitchen Miller made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the 2013 – 2014 Tour Directory. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Tourism and the Arts:

Foster Billingsley presented the panel decision on the Tourism and the Arts grants.

The Commission discussed the future of this grant program. It was decided that the partnership between the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the Virginia Tourism Corporation is important and it should continue. The Virginia Tourism Corporation is scheduled to attend the Commission's December 5, 2012 meeting to discuss the future of the Virginia Tourism and the Arts grant program.

News From Around the State:

Lime Kiln Arts—Foster Billingsley gave an update on the recent changes at Lime Kiln Arts. The board has taken over the daily operations of the organization. All full and part-time staff members, including the Executive Director, have been terminated. The Commission staff will ask the organization to send a financial and organizational update by January 31, 2013.

Lyric Opera of Virginia:

Foster Billingsley gave an update on the Virginian Pilot article about Lyric Opera of Virginia's financial issues. The Commission will ask Joseph Walsh, General Manager, to update the Commission on the financial situation of the organization at its December 5, 2012 meeting in Richmond, Virginia.

Taubman Museum of Art:

Deborah Wyld gave an update on the Taubman Museum of Art. The Museum has formed a new board and the former board will serve as an advisory board. The current Executive Director, David Mickenberg, has resigned from the organization.

Virginia Symphony:

Eric Borenstein, Executive Director, and Jane Short, President, of the Virginia Symphony, gave an update on the Symphony's finances and new projects being undertaken by the organization.

Sycamore Rouge:

kb Saine, Producing Artistic Director of Sycamore Rouge, updated the Commission on Sycamore Rouge's financial status and the move to its new theatre.

The Commission staff will request an updated profit/loss statement that reflects the actual finances of the organization.

Dr. Gwendolyn H. Everett made a motion to defer the decision on approving the general operating support grant for Sycamore Rouge until the Commission's December 5, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

MINDS WIDE OPEN: (MWO)

Susan Hirschbiel, Chair of Minds Wide Open, spoke to the Commission about the history of Minds Wide Open and the outcomes from Minds Wide Open: Children and the Arts 2012.

The Commission board felt strongly that this is a worthwhile program and did not want to see it go away. The board agreed to form a committee to review the MWO program and its future. The committee is Marcia Neuhaus Speck, Tina Lea, and Marcia Thalhimer. This committee will report back to the Commission at its March 27, 2013. A decision will be made if and when the next MWO will happen at this meeting.

Marcia Speck made a motion to support Minds Wide Open and that the Commission will vote on the future of the program at the March 27, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Virginians for the Arts:

Deborah Wyld introduced Charlotte Anders, Executive Director, of Virginians for the Arts. Ms. Anders talked about the organization's strategic planning process and the Dominion Arts Stars Awards.

Report on National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) conference:

Foster Billingsley, Charles Ellis, Tiffany Glass Ferreria, Lorraine Lacy and Deborah Wyld reported on their recent attendance at a NASAA conference in Washington, DC. Some of the topics at the conference included advocacy, cultural tourism, and transforming communities through public art.

Strategic Plan:

The Commission continued to work on developing its new strategic plan. The board broke into groups to discuss the Commission's mandates. Each group answered the following questions: What is the Virginia Commission for the Arts intentions toward each of these mandates? What can the Virginia Commission for the Arts do toward accomplishing each of these mandates?

Old / New Business:

Foster Billingsley gave an update on the vacant Executive Director's position.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.