

## **New York State Council on the Arts Committee Meeting Minutes**

300 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10010

December 6, 2018

1:00PM-3:00 PM

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Present: Katherine Nicholls (Chair), Lisa Baker, Scott Eberle, Janet Kagan (WebEx), Richard Mittenthal, Nazee Moinian, John Morning, Rita Paniagua, Hal Payne, Elsie McCabe Thompson (WebEx)

Quorum present: Yes

Others in attendance:

Mara Manus, Executive Director

Megan White, Deputy Director of Programs

Abigail Young, Deputy Director of Operations and General Counsel

Individual Artists Program:

Arian Blanco, Program Director

Orin Chait, Program Officer

Panel Representative: Cusi Cram, Playwright

Presenting and State and Local Partnerships Program:

Leanne Tintori Wells, Program Director

Panel Representative: Jay Wegman, Director, NYU Skirball Center for the Performing Arts

Regional Economic Development Council

Katie Steger, Interim Program Director

Orin Chait, Program Officer

Sunita Iqbal, Interim Program Staff

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Meeting called to order by Chair Katherine Nicholls

### CHAIR'S WELCOME

KATHERINE NICHOLLS: Before we begin the meeting, we will have a quick iPad tutorial from Abby Adler.

KATHERINE NICHOLLS: Thank you, Abby. Good afternoon and welcome to a session of the New York State Council on the Arts' Multidisciplinary Arts Committees.

I am Katherine Nicholls, Chair of the New York State Council on the Arts.

Thank you all for joining us. To remind all in attendance, this is a public meeting that is being recorded. Today we will be holding a joint committee meeting to review the funding recommendations for four programs: Presenting, Individual Artists, State and Local Partnerships, and the REDC Initiatives and Capital.

As you can see, we are using iPads today in lieu of the monitors. Committee and Council meeting packets have been loaded onto them for you to scroll through during the meeting. We will still have the materials and videos projected on the wall behind me.

I would also like to acknowledge the Panelist representatives joining us here today. Each panelist is an expert in their respective field and provides great insight into the grant review process. Between May and October, over 150 field experts traveled to this office to serve as NYSCA panelists. Our process depends on them. Thank you for your service and Welcome.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Committee and Council members, Open Meetings Law of New York State requires that meetings of public bodies like the Council be open to the public, unless there is a basis for the body to approve a motion for entry into an executive or closed session. First, the subjects that may properly be considered in executive session are set out in paragraphs (a) through (h) of section 105(1) of the Open Meetings Law. Because those subjects are limited, a public body cannot conduct an executive session to discuss the subject of its choice. Second, the motion must be sufficiently specific to inform the public that the topic or topics for discussion fall under one of the permitted options.

At the advice of counsel, NYSCA has determined that the Committees gathered today have a basis to enter into executive session under section 105(1)(f) of the Open Meetings Law. This provision permits a public body to enter into an executive session to discuss: "...the ... financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation." The sole proposed agenda of our Committee meetings today is the presentation of the specific panel review ratings and resulting staff funding recommendations for nine program areas. We are reminded that one of the three core ratings criteria used by all NYSCA programs for all applications is fiscal and managerial competence. Our agenda will therefore require us to consider and discuss the financial, credit and managerial history of the particular applicants.

I therefore would like to ask that one Co-chair from each Committee jointly request a motion and second for a vote to: (1) enter into an executive session to review and discuss the panel ratings and resulting funding recommendations of the particular applications for this year in the program areas of Presenting, Individual Artists, State and Local Partnerships, and the REDC Initiatives and Capital; and (2) return to open session at the end of the day to vote on the proposed funding recommendations for these particular applications for presentation at the Council meeting later today.

*Motion to enter into an executive session is made, seconded and carries unanimously.*

We respectfully ask all non-invited guests here with us to leave the meeting. We will invite the public to rejoin us in the afternoon when we return to an open meeting and take the vote on the funding recommendations of NYSCA for the four program areas. Our Council meeting will be held this afternoon in open session at 3PM where the funding recommendations discussed today will be voted upon by Council.

A reminder-the REDC awards will be announced by the Governor on December 18th. As we are meeting before that, any materials relating to those awards will be shared only during the meeting, and will only be available for council members on our new iPads. All information shared at this meeting will be embargoed until December 18<sup>th</sup> and should be considered confidential.

#### [Executive Session]

KATHERINE NICHOLLS: Welcome back to the public portion of the meeting for the New York State Council on the Arts Committees. I am Katherine Nicholls, Chair of the New York State Council on the Arts. Thank you all for joining us. To remind all in attendance: this is a public meeting that is being recorded.

I would like to ask one Co-Chair from the Multidisciplinary Arts Committee to ask for a motion that we accept the funding recommendations made by the Individual Artists, Presenting, State and Local Partnerships, and REDC programs

*Motion to accept the recommendations is made and seconded.*

I would like to ask Deputy Director of Programs Megan White if there are any conflicts. Those with a conflict will be deemed recused on their vote for the applicable application.

MEGAN WHITE: We are aware of the following recusals that I will now read for the record.

Individual Artists	Art Services of Western NY, Inc.	Hal D. Payne
	Carnegie Hall Corporation	Mahnaz (Nazee) Moinian
Presenting	Henry Street Settlement	John Morning
REDC Initiatives	CNY Arts, Inc	Rita Paniagua
Facilities Improvement – Large Capital Projects	Saratoga Performing Arts Ctr	Jayne Keyes
	Strong Museum	Scott Eberle
Facilities Improvement- Mid-Size Capital Projects	The Jewish Museum	Mahnaz (Nazee) Moinian

*Motion to adopt the motion carries unanimously, with no objections or abstention votes, and subject to applicable recusals.*

ADJOURN

KATHERINE NICHOLLS: Thank you Richard, Rita, Council Members, Staff, and Panelists. Thank you all for your ongoing service and commitment to NYSCA.

*Motion to adjourn is made, seconded and carries unanimously.*

Meeting adjourns.