

**New York State Council on the Arts  
Council Meeting Script  
February 27, 2019  
2:00PM-3:30PM**

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Present: Katherine Nicholls (Chair, WebEx), Scott Eberle (WebEx), Joan Hornig (Webex), Janet Kagan, Jayne Keyes (WebEx), Eric Latzky, Laudelina Martinez (WebEx), Nazee Moinian, John Morning, Hal Payne (WebEx), Deborah Ronnen (WebEx), 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

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Meeting called to order by Chair Katherine Nicholls

**WELCOME**

**KATHERINE NICHOLLS:** Greetings Council members and guests, this is Katherine Nicholls, the Chair of the New York State Council on the Arts. I am unfortunately unable to join today's meeting in person and have deputized our Executive Director Mara Manus to chair the meeting. I will be joining by WebEx along with other Council members.

**MARA MANUS:** Good afternoon and welcome to the New York State Council on the Arts' February meeting and the first meeting of 2019.

I am Mara Manus, Executive Director of the New York State Council on the Arts and I am acting on behalf of 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.

At today's meeting, we will vote on the Fiscal Year 2019 Appeals Panel recommendations and the Fiscal Year 2020 panelist recommendations. We will also review the Fiscal Year 2020 ongoing multiyear grant awards.

Panel meetings will begin in May and continue through October. A calendar will be distributed to Council members in late March. Council members who have attended in the past can confirm that these meetings present a valuable opportunity to observe NYSCA's review process and understand the level of diligence and discussion to arrive at a decision. We strongly urge you to attend one or more of the panel meetings. As a reminder; only approved panelists may participate in the discussions and Council members are invited to learn and observe. Please let Abby Adler know when you would like to attend.

For FY2019, NYSCA received **2504 applications**. **1,003 direct grants** were awarded in addition to the **792 existing multiyear contracts** from prior year awards.

For FY2019, thanks to the support of the New York State Assembly, NYSCA has awarded \$10 Million in Capital Funds to 51 organizations through the Mid-Size and Large Capital Fund opportunities.

Thanks to the diligence of our Operations staff, **833 (83%)** of NYSCA's contracts have been promptly executed so far in 2019. As with previous years, NYSCA has the highest percentage of on-time contracts of any State agency.

Throughout February and March, NYSCA program staff is traveling across the state to hold Guideline Information Seminars. These seminars are an opportunity for the field to learn more about our grant programs, guidelines, and grant making process. To date, we have held seminars in Buffalo at the Darwin Martin Complex, in Brooklyn at the Mark Morris Dance Center, Syracuse at the SUNY Oswego Metro Center, and Albany at the Institute of History and Art. We will be in Long Island at Cinema Center this Friday, and in Manhattan at Sugar Hill Children's Museum on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to council members who have attended one of the seminars. We are seeing great engagement across all sites- which are at or exceeding capacity. We believe some of this is due to the fact of our previous strategic planning workshops across the state.

The 2019 NYSCA Council and Committee meetings will be held on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, and tentatively December 11<sup>th</sup>. Council will be notified of the meeting times at the end of March. At these meetings, the Council will review and vote on a portion of the new FY2020 grant recommendations. The December meeting date is set by the Governor's schedule with the announcement of REDC awards and is subject to change. We would like to underscore the importance of your attendance at each and all our meetings. As you know, in order to conduct business vital to the agency's operations and mission, we must have a quorum in attendance.

### **FY2019 APPEALS PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

**MARA MANUS:** For the first order of business, the Council will review and vote on the Appeals Panel's recommendations for Fiscal Year 2019. Materials related to the appeals panel have been emailed to you. If you are joining us in-person, the materials can be found on your iPad. Megan White, Deputy Director of Programs, will review the Appeals Panel's recommendations.

*Megan White reviews the decision of the Appeals Panel of five Fiscal Year 2019 appeals and the recommendation by the Appeals Panel for each appeal at its meeting on February 15, 2019. For each appeal, the Appeals Panel recommended that the appeal had no merit and that the appeal should be denied.*

*Council members in the room and on WebEx have an opportunity for questions or comments. Mara Manus asks if any Council members in the room or on WebEx have further questions or comments. Motion of the Council to concur with and adopt the recommendations of the Appeals Panel with respect to the FY 2019 appeals pursuant to NYSRR Part 6401 is made and seconded. Mara Manus asks if any Council members have further questions or comments. The motion to concur with and adopt the recommendations of the Appeals Panel with respect to the FY 2019 pursuant to NYSRR Part 6401 carries unanimously with the Council members in the room and on WebEx with no oppositions or abstentions.*

## **FY2020 PANELIST ROSTER**

**MARA MANUS:** The next agenda item is to review and vote on the panelist roster for Fiscal Year 2020. Several panelists are being re-appointed for another year of service. They will be joined by new additional panelists. Each panelist may serve for up to three years, contingent on annual approval by this Council. Thanks to all the Council members who nominated panelists to participate. Megan White will now present the Fiscal Year 2020 panelist rosters.

*Megan White presents the Fiscal Year 2020 panelist rosters. Council members in the room and on WebEx have an opportunity for questions or comments. Mara Manus asks if any Council members in the room or on WebEx have further questions or comments. Motion of the Council to approve the FY2020 panelist roster is made and seconded. Mara Manus asks if any Council members have further questions or comments. The motion to approve the FY 2020 panelist roster carries unanimously with the Council members in the room and on WebEx with no oppositions or abstentions.*

## **FY2020 ONGOING MULTIYEAR AWARDS**

**MARA MANUS:** The final agenda item is to review the multiyear grant awards for FY2020. Megan White, Deputy Director of Programs, will present the ongoing multiyear grants awards.

Megan White provides an overview of the grants with multiyear terms extending through Fiscal Year 2020 that the Council has previously approved and mentions that a list of the grants has been provided to Council members through email and the iPads at the meeting as well as on screen. *Council members in the room and on WebEx have an opportunity for questions or comments. Mara Manus asks if any Council members in the room or on WebEx have further questions or comments. The discussion and review of the ongoing multi-year grants concludes.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**MARA MANUS:** I will now share with you NYSCA updates. As you know, this Fall NYSCA embarked on Strategic Planning led by Lord Cultural Resources. We have completed Phase One which included interviews with a breadth of key stakeholders, hosting 10 workshops statewide, reaching more than 800 constituents. Some priority areas for this work include program alignment with developments in the field, addressing issues of cultural equity and raising the profile of the arts as a critical economic and community asset. Many thanks to Council Members who participated in our surveys and attended workshops. Next steps for the process include an all-day workshop for our steering committee members, and a presentation of the key findings.

In our commitment to continue to be responsive to an ever-evolving field, I am pleased to share the efforts that NYSCA has undertaken efforts to improve our application process. In previous years, applicants would prequalify, register, and apply through Grants Gateway. Now, our applicants will submit their applications through the NYSCA-New York State Consolidated Funding Application (the NYSCA-CFA). The Grants Gateway will continue to be critical part of the NYSCA grants Prequalification and contracting process for FY2020, and for the first time this year, online payment processing.

As of this morning there are 220 applications in the CFA, and 6 have been submitted. In comparison, last year at this time there were 77 applications in Grants Gateway, with 3 submitted. This product is a

result of the immense dedication of the **entire** NYSCA staff and our partners at ITS. I would like to thank Abigail Young, Lenn Ditman, Will McDermott, Lauren Abbatiello, and Omar Estrada for their incredible work over the last few months to develop, launch, and oversee these efforts.

We also streamlined our guidelines. Projected above me is an example from our old guidelines and here are the NEW guidelines. These guidelines are more user-focused, visually engaging, and emphasize clarity and transparency. We are excited to see how these changes will continue to impact our applications numbers. Please join me in applauding the efforts of our NYSCA team.

Our partnership with the Department of Corrections and Carnegie Hall, the Create Justice Initiative, is well underway. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, we had the opportunity to travel to the Hudson Youth Correctional Facility to learn more about the day-to-day lives and needs of the youths to begin developing programming. A visit to the Adirondack Facility is planned for the end of March.

Additionally, our partners at Carnegie Hall will be hosting another Create Justice convening on March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. I will be joining on March 5<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to attend, please contact Abby Adler. I now welcome any further questions.

### **ADJOURN**

**MARA MANUS:** Thank you all for your ongoing service and commitment to NYSCA. I move to adjourn our meeting for today.

*Motion of the Council to adjourn is made and seconded. The motion to adjourn carries unanimously with the Council members in the room and on WebEx with no oppositions or abstentions.*

Thank you. The motion carries unanimously and the meeting is now adjourned. We look forward to seeing you at our panel meetings, which begin in May, and at our next Council and Committee meetings on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourns at approximately 2:45 pm.