

SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS COMMISSION
Board of Commissioners Meeting
October 20, 2022

Note: The time, date, location, and agenda for this meeting were publicized as required by South Carolina laws covering meetings of public bodies.

Members Present

Dee Crawford, Dacey Bell, Dr. Sarah Lynn Hayes, Henry Horowitz, Dr. Richard Webb, Steve Bygott (Foundation president)

Staff Present

David Platts, Nick Boismenu, Angela Brewbaker, Ashley Brown, Jonathan Eason, Nigel Espey, Kevin Flarisee, Laura Marcus Green, Krista Grendze, Milly Hough, Daphne Hudson, Victoria McCurry, Kimberly Washburn Motte, La Ruchala Murphy, Amanda Noyes, Laurel Posey, Jason Rapp, Abby Rawl, Yusi Sabree, Ce Scott-Fitts, Margot Strasburger, Amber Westbrook

Call to Order

Chair Dee Crawford called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Crawford called for a motion to accept the August 18, 2022, minutes. Dr. Hayes made a motion; Mr. Bell seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

FY2023 Budget Update

Finance Director Angela Brewbaker reviewed updates to the FY2023 operating budget. She reminded the board that the first budget presented for a new fiscal year is always an estimate until the current year is closed out. Some funds have been re-allocated, with the state adding funds to cover insurance premium adjustments and pay plans. The carryforward in state funds is accurate now that FY2022 has been closed. The Administration budget has been re-allocated slightly based on conferences and upcoming travel. As discussed in previous meetings, the agency has taken over the first floor of the building to accommodate program growth and more staff. Since the budget was first approved, the state's project manager has provided more details about the pending renovations and estimated cost; that information is now reflected in the budget. Although the renovation project will not begin in FY2023, the project has to be approved and funds available this year. The renovation will be paid for with FY2022 state carryforward and some of the FY2023 nonrecurring funding.

FY2023 First Quarter Financials

The first payment of ESSER funds for Arts Grow SC was received from the State Department of Education in the first quarter. Some of the agency's annual payouts are disbursed in the first quarter, including insurance premiums and software licenses. Most grants are not paid out by the first quarter, except for Fellowships. Other expenses include IT supplies such as monitors and keyboards for newly hired staff. Ms. Brewbaker reminded members that the format for Statewide Arts has changed slightly to group expenses that are common among all programs, such as panelist fees.

Ms. Brewbaker shared the balance sheet. Income includes some of EIA funds and ESSER funds. Grants due to the agency include FY2021 ARP funding from NEA. The agency will receive reimbursement from the NEA for the emergency grants awarded at end of FY2022.

Mrs. Crawford asked for clarification on the new office space downstairs. Mr. Platts stated that the renovated space will provide eight new offices, a public space for workshops and training, and a small kitchen to support meetings. The restrooms will also be renovated to accommodate the new public spaces. The State Art Collection is already stored downstairs.

Mrs. Crawford called for a motion to approve the FY2023 budget update and accept the FY2023 first quarter financial report. Dr. Hayes moved to accept. Dr. Webb seconded. The motion was approved.

FY2024 Budget Request

Mr. Platts reported that he recently presented the FY2024 budget request to the Governor's staff, which is the first step in the budget process. With the hard work going into bridging the gap to support rural communities and teachers, and specifically arts educators, the budget request of \$3 million in new, recurring funds is designed to sustain new programs that are providing learning experiences for students. In FY2023, the agency secured recurring funds that moved total agency funding above the 2008 level of \$7.1 million. Mr. Platts also provided the Governor's staff with information about the impact of the creative economy. While the agency continues to support traditional grantees such as symphonies and theatres, staff is also reaching out to non-traditional grantees, such as Boys and Girls clubs and recreation departments that offer arts programming. These non-traditional grantees help ensure that we work toward our goal of supporting the arts statewide. The budget request includes \$250,000 in nonrecurring funds to furnish and equip the new space downstairs, not only for new staff, but to upfit the public space with technology for workshops for artists, arts organizations, and educators. Once the legislature returns in January, we will make the budget presentation to our House Ways and Means subcommittee.

Grant Requests

Deputy Director Ashley Brown reviewed the list of grant requests:

Partnerships and Special Projects (\$590,000)

Arts Grow SC (\$540,000)

- Spoleto Festival USA (\$35,000)
- South Carolina Children's Theatre (\$35,000)

Grants for \$35,000 each will support these two entities as they work toward potentially becoming affiliates of the Wolftrap Foundation, which provides performing arts integration for pre-school and early learning. These organizations would be the first two Wolftrap Foundation affiliates in South Carolina.

- Columbia Marionette Theatre (\$20,000)

To support content development for pre-school and early learning.

- ArtsNOW (\$200,000)

This new-to-South Carolina organization focuses on arts integration. As part of an earlier Arts Commission grant, Arts Now reached out to schools and districts with 70% and higher poverty levels to offer assistance

with arts integration. Every school or district contacted wants to participate in the program, so this grant will support the need by increasing capacity and the number of teaching artists.

- REM Center at UofSC (\$50,000)

To adjust the original grant to support new research on student outcomes at ABC sites vs. comparative sites.

- SC Technical College System (\$50,000)

To support teacher prep students studying early childhood as a career to prepare them to use arts and arts integration.

- Winthrop University - ABC Institute (\$100,000)

An increase to support additional work.

- SC Arts Alliance (\$50,000)

The S. C. Arts alliance serves as the Arts Grow SC communications partner. This grant supports increased communications efforts needed to support program growth.

Other Programs (\$50,000)

- Able SC - Arts For All (\$50,000)

To use state nonrecurring funds to support Able SC's work as a partner in Arts For All, SCAC's new accessibility grant.

Art of Community: Rural SC (\$60,000)

This second round of grants supports these programs:

- Newberry Arts Center - Newberry (\$10,000)
- Write to Change Inc. - Aiken (\$10,000)
- The Legacy Foundation of South Carolina - Jasper (\$10,000)
- Hagood Mill Foundation - Pickens (\$10,000)
- Community Rural Works Art League - Bamberg (\$10,000)
- Fort Lawn Community Center - Chester (\$10,000)

TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$ 650,000

Mrs. Crawford called for a motion to approve the Grants Request. Mr. Bell made a motion; Dr. Webb seconded. The motion passed. No recusals were necessary.

Arts Grow SC Update

Ms. Brown reminded the board that the agency is in year two of three years of Arts Grow SC funding. She remarked that the program is the only one of its kind in the nation; no other states are doing this kind of collaborative work with a statewide scope. Halfway through year one, agency leadership realized that Arts Grow SC needs to be a permanent program. A key step in that sustainability is adopting a collective impact

model, which will rely on a network of community members, organizations, and institutions that advance equity by aligning and integrating their actions to achieve populations and system-level change. A collective impact model includes a common agenda, open and continuous communication, mutually reinforcing activities, a shared measurement system, and a backbone support organization, which is the Arts Commission's role.

Arts Grow SC work is accomplished through multiple programs and services:

- Grants to schools, districts, community organizations, including arts and non-arts organizations
- Direct programs from local, statewide, and regional partners such as Engaging Creative Minds, Summer STEAM Camp, the Governor's School, and Read to Succeed.
- Professional learning - Teaching teachers how to implement the strategies, rather than just delivering services, is an important component to sustainability.
- Research – ESSER funding requires programs that are evidence-based. Arts Grow SC is using research to illustrate the impact of the work and contributing to a body of research.
- Resource network – Arts teachers may be the only art teacher at their school. Teachers taking part in a network are more likely to stay at their school and engage in the classroom.
- Virtual learning and resources. An example is the one-stop workshop, which is a free, yearlong virtual conference for arts and non-arts teachers. We are also using what we've learned the past few years about delivering online services and resources for students and teachers.

To ensure sustainability, Arts Grow SC must be present in communities and not located just in Columbia. Developing hubs around the state is the best approach. A hub location might be a physical location in an already existing site, space in a school district office, grantee locations, or private companies with space or facilities. One option is to use already-existing education consortiums, such as the Old English District Consortium in the upstate. Another approach will use a shared-resource district, such as Spartanburg, where the community's school districts already have a shared resources model. Some hubs will have to be developed in areas where resources do not exist. The flagship location will be The Spearman Center for Arts Education, to be developed in the renovated first floor of the Arts Commission's building. This center is named for outgoing State Superintendent for Education, Molly Spearman, who has been a strong advocate for this effort and for arts education.

The sustainability plan includes seeking long-term funding. If received, the agency's recurring \$3 million request for the FY2024 will be used to sustain this work. We are also asking for an additional \$1.3 million in Education Improvement Act funds from the Education Oversight Committee. Other options include pursuing S.C. Department of Education funds for professional development, local school district investments, and grants from U. S. Department of Education and other national funders.

Ms. Brown showed a map representing 10 months of Arts Grow SC programming. The direct program and services served 9,982 students. 92.5% of teachers who received grant funding used it to provide new arts learning experience for students, and 60.5 % of teachers used grants for arts integration. She then shared a map representing year 2, which more than doubles the impact of year 1. By end of year 2, Arts Grow SC will be in every county in the state.

Ms. Brown concluded by thanking commissioners for their support and thanking staff who have come together to make this happen.

Mrs. Crawford remarked that what the staff has done in one year's time is amazing, including the increase in partnerships. She asked if any underserved counties have issues with Internet availability. Ms. Brown replied that many arts and non-arts entities are working to increase Internet access in those communities. School districts are allowed to use ESSER funds they received from the S.C. Department of Education to increase Internet accessibility. This lack of access in some areas is why it's important to have physical hub locations and not rely just on virtual opportunities, which currently make up less than one quarter of what Arts Grow SC offers.

Mr. Platts thanked Ms. Brown for her hard work leading this effort.

SC Arts Foundation Update

Foundation President Steve Bygott reported that the Foundation board is off to a fast start after the first meeting of the year in September. The board currently has 21 members. Mr. Bygott remarked that the level of board member engagement is the highest he's seen in several years, with 95 % of the board participating in committees. With 2022 marking the 50th anniversary of the Foundation, the board has been promoting the anniversary on social media and have worked with Commission staff to get the word out, including an article posted on The Hub and some media distribution. One effort is sending thank you cards to individuals who have supported the foundation and including a sticker or magnet promoting the anniversary, along with a request for a donation. For fundraising, the annual fund drive is the primary focus, with a membership drive tied to that effort. The annual holiday card project, Find Joy in Art, will take place again. S.C. artist and Foundation board member emeritus Leo Twiggs has donated images of his work for both the anniversary promotion and the holiday card. Find Joy in Art has been underwritten by the Corrigan Gallery in Charleston so that all card proceeds will benefit the Nina Liu fund, which supports the State Art Collection.

After a successful, small event in Charleston last year, the Foundation is planning multiple small events this year. These local events make it easier to reach target audiences and provide more opportunities for Foundation board members to assist. The small size is also more manageable to plan and cognizant of potential health issues around larger events. One event is planned for Charleston at the Corrigan Gallery in the spring. Two events are planned in board member homes in Greenville, with at least one taking place during Artisphere. Locations in the Midlands include restaurants and a dance studio. The Foundation also is working to re-engage previous corporate supporters. Mr. Bygott mentioned that previous corporate donor Colonial Life has shifted its giving strategy to focus on education and underserved areas, so there may be potential for approaching them about supporting Arts Grow S.C.

Mr. Bygott closed by thanking commission members and staff for their support and emphasizing the potential for continued forward momentum with the foundation and agency partnership.

Agency Updates

Executive Director David Platts shared several updates:

- Construction on the agency's renovation of the current conference room is nearly complete after two years. We are planning to have the Feb. 9 board meeting in person in the new space.
- Mr. Platts introduced Jonathan Eason as the agency's newly hired Data Strategist. Mr. Eason will work on the agency's data systems, including Salesforce, with which he has experience. He was previously employed at the Columbia Museum of Art in a similar position.

- Applications have closed for round 1 interviews for three positions: Rural Arts Director, Creative Placemaking Director, and Artist Development Director. Those new employees should be on board by February.
- Mr. Platts reminded the board of the FY2022 impact recently announced by the agency, which was double the previous amount. \$11,947,981 was awarded through 550 grants to artists, arts organizations, partners, and schools. These grants and the agency's direct programs reached 43 counties. FY2023 is shaping up for another increase in the number of grants awarded.
- Nominations are open until Nov. 6 for the Governor's Award for the Arts and for the Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Awards. The agency is again partnering with SC ETV and local film makers to produce and air a video about the recipients.
- Staff is also working with SC ETV on a celebration of 50 years of presenting the Governor's Awards. Nine visual and performing artists will be highlighted in a film celebrating their accomplishments and their legacy. Efforts were made to include artists who received awards over the 50 years. The production will air in the winter.
- Mr. Platts concluded by thanking commissioners for promoting the agency's work through their networks and encouraged them to follow the agency on social media.

Accountability Report

Senior Deputy Director Milly Hough encouraged the board to read the FY2022 annual accountability report narrative included in their packets. The report is a summary of work accomplished in the past year. These required reports are made public in November.

Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Hough presented a chart highlighting the percentage of progress for each of the five outcomes for FY2022. She shared a list of Strategic Plan accomplishments for the first quarter of FY23. She thanked staff for their assistance in compiling the strategic plan report and the accountability report.

Board Member Updates

Mr. Bell reported that he had recently attended a middle school strings concert performed by Pleasant Hill Middle School, an ABC grant recipient. He will play with the Rock Hill Symphony when they offer their first educational concert for children. He also announced that a student at River Bluff High School has won a spot in the College Board's national digital exhibition, which goes live in November.

Dr. Hayes reported that efforts have kicked off to build the York County Performing Arts Center, which will also serve surrounding areas such as Lancaster. She congratulated staff for the quality and energy of their work and congratulated Mr. Bygott for the renewed work of the Foundation.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

Mrs. Crawford called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bell made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hayes. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.