

SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS COMMISSION
Board of Commissioners Meeting
February 9, 2023

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 in Person

Dee Crawford, Dacey Bell, Dr. Richard Webb, Bhavna Vasudeva, Steve Bygott (Foundation president)

Members Present via Zoom

Flavia Harton, Dr. Sarah Lynn Hayes, Henry Horowitz, Barbara Nwokike, Linda Stern

Staff Present

David Platts, Nick Boismenu, Angela Brewbaker, Ashley Brown, Tanisha Brown, Jonathan Eason, Nigel Espey, Kevin Flarisee, 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

Staff Present via Zoom

Laura Marcus Green

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 October 20, 2022, minutes. Mr. Bell made a motion; Dr. Webb seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

FY2023 Second Quarter Financials

Finance Director Angela Brewbaker reviewed the FY2023 second quarter Balance Sheet. Activity is on track for this time of year. Currently there are three open National Endowment for the Arts partnership grants. The portion of the FY2021 unexpanded balance labeled American Recovery Art was approved for the agency's website upgrade, expected to be completed this fiscal year. This upgrade will improve accessibility for users.

Mrs. Brewbaker reviewed the Statement of Activities. Income includes \$3.5 million in nonrecurring funds received from the state. These funds are designated for the recently launched Arts for All Accessibility grant, which is a two-year grant. Income also includes \$7.2 million in ESSER funds for Arts Grow SC and \$1.7 million in extended ESSER funds remaining from the first year of Arts Grow SC. With staff travel ramping back up, expenditures include travel to regional and national conferences that were held in Fall 2022. Professional Learning for Artists and Organizations is a new expenditure category added this year. General Operating Support grant payouts are on track for this time of year.

Mrs. Crawford called for a motion to accept the FY2023 second quarter financial report. Mrs. Stern moved to accept. Mrs. Vasudeva seconded. The motion was approved.

Grant Requests

Deputy Director Ashley Brown reviewed the list of grant requests:

Art of Community

Allendale Enterprises \$10,000

Special Projects

Able SC \$75,000

Web Aim \$40,000

- These grants are part of the new Arts For All Accessibility grant and will be paid from the nonrecurring funds received from the state. Activities to be funded include audits of an applicant organization's physical space, website, and other digital access points.

Other Grants

Summer Arts Education Projects \$300,000

District Arts Support \$200,000

District Arts Coordinator \$200,000

- These three grants are for FY2024. Staff is asking for approval of the overall total expected to be expended to allow school districts to offer summer activities and plan for the next school year. In April, the list of grant recipients will be shared with the board.

Term Arts Education Projects - Anderson County Arts Council \$15,000*

Term Arts Education Projects - PURE Theatre \$14,012*

- These two grants are for FY2024 and represent year two of two-year grants.

Total Requested: \$854,012

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.

Governor's Awards Recommendations

Mrs. Harton served as the Board of Commissioners representative on the 2023 Governor's Awards for the Arts panel. She made these recommendations on behalf of the panel:

- Dr. Ray McManus, Sumter – Artist
- Carlos Agudelo, Spartanburg – Individual
- American College of Building Arts, Charleston – Arts in Education
- Aiken Center for the Arts, Aiken – Organization

Mrs. Harton also recommended that the board bestow a Special Award to recognize Nigel Redden, the previous long-term general director of Spoleto Festival USA who retired in 2021.

Mrs. Harton made her recommendation for approval of these five award recipients in the form of a motion. Mrs. Nwokike seconded. Mrs. Stern asked whether Mr. Redden had ever received the Governor's Award; Mrs. Harton replied that he had not. Mrs. Nwokike asked for clarification that Mr. Redden's award was being made by the board. Mrs. Harton replied that yes, the awards policy allows for the board to make a special award. The motion carried and the award recommendations were approved unanimously.

Board Policy Updates

Ms. Hough outlined the plan for updating current board policies, some of which have not been reviewed in several years. The document sent to board members includes recommendations from the Executive Committee, who conducted the initial review along with staff. Current policies will be updated to align with how the board actually conducts business or to reflect updated information. Once current policies are updated, the policy document structure will be reformatted to make it easier to read. Any new policies needed will be considered after the current document is restructured.

Mrs. Crawford called for a motion to approve the updated policies as presented. Mr. Bell made a motion; Mrs. Vasudeva seconded. The motion passed.

Program Update – Arts Industry

Arts Industry Director La Ruchala Murphy presented an overview of the program goals and initiatives.

- **Goals**

- Support social and economic development through the arts
- Provide organizational professional development programming and opportunities
- Support organizational artistic and programmatic excellence
- Prioritize organizational audience diversity and accessibility
- Support organizational growth and sustainability

- **Leo Twiggs Scholars**

In partnership with Furman University, the Diversity Leadership Institute equips leaders with the tools and perspectives needed to improve organizational outcomes and drive social and economic progress in S.C.

- **Emerging Arts Leaders**

A leadership- and capacity-building initiative to strengthen and nurture emerging arts leaders and their organizations. Participants will meet with Ms. Murphy four times a year. After the first cohort is completed, those participants will mentor the second cohort.

- **Rural Libraries Public Engagement Grant**

To stimulate partnerships between libraries, artists, and arts organizations and encourage rural and small communities to participate actively in artistic and cultural activities. These rolling grants of up to \$2,500 are designed to serve communities with a population of 25,000 or less. Libraries in 33 of 46 counties are eligible. There is a 1:2 match requirement. McCormick Library is the first recipient of the grant.

- **S.C. Arts Network (SCAN)**

To provide networking and resource sharing opportunities to enhance leadership capacity and develop innovative, effective, and sustainable arts management practices and opportunities. Beginning March 9, SCAN

will convene virtually with a guest speaker to discuss industry issues, including fundraising, program development, and social media engagement.

SC Arts Foundation Update

Foundation President Steve Bygott reported that the Foundation board has been working with the Central Carolina Community Foundation to review how their funds are managed to ensure an increased return. He remarked that the level of board giving has increased by 30 to 40 percent, and board members' engagement with committee work has also increased. The nomination process for the next round of new members kicks off soon, with the board voting on new members in June. Membership will now include individuals who may be "newer" in their careers or new to the arts, with a plan to create a Friends of the Foundation to cultivate volunteers or others who perhaps cannot commit to the financial obligation of a board member. Dr. Leo Twiggs will be an emeritus board member.

One of the planned events is a "no-gala gala" where ticket purchasers make a donation but stay home. Another upcoming event will be held in April during Greenville's Artisphere at the home of board member Tom Roose. Events to be planned include one in Charleston at the gallery of board member Lese Corrigan, at Wild Dunes on the Isle of Palms, and during a performance of The Nutcracker by Lexington Youth Ballet, organized by board member Regina Willoughby.

Mr. Bygott thanked commission members and staff for their continued support.

Agency Updates

Executive Director David Platts shared several updates:

- SCAC partnered with SC ETV to produce a 50th year anniversary retrospective of artists who have received the SC Governor's Awards for the Arts. The documentary, which aired statewide on January 5, featured nine artists who received awards between 1972 and 2022. The documentary is currently posted on ETV's website and will eventually live on the Arts Commission's YouTube channel.
- On January 25, Mr. Platts presented the FY2024 state budget request to the agency's House Ways and Means subcommittee. The request includes \$3 million in recurring state funds in order to sustain the progress made through Arts Grow SC and \$250,000 in non-recurring funds to support the renovation of new workshop space and offices on the first floor of the agency's building. The next presentation is to the Senate Finance subcommittee on Feb. 23.
- Tanisha Brown has joined the agency as artist development director, having previously served as program coordinator for One Columbia.
- Rebecca Pearson, who is currently a high school theatre teacher in Laurens, will join the agency in May as rural arts director.
- Digital Content Manager Margot Strasburger recently added public art coordinator duties. She will work with Deputy Director Ce Scott-Fitts to develop a public art program and continue to handle some of social media until a new digital content manager is hired.
- In early FY2024, the agency plans to hire an instructional specialist to focus on arts integration, assessment, and research related to Arts Grow SC, and a cross-sector arts coordinator to help grow partnership programming with organizations outside of the arts.
- Mr. Platts reminded the board of the Economic Impact Study recently completed by economists at the USC School of Business. Based on 2021 data, the total economic impact of the arts on South Carolina is \$14.1 billion, up from \$9.7 billion in 2014. This amount represents both the direct and indirect demand generated by local spending activity of all arts-related businesses, their suppliers, and their employees.

The total number of local jobs by the arts-related sector is 123,550 jobs, which is up from 114,987 in 2014. This level of employment represents 5.5 percent of the total employment base in the state. The annual total estimated tax revenue is \$360.2 million, up from \$269 million in 2014.

Mrs. Vasudeva asked Mr. Platts whether the agency would share the economic impact study with the Commerce Department and offered to assist in making a connection.

Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Hough referred to the Strategic Plan Progress Report included in the meeting packet. She thanked staff for compiling their accomplishments with an earlier deadline to allow the report to be shared prior to the meeting.

Board Member Updates

Ms. Nwokike reported that the Charleston music scene was active, with the Color of Music Festival taking place and musical ensemble Ranky Tanky receiving a Grammy.

Mr. Horowitz remarked on the agency's progress and growth and mentioned that the Greenville Museum was undergoing an extension.

Dr. Hayes reported that the to-be-built new performing arts center had hired a new executive director. The project is a partnership with funds to be raised from the public and private sectors. The Rock Hill Symphony is in the process of hiring a new music director.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she had recently joined staff to visit East Aiken School of the Arts to see a demonstration by Arts Now, an agency partner. She also attended a performance by Annex Dance Company, an Arts Commission grantee.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

Mrs. Crawford called for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Vasudeva made a motion, seconded by Dr. Webb. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.