

**SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS COMMISSION**  
**Board of Commissioners Meeting**  
**June 15, 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**

Dee Crawford, Dacey Bell, Flavia Harton, Dr. Sarah Lynn Hayes, Henry Horowitz, Barbara Nwokike, Linda Stern, Dr. Richard Webb

**Staff Present**

David Platts, Nick Boismenu, Angela Brewbaker, Ashley Brown, Tanisha Brown, Nigel Espey, 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, 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 April 20, 2023, minutes. Mrs. Stern made a motion; Dr. Hayes seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**FY2024 Budget**

Finance Director Angela Brewbaker reviewed the proposed FY2024 budget, which is based on receiving \$1 million in recurring state funds and \$1,750,000 in nonrecurring state funds. This budget will go in effect July 1, 2023, pending the state budget being passed. State carryforward of \$3,550,000 includes nonrecurring funds received for FY2023 and designated to the new Arts For All grant, which is a two-year process.

The Federal Income section reflects an increase in NEA funding from \$953,600 in FY2023 to \$1,072,400 for FY2024. All remaining American Recovery Plan funds received from the NEA were expended in FY2023. Income also includes extended ESSER funds for Arts Grow SC. Staff is working to expend those funds in FY2024, with the hope that the time period for spending ESSER funds will be extended.

In an effort to streamline the budget and increase transparency, some expense lines that are not being used have been removed for FY2024. Other lines, such as Dues and Memberships and Travel, will increase because those expenses were previously reported on the Arts Operating line. Arts for All and Rural Libraries Public Engagement grants expenses were reported in Special Projects for the first year, but now will have separate lines. A new line has also been added to track expenses for the next Canvass of the People planning process.

The bulk of the cost for downstairs renovation was recently paid to the Department of Administration, so that line will decrease for FY2024. The line for Office Furniture and Upgrades will increase to reflect planned expenditures for upfitting the first floor. These funds are expected to be awarded as nonrecurring funds in the FY2024 state budget.

Mrs. Crawford called for a motion to approve the FY2024 budget as presented. Dr. Hayes moved to accept. Mr. Bell seconded. The motion was approved.

### **FY2024 Artist Grant Recommendations**

Deputy Director Ce Scott-Fitts reported that she continues to expand the diversity of the Fellowship grants panel, with panelists from Michigan, California, and Minnesota serving this year. Fellows will receive \$10,000.

She presented the following FY2024 Fellowship recommendations:

- Visual Art: Anna Dean, York County
- Craft: Jeremy Brooks, Horry County
- Time-based Art: Brittany M. Watkins, Richland County
- Music: Composition, Matthew White, Richland County

Mrs. Crawford called for a motion to approve the Fellowships as recommended. Mrs. Stern made a motion; Dr. Webb seconded. The motion was approved.

Ms. Scott-Fitts reminded the board that the Artists' Business Initiative (ABI) was previously called the Artists' Venture Initiative, but the name was changed to clarify that ventures refers to businesses. Artists may apply for up to \$3,500 for a one-time business occurrence/single purchase or up to \$5,000 for an ongoing business initiative. This year, the panel included previous recipients of the ABI grant.

She presented the following FY2024 Artists Business Initiative grant recommendations:

- Ronda Taylor, poet/storyteller, Charleston County, \$5,000
- Tiffany Thomas, ceramic artist, Florence County, \$3,500

Mrs. Crawford called for a motion to approve the ABI grants as recommended. Dr. Hayes made a motion; Ms. Nwokike seconded. The motion was approved.

### **Grant Requests**

Deputy Director Ashley Brown reviewed a list of grant requests for FY2024 and shared several highlights.

- With the Subgranting category sunsetting in FY2023, a new Festivals grant will launch to support projects based in communities, a need identified by grantees. The guidelines will be posted in August with a January application deadline. Funding of up to \$7,500 will be available with a one-to-one match.
- Twelve nonprofit organizations will receive Folklife and Traditional Arts grants, an increase over previous years. Three pairs of Apprenticeships will receive funding.
- The sustainability plan for ESSER-funded projects includes using \$1 million in recurring state funds expected to be in SCAC's FY2024 budget, using additional EIA funds, and pursuing other funding sources.
- Special Projects funding will include expanded Arts Grow SC partnerships, such as the MUSC Art Therapy program, and the Early Learning 4K Arts Integration partnership with the Wolf Trap Foundation, Spoleto Festival USA, and S.C. Children's Theatre.

Ms. Brown requested approval for the following grant categories:

- General Operating Support \$3,100,000
- Operating Support for Small Organizations \$177,600
- Folk/Traditional Arts for Nonprofit Organizations \$57,798

- Folk/Traditional Arts Apprenticeships \$11,250
- Fellowships \$40,000
- Festivals \$100,000
- Partnerships \$1,500,000
- Special Projects \$7,000,000

**TOTAL REQUEST: \$11,986,648**

To accommodate recusals, the grant approval votes were divided into three separate votes.

- Vote 1 (recusals: Mr. Bell, Dr. Hayes, Mrs. Nwokike)
  - General Operating Support \$3,100,000
  - Operating Support for Small Organizations \$177,600

Mrs. Stern made a motion to approve the two operating support grant categories; Dr. Webb seconded. The motion passed.

- Vote 2 (recusal: Mrs. Nwokike)
  - Special Projects \$7,000,000

Mr. Bell made a motion to approve the Special Projects grant category; Dr. Hayes seconded. The motion passed.

- Vote 3 (recusals: none required)
  - Folk/Traditional Arts for Nonprofit Orgs \$57,798
  - Folk/Traditional Arts Apprenticeships \$11,250
  - Fellowships \$40,000
  - Festivals \$100,000
  - Partnerships \$1,500,000

Dr. Hayes made a motion to approved requests for the remaining five categories. Mrs. Stern seconded. The motion passed.

**Agency Updates**

Executive Director David Platts shared these updates:

State Budget

- The FY2024 state budget includes \$1 million in new recurring funds and \$1.750 million in nonrecurring funds for the Arts Commission. The new recurring funding will support Arts Grow SC programs addressing learning loss, after-school learning, summer learning, and professional development for teachers. The agency requested \$250,000 in nonrecurring funds to upfit the new downstairs space.
- The House and Senate have ratified the conference committee’s budget and the governor has five days to issue vetoes. There is no reason to believe that the governor will veto any arts-related funds. The new budget begins July 1.
- Overall, this has been a positive legislative season. The increase in recurring funds signals consistent support from the legislature.
- Mr. Platts encouraged board members to contact budget conference committee members to thank them for their support.

### New Staff Member

- Mr. Platts introduced new Office Manager Nicki Brown, who joined the staff June 2. Ms. Brown is a native of Barnwell, S.C., and most recently worked as the Director of Student Housing for the University of Salkehatchie in Allendale. The agency's former office manager, Yusi Sabree, relocated to Texas.

### Other Activities

- Mr. Platts reported that he and other staff have been traveling to the state's various arts festivals, including Artisphere and Spoleto.
- In addition to working on year-end closeout, staff is preparing to open the new year of grant categories earlier than in years past, giving constituents more opportunities to apply for FY2024 and FY2025 grants. A record number of grant opportunities will be available. He commended staff for their work expanding the agency's grants portfolio.

### **Canvass of the People 2025**

Ms. Hough reported that the next Strategic Plan update will be shared with the board in August, after the end of the fiscal year. She shared an outline of dates for launching the Canvass of the People to gather input for the next strategic plan, which will run from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030. The process of gathering public input, analyzing data, and writing the plan takes at least 18 months. Staff has had one session where they shared ideas around ways to engage the public, feedback needed from the public, evaluating current plan components, and measuring their work in the new strategic plan. Staff will begin planning this fall and will launch the public input phase in March 2024.

### **Board Member Updates**

Mrs. Nwokike reported that the new International African American Museum is scheduled to open in Charleston June 27. Dr. Hayes reported that plans continue to build the new performing arts center in Rock Hill. The Rock Hill Symphony has hired a conductor, and the organization is working toward goals of offering a youth orchestra, educational programs, and outreach.

Dr. Hayes asked for an update on SCAC's new public art program. Public Art Coordinator Margot Strasburger reported that SCAC recently hosted One Columbia for a public art forum, which was well-attended. She is offering office hours for anyone who wants to schedule time for public art advisement.

Mrs. Crawford reported that the Governor's Award presentation to the Aiken Center for the Arts was well-attended, with every member of the legislative delegation in attendance.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **Adjournment**

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