

**SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS COMMISSION**  
**Board of Commissioners Meeting**  
**August 15, 2024**

*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, Barbara Nwokike, Linda Stern, Bhavna Vasudeva, Richard Webb

**Staff Present**

David Platts, Nick Boismenu, Ashley Brown, Daisha Calhoun, Amelia Dupont, Maria Earl, Jonathan Eason, Nigel Espy, Kevin Flarisee, Krista Grendze, Milly Hough, Daphne Hudson, Wendy Jackson, Mikayla Moore, Kimberly Washburn Motte, Laurel Posey, Jason Rapp, Abby Rawl, Ce Scott-Fitts, Amber Westbrook, Harvee White

**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 approve the June 20, 2024, minutes. Mr. Bell made a motion; Mrs. Stern seconded. The minutes were approved.

**FY2024 Fourth Quarter Financials**

Senior Deputy Director Milly Hough presented the fourth quarter financials. On the Statement of Activities, building renovation expenses were \$1,502 for the year, but most of those costs were paid in FY23. The furniture and related upgrade expenses of \$152,527 represents about half of the expected cost to upfit the first floor after renovation. The remainder of those expenses will occur in FY25. The agency is billed twice a year by the Department of Administration for utilities, and the second invoice for FY23 was not received until September, after the first quarter of FY24, which means the actual utilities expense appears to be over budget.

On the Balance Sheet, Ms. Hough reminded the board that ESSER funds were initially paid to SCAC upfront from the S.C. Dept. of Education, but in the third quarter SDE changed the payment process. SCAC had to send funds back that had not yet been spent and switch to a reimbursable process. The FY22 NEA grant will be fully expended in FY2025.

Mrs. Crawford called for a motion to approve the fourth quarter financials as presented. Mrs. Vasudeva made a motion; Mrs. Stern seconded. The motion passed.

Ms. Hough presented an update to the preliminary FY25 budget approved in June before the agency had received its final budget numbers. On the operating budget, an ESSER Extended line has been added. Even though the grant activities have wrapped up, there are final partnership grant payments and payroll costs for July and August for staff who are partially paid with ESSER funds. In the Statewide Arts Services section, Finance Director Angela Brewbaker has broken out the Accessibility grants section to align with how the grants office awards that category through three grants: Arts For All, Horizon Opportunity Projects, and Accessibility (a general category.) The budget approved in June had all three categories grouped together.

Mrs. Crawford called for a motion to approve the FY2025 budget as amended. Mrs. Stern moved to accept. Dr. Webb seconded. The motion was approved.

### **FY2025 Grants Request**

Deputy Director Ashley Brown thanked the board for voting on July 11 to increase the General Operating Support grants budget by \$300,000 to a total of \$3.8 million. The additional funds were needed due to 17 new applicants in that category. There were also 17 new applicants for Operating Support for Small Organizations.

Ms. Brown presented two requests. The first request is for \$35,000 for a new category, Arts Leadership Development. This cohort model will support grantees with funding and opportunities to learn together. This new category is similar to the Emerging Leaders grant but is designed to support professional development for more established arts leaders.

The second request is to increase the Arts Project Support grant budget by \$30,000 from the previously approved total of \$150,000 to \$180,000. With confirmation of an increase in state appropriations for FY25, this grant category can be increased to meet additional needs from organizations and individual artists.

Mrs. Crawford called for a motion to approve both grant requests as presented, for a total of \$65,000. Mrs. Stern made a motion; Mrs. Vasudeva seconded. The motion passed.

### **Arts Grow SC Update**

Ms. Brown shared information about the past three years of Arts Grow SC, which began in 2021 as a three-year partnership with the S.C. Dept. of Education. The purpose was to help public schools address pandemic-related learning loss with proven, arts-based learning initiatives. The funding ends in September, but there is a plan for sustaining the work. Arts Grow SC organically developed into a collective impact model, which is a network of community members, organizations, and institutions who advance equity by aligning and integrating their actions to achieve population and systems level change.

The initial work included scaling existing programs with core partners, such as the ABC Institute, Engaging Creative Minds, and the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. From those initial three partners, the network has grown to more than 20 new partners. Arts Grow SC is the only model of its kind nationally.

Ms. Brown summarized three years of Arts Grow SC Accomplishments:

- Professional development and resources for teachers, administrators, teaching artists, and arts leaders. Examples include a year-round free, virtual learning platform; an arts learning framework to ensure depth of content; a mentor program for alternative certification teachers; and a support network for district arts coordinators.
- Arts integration and curriculum intervention support for schools, including whole-school arts integration opportunities, theatre-based literacy intervention, and arts-based ELA/Math intervention.
- Support beyond the school day, including arts-based after school programs, summer camps, and school and group home-based art therapy.
- Opportunities for a range of student ages, from early learning arts integration affiliates working with S.C. partners, to a college- and career-ready platform developed for high school students who want to explore creative careers.

- Six arts learning grants categories were either strengthened or developed during the past three years. The School Arts Support grant expanded to non-arts teachers, the Arts Education Projects grant was split into term and summer offerings, a new district arts coordinator cohort was established, and grants addressing learning loss and 4K arts integration were created.

Ms. Brown shared an overview of the Creative Careers Studio website that is targeted to high school students interested in a creative career. The website will feature a career catalog of creative jobs and feature someone working in each field. Students can take a quiz to help determine what kind of creative career they might like to pursue. The website will also feature information about which S.C. colleges offer which types of programs or degrees and offer numerous other resources, such as scholarship availability, online certifications, how to work with a college coach and more. The website is scheduled to launch in September.

The next steps for Arts Grow SC include pursuing sustainable funding, expanding the partnership network, and moving the work into the SCAC's Hub regions. Data about the overall impact of Arts Grow SC will be available after all partners and grantees have completed their work.

### **Data Report**

Data Strategist Jonathan Eason presented a Tableau dashboard of FY23 grants that visually illustrates statewide impact beyond the county where the grant was originally awarded. The dashboard is designed to be easy to use and accessible to anyone who visits the website. Information available includes the number of grants, amount awarded, areas of focus, grant categories, and which organization or individual received the grant. Information can be searched or filtered by county. A website visitor can drill down to view all areas in the state where a particular grant had an impact through activities locations based on zip codes. The FY24 grant dashboard is in progress and will be finished as all final reports come in. Mr. Eason highlighted a grant from each of the three focus areas (arts learning, arts industry, and artist development.) For example, an FY23 Arts Grow SC grant was awarded to the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities for the Spark! program. Mapping location data shows that 11 other counties also benefited from that one grant awarded in Greenville County. Mr. Eason will be able to create custom dashboards and reports for legislators and others who request grants data about certain counties.

### **Social Media Report**

Digital Communications Manager Amelia Dupont presented FY24 social media metrics. The agency's social media channels include Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X, and YouTube. Facebook had higher reach over FY23, with engagement (likes, comments, shares) being down slightly. Reach and engagement were up on Instagram for FY24. Popular posts across platforms included job announcements, grant openings, grantee announcements, S.C. arts news, the State Document Awards, and Canvass announcements. Photo recaps of Advocacy Day, the Governor's Awards, and staff retreats were also popular.

### **Agency Updates**

Executive Director David Platts reported that the newly renovated first floor is complete, but there is an issue with the security lighting that is preventing the agency from officially taking occupancy. The furniture and some signage is in place, but staff cannot move in until the space passes a final safety inspection. Mr. Platts hopes to have the October board meeting in the Spearman Center, with a public "unveiling" taking place in November. Those plans are subject to change.

Mr. Platts introduced Maria Earl, the agency's new instructional specialist, who joined the team on July 2. Ms. Earl most recently worked as an arts and STEAM integration teacher for Howe Hall Arts Infused Magnet School (AIMS) in Berkeley County School District. She earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education

and a master's in curriculum and instruction. She also holds certificates in early childhood education, elementary education, arts integration, and STEAM. In 2023, she was Teacher of the Year at Howe Hall AIMS and received the Ray Doughty Arts Integration Award from Palmetto State Arts Education. She will be based in Charleston but will work in the Columbia office occasionally.

The most recent quarterly staff retreat was held in Greenville August 5, at ReCraft Creative Reuse Center, which works to promote artistic expression, environmental education, and community resourcefulness for artists, craft makers and schools. These offsite meetings serve as time to plan together and are also designed to give staff a deeper look at the agency's impact on grantees around the state. In addition to a presentation from ReCraft, staff received an update from the S. C. Children's Theatre, the Hispanic Alliance, and artist Zeynep Gedikoglu. Commissioner Flavia Harton, who joined the staff retreat during lunch, remarked that she enjoyed the opportunity to see all staff in person and hearing how the Greenville community has benefited from the commission's work.

### **Strategic Plan Update**

Senior Deputy Director Milly Hough shared an overview of strategic plan updates for fourth quarter FY24. (report attached.)

### **Board Member Updates**

Mrs. Vasudeva reported that she finally was able to attend her first live Spoleto performance this spring. Mrs. Crawford remarked that she enjoyed the Aiken Canvass of the People session held at the Aiken Center for the Arts on June 25.

### **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 11:35 a.m.

**Strategic Plan Report  
Board of Commissioners Meeting  
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**Grant highlights**

- Fourteen organizations have been awarded Arts For All grants for FY25. Five have an architectural/structural focus, five have a programming focus and four have a website focus. All organizations have been connected to Able South Carolina to begin their required audits/assessments based on their project types.
- Laurens School District 55 was awarded a District Arts Coordinator grant.
- The Festivals Program grant attracted 40 applications representing 20 counties.
- Horizon Grants were awarded in Cherokee, Dillon, Saluda, Calhoun, and Williamsburg counties
- Art of Community grants were awarded in Barnwell, Union, and Saluda counties.
- As of April 10, a total of 72 School Arts Support Grants have been awarded.
- Forty-eight FY25 Term Arts Education Project grant applications were received, with 46 applications going to panel.
- Six Emerging Artist grants have been awarded for FY25 (Fall).
- Three artists have been awarded the FY25 Artist Business Initiative grant.
- Kershaw County Library and Lancaster County Library both were awarded a Libraries Engagement grant.
- The Artist Business Initiative Alumni & Emerging Artist Alumni grants were launched.

**Accessibility**

MUSC will hire two full-time art therapy positions to work in our new Hub Region Offices – one in the Pee Dee/Grand Strand region and one in the Lowcountry region. The therapists will provide art therapy within the school districts in their regions as well as develop community art therapy opportunities. The School Arts Support grant is expanding to fund art therapy projects, so schools can apply directly to SCAC for grant funds to hire MUSC's therapist.

Staff hosted two Disability and Arts Webinars with Able SC – one on the topic of Alternative Formats and Accessible Communications and one about Website and Document Accessibility. The website session was the best attended session, with more than 30 participants. Recordings of each session are posted on the Disability and Arts Webinar page on the SCAC website. Each recording is fully captioned and most include an ASL interpreter on screen.

**Artist Development**

The agency purchased a subscription to CreativeStudy.com, a professional learning platform for artists. Content includes funding, finance, law, grant writing and similar courses designed for creatives and freelancers who are balancing creative work with managing their businesses. Artists receiving the Arts Business Initiative and Emerging Artists grants, along with both Alumni groups, will have access to the platform. In addition, artists awarded Emerging Artist grants and Artists Business Initiative grants will receive access to SC Arts Network (SCAN), and Artist Entrepreneur Incubator, both business mentoring programs run by SCAC staff.

In partnership with One Columbia, staff virtually hosted Going Public: Public Art Across SC for South Carolina Artists in Action (SCAiA) participants.

**Arts Industry**

Three SCAN workshops were offered in the fourth quarter. SCAN is designed for arts professionals to engage in dynamic discussion with peers and experienced leaders in the field

about the issues that affect arts organizations. Arts professionals of any age from around the state may participate.

Planning is underway for the Arts Leadership Institute scheduled for December 3 – 5 at Clemson University's Madren Conference Center. Hosted in conjunction with the S.C. Arts Alliance, the retreat is designed for executive directors, artistic directors, and/or board presidents. The Donnelly Foundation and the Central Carolina Community Foundation are partially underwriting registration costs for arts leaders in their service areas.

### **Arts Learning**

Three films highlighting creative individuals were completed. These films (and others) will be available on the new Creative Career Studios website, expected to launch in the fall. The first three films highlighted individuals working in manufacturing, including a creative director/textile designer at Springs Creative in Fort Lawn, a textile designer at Sage Automotive Interiors in Abbeville, and a product development engineer at Velux in Greenwood. The films will also be shown at sites in rural South Carolina, including the current Smithsonian Museum on Main Street traveling exhibit "Spark! Places of Innovation."

Five current certified Teaching Artists successfully met their recertification requirements.

### **Cultural Districts**

The Aiken Cultural District was approved by the board of commissioners in April. In May, a Cultural Districts Cohort Meeting was held in Camden.

### **Professional Learning**

In May, staff offered the Teaching Artist Symposium, a day of live-virtual events. This professional learning platform for teaching artists lives on the S.C. Arts Directory, allowing arts directory members access to any of the recorded content.

Professional learning cohorts took place for two groups of District Arts Coordinators (in years 1 and 2 of their grants.)

We continue to host quarterly offsite meetings to give staff a chance to learn more about our grantees. In May, we visited Sumter and in early August, we were hosted by ReCraft Creative Reuse Center in Greenville.

Professional development for staff included Demystifying Social Media and Building Inclusion through Employees and Volunteers with Disabilities.

### **South Carolina Arts Awards**

The South Carolina Arts Awards were broadcast by SCETV statewide on May 19. The awards were presented at in-person ceremonies to the Organization recipient S.C. Philharmonic, at a concert in Columbia; to Lifetime Achievement recipient Campbell Frost and Arts in Education recipient Dr. Minnette Floyd at the Columbia Museum of Art; and to Individual recipient Diane Frankenberger in Summerville. The Jean Laney Harris awards were on pause this year due to staff transitions at McKissick Museum.

### **Canvass of the People**

Five public Canvass of the People forums were held in the fourth quarter: Belton, in Anderson County; Fort Lawn, in Chester County; Hampton in Hampton County; Hartsville, in Darlington County, and Aiken, in Aiken County. Staff also attended Artisphere in Greenville and a Fireflies baseball game in Columbia to promote the public Canvass survey and the agency's work.

## **Communications & Data**

- Published 203 Arts Daily listings
- Published 62 posts on The Hub, along with eight calls for art
- This quarter, the most popular themes on SCAC social media channels were the Governor's Awards, job postings, photo recaps of Canvass forums, Artisphere, and staff retreats, plus news via the Hub about South Arts grants and Leo Twiggs.
- Salesforce
  - Logged interactions with constituents in 33 of 46 counties (71.7 %)
  - Logged 655 Salesforce activities, including 545 emails, 13 tasks, and 97 other activities (calls, visits, meetings, etc.)
- Staff met with the Washington Arts Commission via Zoom to answer questions about their Salesforce implementation.

## **Administration**

In preparation for the move downstairs, we have purchased a system to check in guests and print visitor badges. We are mindful that having our main entrance on the first floor, along with meeting spaces, will result in additional walk-in visitors, plus more guests in general. We are being proactive to ensure the safety of staff and guests with secure door access and camera upgrades.

In addition to year-end closeout work, procurement staff processed 91 purchase orders between April and June - a record for one quarter. As the agency expands services and grants, the administrative functions also grow to support that expansion.