



**Commission Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 25, 2021
WebEx-Virtual Meeting**

Attendees

Commissioners: Asa Jackson (vice chair), Terry Emory Buntrock, Matthew Conrad, Robert Goudie, Dr. Dena Jennings, Michael Markley, Sushmita Mazumdar, Jan P. Monroe, Laurie Naismith, Barbara Parker, David B. Trinkle, M.D., and Amanda Pillion

Staff: Janet Starke, Lucas Hall, Cathy Welborn, Casey Polczynski, and Cindy Norwood (AG Office Representative)

Absent: Abigail Gómez (chair) for morning convening. Laurie Naismith absent beginning at 12:45 PM.

Meeting convened: Asa Jackson (vice chair) called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Approval of Minutes from the December 10, 2020 Meeting

Motion to approve: David Trinkle, MD

Seconded: Matthew Conrad

All approved by roll call vote

Special Guest Presentation #1

Beverly Hess (chair) of Virginia's for the Arts (VFTA)

Summary

Relief fund advocacy has been the focus. VFTA has shifted to a federal legislative focus. National Arts Action Summit begins on April 5, 2021. Registration is free if registered by April 2nd. Legislative and political update will be the opening brief on April 5th.

Hess shared news of several upcoming webinars to share details of the American Recovery Plan and Shuttered Venues Operator Grants (SVOG, by the SBA.) All are open to the public.

Hess also shared developing information on the return of earmarks now called Community Project Funding for capital improvements, that are available for non-profits with a quick turnaround—April 9, 2021.

Special Guest Presentation #2

Jan P. Monroe, IDEA Leading and Learning

“The Power of the Arts for People with DisAbilities”

Summary

Jan P. Monroe provided an overview of StepVa to showcase the organization's work and community-building that addresses engagement and opportunities for students with disabilities.

Recess

The Board adjourned for 25-minute lunch break at 11:52 AM.

The Commission Board reconvened at 12:20 PM.

Agenda Items

| Key Points | Presenter | Reference Report | Action |
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| <p>Executive Committee Vacancy--Secretary As Dr. Dena Jennings had indicated the need to step away from leadership (in the fall), Terry Emory Buntrock has agreed to step into the role until the 2022 election of board officers.</p> | Asa Jackson | Executive Committee | <p>Executive Committee Vacancy--Secretary</p> <p>-Motion to approve Terry Emory Buntrock as the secretary until the fall 2021 slate of new officers.</p> <p>Motion- Asa Jackson Seconded-Laruie Naismith</p> <p>All in attendance Aye</p> |
| <p>Executive Director's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Works for Virginia 2021 • Relief Funding Updates • Additional Supports | Janet Starke | | <p>Art Works for Virginia 2021</p> <p>-Data points provided</p> <p>-Investigating a hybrid model for future convenings</p> <p>-Investigating different data collection tools to dissect the data more efficiently</p> <p>Additional Supports</p> <p>-adding an additional staff person with the level funding for FY22 for a tentative artist and community development coordinator position. Aiming to fill by summer.</p> <p>Virtual Artist Showcase</p> <p>-Result of artist feedback from fall 2020</p> <p>-working group of statewide venue operators and tour directory artists are meeting to advise on the project</p> <p>-Determining a plan for broad, yet targeted access</p> <p>-including VPM (Virginia Public Media), Virginia Wine Board and Virginia Tourism, Virginia Tourism Corp., and others</p> <p>- recorded performances (highlights venues and artists)</p> <p>-Timeline in process</p> <p>Reopening Guidelines</p> <p>-Ongoing guidelines updated continually</p> <p>-Planning webinar to address the issues and concerns around venues reopening</p> |

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| <p>Approval of Artist Relief Funding Committee recommendation to utilize \$250,0000 unspent touring fund for an Emergency Relief Grant for VCA Performing and Touring and Teaching Artist Roster Artists</p> | <p>Mike Markley-(chair) Budget & Policy Committee</p> | <p>FY 21 Guidelines for Funding - -Revised</p> | <p>Approval of Artist Relief Funding -This application follows the Emergency Relief Grant that was initiated in FY21 with the Artist Fellowship Funds -Application turnaround is quick with the deadline is April 15, 2021. -Anticipated \$22,000-\$25,000 in remaining funds if all artists on the two rosters apply. -The remaining funds may be open to the general public as it was in July 2021 with the potential of reaching new artists</p> <p>Motion—Mike Markley Seconded—Barbara Parker</p> <p>Resolution Approved by Roll Call All in attendance Aye</p> |
| <p>Amendment to Touring Roster Guidelines FY22 Close the new artist application for FY22 for the Performing Touring Directory</p> | <p>Mike Markley-(chair) Budget & Policy Committee</p> | <p>FY 22 Guidelines for Funding</p> | <p>Amendment to Touring Roster Guidelines FY22 -No new artist applications would be accepted for the Performing Touring Directory for FY22</p> <p>Motion—David Trinkle, M.D. Seconded—Matthew Conrad Resolution Approved 11 Ayes 1 Nays</p> |
| <p>IDEA Committee Report</p> | <p>Asa Jackson</p> | <p>VCA Policy Manual</p> | <p>IDEA Committee Report -Each IDEA Committee member has taken a section of the policy manual to address potential revisions -Goal Setting w/measures -Anticipated statewide video project with IDEA samples from stakeholders to learn from the work that is taking place currently as a starting point to move the conversation forward.</p> |
| <p>Budget and Policy Committee</p> | <p>Mike Markley and Janet Starke</p> | <p>Commission Board Book—FY21 Budget</p> | <p>Budget Update -CARES Act budget \$489,000 was updated -\$59,000 Creative Forces Community Connection Project—funds received just after start of FY21, though work was completed in FY20. -Grants—reallocated \$10,000 of unspent Performing Arts Touring funds to Technical Assistance</p> |

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| <p>Special Constituency Committee</p> | <p>David Trinkle, M.D.</p> | | <p>Special Constituency Committee Dave Trinkle stated this Committee originally came out of the Creative Forces partnership. The Committee expanded to reach additional special constituencies. This committee should be disbanded as the IDEA Committee and most other committees are now taking on the role and work that this group was doing. Dave Trinkle made a motion to dissolve the Special Constituency Committee. Jan Monroe seconded. Roll call. Most all approved. Motion passed. Sushmita Mazumdar recused. Asa Jackson said that the necessity of implementing an intern program would be helpful to support ongoing work. Janet stated this is in the strategic plan work plan.</p> <p>Motion David Trinkle, M.D Seconded Abigail Gómez</p> <p>Resolution Approved by Roll Call Sushmita Mazumdar recused All others in attendance Aye</p> |
| <p>Education Committee</p> | <p>Jan P. Monroe</p> | | <p>Education Committee -Jan reported on Committee work (from previous day) with strategic plan in adding measures to the working plan under the educational goals; also worked on Background Check Policy.</p> |
| <p>Background Check Policy</p> | <p>Janet Starke</p> | <p>Policy Brief Document— Commission Board Book</p> | <p>Background Check Policy -Education, Budget & Policy, and IDEA Committees have contributed to development of revising the Background Check policy -Conversation is focused on how we treat findings, which needs strengthening within our existing policy. Sample policies researched show: -Richmond Public Schools—background check policy references the Virginia Code -VMFA (a peer state agency) – all are handled through the chief HR director -VDOE’s policy is more of a reference for school systems to implement -A proposed framework of eight points were outlined with the rationale to support a more comprehensive policy update -The Commissioners highly agree that support of the Attorney General’s office is</p> |

Commissioners' Regional Reports

All Commissioners

Area 1: Amanda Pillion reported that the Barter continues to do work outdoors. William King is doing innovative and fun fundraisers. Southwest VA is doing well in terms of vaccinations. Janet added that Tyler Hughes, a VCA Touring artist and teacher from the area, spoke to the Arts Caucus about how the pandemic has affected the region.

Area 2: Barbara Parker. Many venues still shut down due to COVID, others have been innovative with online activities. Revenue streams have been deeply affected. Most groups are looking forward to reopening in the fall.

Area 3: Dave Trinkle said venues are slowly opening back up. Some music venues are renting "pods" for concert goers. Many groups are doing work on strategic planning while things are still slow. Great work being done with medical students with the Taubman and Art for the Journey via video. Many arts staff are still furloughed.

Area 4A: Robert Goudie stated groups are doing the best they can. Beginning in June, smaller crowd events are planned for outdoors.

Area 4B: Jan Monroe stated that larger venues are holding off until June and many are doing virtual events. Performer and patron safety is paramount. Mike Markley said that groups are improving virtual programming. It is so hard to plan for indoor and summer events due to the uncertainty. Many are moving toward fall and winter. Artists are suffering without jobs. Abi Gomez stated that Shenandoah University is resuming its summer musical theatre program. Local theatres are progressing with virtual programming and possible indoor programming in the fall. Hybrid virtual/in-person art classes and exhibitions are taking place. School systems have had limited arts programming this past year. Hopefully, this will change in the fall.

Area 5: Matt Conrad said Area 5 is so large and diverse. Richmond Ballet is in the midst of an in-person studio series. Paramount Theatre has a professional reopening plan on its website. Hybrid in-person and virtual art classes, other performing groups have streaming options. Richmond is reveling in the explosion of outdoor public art, with especially good work being done in light of ongoing social justice concerns.

Area 6: Laurie Naismith stated things are opening slowly. You can schedule visits at the Chrysler. Virginia Symphony is doing small limited gatherings to celebrate its 100-year anniversary. Asa Jackson said it has been mixed. Some organizations have thrived moving to virtual, but some have gone under. The Museum of Contemporary Arts just opened a new hybrid exhibition featuring regional artists. Individual artists –it has been difficult for musicians, but a bit better for visual artists.

Old and New Business

None

Public Comment

None

The next quarterly board meeting is June 16-17, though it has not been determined whether this meeting will take place as a hybrid or virtual.

The meeting was adjourned by Abigail Gómez @ 2:18 PM.