



Virginia Commission for the Arts
Commission Board Meeting
Wolf Trap I Center for Education
Vienna, Virginia
October 13, 2022

I. Attendees

Commissioners: Dr. Dena Jennings, Robert Goudie, Asa Jackson, Terry Emory Buntrock, Frazier Millner Armstrong, Michael Markley, Jan P. Monroe, Barbara Parker, Sushmita Mazumdar, Latasha Do'Zia, Laurie Naismith

Virtual Attendance: Amanda Pillion

Not in Attendance: David Trinkle, M.D.

Staff: Margaret Hancock, Casey Polczynski, Cathy Welborn, and Lorraine Crilley

Special Guests: First Lady Suzanne Youngkin, NASAA Board Member, Abigail Gómez

II. Virtual Welcome/First Lady Suzanne Youngkin

III. Call to Order

Chair Dena Jennings called the meeting to order at 9:47 a.m. with a Land Acknowledgement of the indigenous Piscataway and Manahoac tribes and acknowledged the economic ancestors who farmed and lived on the land of Vienna, VA. Jennings introduced Margaret Hancock, the new Executive Director and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Margaret Hancock noted the inclusion of the Executive Summary outlining the details of Commission work completed from July through October 2022.

Motion to approve meeting agenda: Laurie Naismith

Seconded: Asa Jackson

All approved, motion passed

IV. Approval Commission Meeting Minutes June 15 - 16, 2022

Jennings provided an overview of the minutes of the June 15 -16, 2022 board meeting.

Motion to approve: Michael Markley

Seconded: Jan Monroe

All approved, motion passed

V. Board Development

All Commissioners are volunteers. Jennings provided an overview of the circle process as communication tool to facilitate group conversation.

The Commissioners participated in a three question exercise answering the following questions.

1. What does change means to you?
2. What are some of the ways you adapt to change?
3. How do you regard obstacles in the midst of change?

V. Executive Director Updates

Director Hancock provided an overview of all agency updates including the following.

A. Agency Operations

- Restructuring the agency
- Taking advantage of shared services
- Conducting meetings, workshops, and retreats
- Elevating our work environment
- Providing training opportunities
- Ensuring Compliancy

B. Visual Identity

- VCA logo redesign
- Website redesign
- Digital assets and branding guidelines

C. National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, assembly convening, September, 22 – 24, 2022, Kansas City, Missouri

- Expectation of Innovation and Change
- Overhaul of Grant Application and Report Requirements
- Reduction of Grant Panels and Panelists
- Diversification of Portfolios
- Increased Focus on Individual Artists
- Implementation of Open-Ended Questions
- Commitment of Accessibility

D. National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA)

Abigail Gómez provided some brief updates and learning opportunities.

- NASAA virtual conference: Creative Aging Institute, November 8 – 16, 2022
- NASAA webinar opportunity: Leveraging Partnerships in the Arts to Strengthen Public Health, November 3, 2022 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
- NASAA has created a Creative Economy web page to acquire economic data specific to Virginia and the arts- <https://nasaa-arts.org/research/creative-economy/>
- NASAA will conduct an internal equity audit with board and staff

VII. Commission Votes

A. Grants Refresh – Guidelines for Funding 2023 – 2024

Director Hancock provided an overview of the FY24 grants refresh in providing an overview of the guidelines in concept and the processes taken to discuss, reflect, and revise the VCA's guidelines for funding.

Discussion: Jackson questioned whether it was possible to have a rolling grant program for smaller organizations to help eliminate barriers for access. Buntrock asked about VCA's plan for revising the panel review process. Director Hancock spoke to the point of Operating Support for Smaller Organizations (OSS), which facilitates an in-house review eliminates a panel review for these applications. Hancock continued that the VCA is looking into a virtual advisor panel option which is in alignment with our national peers. Virtual panels would require fewer panelists and panels.

Director Hancock stated that voting on the guidelines in concept gives the agency the opportunity to logistically move forward with fine tuning the guidelines for funding, editing applications, and developing webinar content in preparation for the FY24 grant cycle.

Motion to approve the FY24 Guideline for Funding in concept: Robert Goudie

Seconded: Barbara Parker

All approved, motion passed

Recorded Vote:

Frazier Millner Armstrong

Jan Monroe

Mike Markley

LaTasha Do'Zia

Laurie Naismith

Amanda Pillion

Sushmita Mazumdar

Terry Emory Buntrock

Barbara Parker

Asa Jackson

Dena Jennings

B. Performing Arts Touring Roster

Barbara Parker provided a panel overview recognizing that the panel was prepared and professional.

Discussion: Director Hancock stated that the VCA is looking to support new artists on the Performing Arts Touring Roster. Mazumdar stated that a genre list would help presenters. Do'Zia questioned if there was a way for the VCA to identify where the presenter gaps exist within the Commonwealth and address them within the next year.

Motion to approve: Mike Markley

Seconded: Barbara Parker

All approved, motion passed

Abstained:

- Asa Jackson

C. FY23 Appeals

1. Main Street Chamber Orchestra

Discussion: Markley supported ruling out the panelist's scores. Staff member, Cathy Welborn stated that the panel recommendation was low at a priority 3 even with the removal of panel scores.

Motion to approve based on the staff recommendation to affirm the decision that no funding is award for FY23: Mike Markley

Seconded: Jan Monroe

All approved, motion passed

Abstained:

- Amanda Pillion

2. Fiscal Agent

Discussion: Director Hancock provided an overview of Women in Film and Video, Washington, DC request to serve as a fiscal agent. Welborn provided an overview of

the role fiscal agents sharing that fiscal agents provide an access point for artists who need the support of another non-profit organization to give artists opportunities to engage with citizens in the Commonwealth. Jackson supported the request by stating that neighboring states have many film initiatives to support artists, but not in Virginia.

Motion to approve to accept fiscal agent: Laurie Naismith

Seconded: Frazier Armstrong

All approved, motion passed

Meeting adjourned by Chair, Dena Jennings at 2:30 p.m.