



**Virginia Commission for the Arts
Commission Board Meeting
The Front Porch
Charlottesville, Virginia
December 8, 2022**

I. Attendees

Commissioners: Dr. Dena Jennings, Asa Jackson, Terry Emory Buntrock, Michael Markley, Jan P. Monroe, Barbara Parker, Sushmita Mazumdar, Latasha Do'Zia, Laurie Naismith, and David Trinkle, M.D.

Virtual Attendance: Robert Goudie and Frazier Millner Armstrong

Not in Attendance: Amanda Pillion

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

Special Guests: Ed Harvey, President | Virginians for the Arts

II. Call to Order

Chair Dena Jennings called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and provided a welcome and a land acknowledgement.

III. Approval Commission Meeting Minutes October 13, 2022

Jennings provided an overview of the minutes of the October 13, 2022 Board meeting, noting that the only change from those distributed for review was the addition of Frazier Millner Armstrong in the list of approvals for the grants refresh vote.

Motion to approve minutes: Mike Markley

Seconded: David Trinkle, M.D.

All approved, motion passed

IV. Reports

Committee Chairs of Budget and Policy, Nominating, IDEA, and Education provided brief updates on their committee meetings held December 7.

Virginians for the Arts President Ed Harvey provided an update that this is a holding funding year as the VCA received an FY23 budget increase. The organization will focus on membership development. While Arts Advocacy Day will not take place in 2023, VFTA will continue to have an ongoing conversation with legislators and the DOE.

V. Board Development

A. Commissioner as Ambassador

Commissioner Naismith provided some actionable steps that Commissioners can take to leverage their regional role as a VCA ambassador. Chair Jennings provided an opportunity for the Commissioners to discuss resources that would benefit their work as regional ambassadors.

B. Map Alignment

Director Hancock shared the new regional map for the VCA, which aligns with the Virginia Department of Education's map. The map organizes eight regions for grantee regional delineation. The Congressional district map will continue to be used for Commissioner appointments per our legislation. Several Commissioners will represent different areas including Jennings (region 4) and Markley (region 8). All three region 3 commissioners will be cycling off the board in June 2023.

C. Conflict of Interest Act

Deputy Director, Polczynski provided an overview of upcoming COIA notifications that will be sent in December reminding VCA Commissioners to complete COIA training and the Financial Disclosure Statements (FDS). FDS statements will be emailed in early January and must be completed and submitted online before February 1, 2023.

VI. Executive Director Updates

Director Hancock provided an overview of all agency updates. Hancock shared the agency is now fully staffed with the onboarding of Administrative Specialist, Karina Klemz in November.

Hancock also provided an overview of recent regional engagements including: ARTSFairfax Awards, Might Dream Forum in Norfolk, Meet and Greet events in Martinsville and Newport News, and the Spirit of Virginia Awards in Abingdon.

VII. Commission Votes

A. FY24 Guidelines for Funding

Director Hancock provided an overview of the recommended feedback provided by the public and incorporated in the draft document shared with Commissioners. Commissioner Markley presented additional revisions as discussed during the Budget and Policy Committee meeting on December 7.

Jennings and Hancock thanked the Commission board for their work in developing and editing the guidelines. The Budget and Policy committee recommended that the Commission approve the FY24 Guidelines for Funding with the revisions as presented. Motion to Accept the FY24 Guidelines for Funding revisions with the amendments as presented:

Jan Monroe

Seconded: Asa Jackson

Roll Call vote:

Jennings, Aye

Jackson, Aye

Buntrock, Aye

Markley, Aye
Monroe, Aye
Parker, Aye
Mazumdar, Aye
Do'Zia, Aye
Naismith, Nay
Trinkle, Aye
Goudie, Aye
Armstrong, Aye

Commissioner Naismith objected to the modification of the mission statement and deletion of the cultural equity statement in the Guidelines for Funding

Motion Passed

B. Mission Alignment

Director Hancock provided an update of the VCA's mission statement. The VCA's mission as currently published was not aligned with the Commonwealth in its language and length. The revised mission states: "To invest in the arts in the Commonwealth of Virginia" and is reflected in the FY24 Guidelines for Funding.

Motion to adopt the revised VCA mission statement as it is presented in the FY24 Guidelines for Funding: David Trinkle, M.D.

Seconded: Barbara Parker

11 Ayes

1 Nay

Motion passed

C. Artist Fellowships

Director Hancock introduced the staff recommendations for the 2022 Fellows to include an increase to 15 Fellows and an increase in funding allocation to \$75,000. This allowed for a strong and diverse investment in this year's Fellows.

▪ Artist Fellowships | Works on Paper

David Trinkle provided an overview of the Works on Paper Advisory Panel process stating that the panel was prepared and provided good feedback and recommendations for funding.

Motion to approve: David Trinkle,

M.D. Seconded: Laurie Naismith

All approved, motion passed

▪ Artist Fellowships | Songwriting

Chair Jennings provided an overview of the Advisory Panel noting that there were three panelists in attendance. Jennings stated that songwriting had a diverse group of exceptional applicants and questioned if the panel would benefit from additional panelists in subsequent years.

Motion to approve: Laurie Naismith

Seconded: Jan Monroe

Abstained: Asa Jackson

All approved, motion passed

D. Teaching Artist Roster

Polczynski provided an overview of the panel process and how the agency requested Education Committee Chair Jan Monroe and one additional external reviewer to evaluate three teaching artist roster applications. Staff agreed with the panel recommendations.

Motion to approve: Jan Monroe

Seconded: Mike Markley

All approved, motion passed

D. Special Recognition

Director Hancock provided an overview of an upcoming Virginia Opera and Richmond Symphony commission of a new opera of Loving v. Virginia. The VCA is excited for the opportunity to support a new commissioned work with such an important part to Virginia's history and recommends a 3-year award of \$15,000 for each year of the project.

Motion to approve to approve special recognition at \$15,000 for a three-year commitment:

Mike Markley

Seconded: Asa Jackson

All ayes

Abstained: Robert Goudie

Motion approved

VIII. Public Comment

FY24 Artist Fellowship awardee, Chris Jeter was present at the meeting and commented that he is honored and appreciative to be recognized as a VCA Fellow in the inaugural songwriting discipline. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to take part and understand the panel review process. Commissioner Jackson shared that he is appreciative of the VCA's support for artists such as Jeter.

Ashley Burks expressed her appreciation for the VCA in creating opportunities for artists and that she looks forward to seeing the future work of the Commission unfold.

Director Hancock noted that the next Commission Board meeting will be at Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, March 15 – 16, 2023

Meeting adjourned by Chair Jennings at 1:45 p.m.