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**Nevada Arts Council
Board Meeting**

Friday, February 19, 2021 – 10:00 AM

MEETING LOCATION:

DUE to COVID-19 this will be a virtual meeting via ZOOM conference platform

THIS MEETING IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE “DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DIRECTIVE 006 3-21-2020 NEVADA OPEN MEETING LAW” AND HAS BEEN PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Websites:

<https://www.nvartscouncil.org/about/public-meeting-notice/>

<https://notice.nv.gov>

BOARD MEMBERS

Gail Rappa, Chair
Jerry Schefcik, Vice-Chair
Karen Michaels, Treasurer
Amanda Horn
Dr. Javon Johnson
Andy Lott
Mark Salinas
Yale Yeandel

STAFF:

Tony Manfredi
Kari Ward
Rebecca Snetselaar
Sierra Scott
Krista Ficken
Stephen Reid
Cathleen Wyatt
Fran Morrow
Gracie Krutz

DAG

Harry Ward

MEETING MINUTES

A. Opening

- a. Call to Order and Confirmation of Proper Posting – Gail Rappa.

Chair Rappa called the meeting to order and confirmed proper posting.

- b. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum – Gail Rappa.

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Chair Rappa conducted roll call and quorum was established. Staff was introduced.

B. Public Comment

- a. Public comment is welcomed by the Committee. Members of the public who wish to participate during a public meeting may do so by providing public comment during the two designated public comment periods. Additionally, Public comment options may include, without limitation, telephonic or email comment. A period of public comment will be allowed at the beginning and at the end of the meeting. Because of time considerations, the period for public comment by each speaker may be limited to three (3) minutes at the discretion of the Chair, and speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers.
- b. Executive Director to state and read any written public comments that have been received before the meeting.

There was no public comment.

C. WELCOME NEW NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

- a. Introduction and Welcome – Gail Rappa

Chair Rappa introduced and welcomed new board member Javon Johnson.

- b. Remarks from New Board Members – New Board Members

Board Member Johnson stated he is a professor at UNLV, and directs African-American African Diaspora Studies and gender and sexuality studies. He also teaches in the English department and soon in the Art department. He has a PHD in performance studies. He is also a poet and glad to be here.

Chair Rappa thanked Board Member Johnson and welcomed him to the board.

D. For Possible Action – Artist Relief Grant Update and Round One Approvals

- a. Review of Artist Relief Grant and Round One Funding – Tony Manfredi, Sierra Scott

Tony Manfredi stated that because of the significant reductions to both general fund allotment and hotel room tax, the Artist Relief Grant was put in place to provide financial assistance for artists in Nevada who been impacted by the pandemic. Some of the requirements for this grant include being a practicing professional artist with a sustained commitment to the art form and they must

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exhibit at least a \$1,000 of lost income related to COVID. The application deadline was January 29. The intent for the agency was to prioritize the applications based on geographical diversity in our underserved populations if it received more applications than available funding. This was the case as the council received 934 applications. 34 applicants were from a rural area, 497 were from an underserved population. Total applicants who are not from a rural area and who are not part of our underserved population description is 403. Over 86.6 percent or 811 of the applicants are from Clark County, Washoe at 89 applicants. The remaining applications are from other counties. Also, of note, is that 913 of that 934 are new applicants to the Nevada Arts Council.

75 percent of available grant funding will go to applicants of our underserved populations. 25 percent will be available to go to applicants who do not reside either in the rural area and don't identify as an underserved population. The agency has identified \$175,000 of funding that can be put towards this program. All applications will be reviewed and approved by two Arts Council staff members and any questions or extenuating circumstances on the applications will be elevated to Manfredi and he will then review and either approve or decline.

Board Member Michaels asked if applicants were able to reapply if there was a problem with their applications.

Sierra Scott stated if there was a technical issue, they will reach out to clarify or correct that item. If they are applications that are missing something that was required, then those are marked incomplete and put in a separate category. If there is extra funding the agency will fund more applicants.

Board Member Lott asked how many incomplete applications there has been so far?

Sierra Scott answered that approximately 5% to 10% of the 100 processed were incomplete.

Tony Manfredi stated of the \$175,000 available funding, \$63,000 is coming from live entertainment tax, \$12,000 from the rural program, and 100,000 from the state tourism transfer/hotel room tax.

- b. Possible vote to approve Round One Funding for Artist Relief Grants – Gail Rappa

Board Member Salinas expressed his appreciation of the thorough break down of the document that was sent and just shared, and he appreciated the way the agency is advancing equity with this grant and wouldn't mind seeing that on all grants moving forward. He then asked if monies may be available for round 2 and if applicants could apply twice.

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Sierra Scott clarified that if the agency received any new funding, they would award the remaining unfunded applicants from the first round.

Tony Manfredi confirmed that part of the exploration around this grant was to explore the equity of our funding. In addition, the agency is exploring what is really needed for its constituents for 2022 and 2023. The agency is doing great work in this review, and he plans to present it to the board in March. The agency is taking a hard look to ensure it is granting in an appropriate and equitable way.

Board Member Lott stated that if there is additional funding made available in the coming months, an applicant's need for the grant may have changed and asked how the agency would assess that need?

Tony Manfredi stated that the applicant can decline the grant if it is not needed.

Sierra Scott stated that any additional funding we may receive or allocate to the grant would be in this fiscal year which ends on June 30 and that the probability that it would still be needed is high. She also reminded the board that this is a reimbursement grant and that awardees will need to provide documentation that details what the award was used for.

Chair Rappa stated they can forego the vote because they had already approved the artist relief grants in an earlier meeting and thanked the team for the update.

E. Discussion Only – Agency Updates

- a. Review of Nevada Arts Council Board Members Advocacy Plans for 21 Session – Gail Rappa, Tony Manfredi
- b. FY 21 Budget, Staffing, and Program Updates – Tony Manfredi
- c. Review of Governors Approved Budget for FY22 and FY23 – Tony Manfredi
- d. Updates on National Endowment for the Arts, Americans for the Arts, Save Our Stages

Tony Manfredi gave an update on the fiscal year '21 budget to date. The full \$150,000 amount of Live Entertainment Tax (LET) amount was transferred to the agency's budget in December 2020. Manfredi reminded the board of the \$69,936 General Fund reductions that occurred during the special legislative session and the reduction of half of the tourism transfer (\$590,861) leaving a reduction of \$660,797 for FY21. Manfredi gave an update on staffing - currently 5 open positions of which 3 are frozen until April and June. The Community Arts Development/ADA Coordinator position is funded through LET and since the agency has now received that full funding, he has submitted a Justification to Fill that is currently under review with Governor's Finance Office. As soon as that justification is approved, the agency will begin the recruiting process to fill the

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position. This position is based in Las Vegas. Manfredi then gave updates on the remaining open positions and timing to fill.

Manfred then described the Virtual Mini-Lesson Grant – the second response grant that was launched to provide funding and training to support Nevada teaching artists in the creation of virtual lessons for diverse PreK-12th grade learners. These grants are \$500 each.

Sierra Scott stated that there will be 32 total lessons.

MaryJane Dorofachuk stated they have lessons in music, calligraphy, opera, dance, theater, quite a variety. The agency will be working with teaching roster artists on how to produce the video. Given the enthusiasm around this grant, there has been increased interest from teaching artist who are not on the roster to be included. Dorofachuk is planning to open the roster up for inclusion again in April. During this time, she will be reaching out to arts organizations to be included to further expand the roster.

Sierra Scott stated they allowed artists on the roster to apply for up to three Virtual Mini- Lesson grants if they were unique lessons.

Chair Rappa stated that she has spoken with friends who are K-8 teachers who have expressed that they do not have time during the day to conduct a lesson that meets the required standards and that these videos will allow that access – which especially helps our rural communities.

Board Member Lott stated that the Nevada Department of Education has put together the Digital Learning Collaborative with digital content they are creating. There may be an opportunity to team up with what they are doing and include these lessons in their platform. Manfredi and Dorofachuk agreed and expressed that they would follow-up with them once the lessons were complete.

MaryJane Dorofachuk gave an update on Poetry Out Loud. It is the 16th year of the program. Partners include the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. Last year the state finals did have to be changed to a virtual competition due to COVID. This year, they are continuing with a virtual competition and the National Endowment for the Arts has moved the national finals to a virtual competition as well. Board Member Andy Lott will be one of the judges this year. Last year, statewide, there were 4,370 students and 29 schools participating. This year, there are 355 students and 16 schools. Nationally the competitions have seen significant decrease in participation due to the pandemic.

Stephen Reid gave an update on the new NTI exhibit Transformers curated by JK Russ that contains artwork from past Nevada Arts Council Visual Arts Fellowship recipients. In the past the agency created a brand-new exhibit for the Legislative Exhibition Series (LXS). This year, given the pandemic, timing and costs, they are

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instead using Transformers. In the last couple of days, he has been over at the legislature installing transformers in the LXS gallery. They will rotate the work from the seven artists over the course of the legislative session. As soon as the agency can safely tour the exhibit, they will get it out on the road. Currently, the timing for that to begin is June.

Manfredi added more context to why the agency proceeded in this way. He stated that in addition to the NTI exhibition schedule, the agency has also expanded its offering by providing art hanging systems to spaces across the state. This has a two-fold effect. First it enables agency staff to hang our NTI exhibits safely and securely. Second, when our exhibit comes down, it encourages another community exhibit to go up. Manfredi continued that it is particularly important during the legislative session, for the agency to connect the funding it receives from the state to the work the agency accomplishes every day. In the past, the agency would curate a unique LXS exhibit for the legislative session. This was in addition to our regular exhibition schedule and workload. The agency took the challenges it had from the pandemic and reduced staffing and turned it into an opportunity to launch Transformers through LXS. This better tells the agency's story of impact to the legislators as they walk through the halls of the legislative building. Another way the agency added to this concept is through the Folklife Friends and Neighbors exhibit that we installed throughout the legislative building. Rebecca Snetselaar will discuss this more.

Rebecca Snetselaar gave an update on the Nevada Arts Council Folklife Friends and Neighbors Initiative and the Find Your Folklife exhibit. The project included three years of photography, fieldwork including site visits, to showcase the cultural communities found throughout our state and represented by actual Nevadans from a specific community. The initiative and exhibit are meant to provide better understanding of what folklife is and its significance to our communities. The exhibit uses lenticular two flips to show a community member in their normal everyday work life and then as the viewer shifts their focus, the image shifts to show the community member in their traditional cultural community attire. There is also a story that is connected to each image that describes the community members connection to their heritage. Now, with the exhibition part, the idea is to offer this exhibit to tour either through NTI or through the Folklife program.

Sierra Scott provided an update on FY22 grants, the agency has crafted updated guidelines and those must be posted for public comment for two weeks before bringing them to the board for review and approval. This posting is happening the first week of March and the agency will review with the board at the next board meeting.

Tony Manfredi went over the governor's approved budget for fiscal year 22 and 23. He described the agency funding by source. 41 percent coming from transfers, 24 percent coming from federal funds, 21 from the general fund, and

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the 14 percent from others. The governor recommends a total budget of 2.9M for '22 and a little over 3 million for '23. Manfredi also stated that the agency was not asked to present any more testimony regarding its budget and that this means that legislators are content with the budget as recommended and will move it forward to passage.

Manfredi then gave updates on the National Endowment for the Arts, Americans for the Arts, Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, and the agency's advocacy plans around the session.

Chair Rappa acknowledged Manfredi and the staff. She stated that the collection of data is awe inspiring and so much of why the budget is not in question is because of the presentation Manfredi provided and the hard work of the staff to put it all together behind the scenes.

F. Discussion Only – Board Member Updates

Board members gave updates on happenings in their community.

Chair Rappa stated they are looking at a possible fall in-person meeting in Vegas. It is Arts and Humanities Month in October, so that seems logical to do it during that time. She said more information will follow.

G. Discussion Only – Future Agenda Items

Chair Rappa asked if any board members had items to add for a future board meeting.

Board Member Salinas asked if they could discuss the possibility of making land recognition at the beginning of our Arts Council meetings, a tribal recognition.

Tony Manfredi stated they have been exploring this topic and will come back with recommendations.

H. Public Comment

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- b. Executive Director to state and read any written public comments that have been received during the meeting.

There was no public comment.

I. For Possible Action – Adjournment

There was a unanimous vote to adjourn.