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Nevada Arts Council

Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 – 1:00 PM

MEETING LOCATION:

Nevada Arts Council
716 N. Carson St.
Suite A
Carson City, NV 89701

BOARD MEMBERS

Gail Rappa, Chair
Jerry Schefcik, Vice-Chair
Mark Salinas
Yale Yeandel
Andy Lott
Javon Johnson
Melissa Melero-Moose
Yale Yeandel

STAFF:

Tony Manfredi
Harry Ward
Sierra Scott
Michelle Patrick
Cathleen Wyatt
Rebecca Snetselaar
Maryjane Dorofachuk
Stephen Reid
Kari Ward

MEETING MINUTES

A. Opening _____

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

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

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

Gail Rappa conducted roll call and determined quorum was established. Patrick Duffy and Claire Muñoz were recognized with excused absences. Staff was introduced.

B. Public Comment _____

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- 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. Nevada Arts Council Board Member Introductions

- a. Introductions and Welcome to Melissa Melero-Moose – Gail Rappa

Gail Rappa introduced and welcomed Melissa Melero-Moose and read her bio:

Melissa was born in San Francisco, California in 1974 and spent most of her childhood living in Reno, Nevada. She is a Northern Paiute enrolled with the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe with ties to Fort Bidwell Paiute, California. Melissa holds a BFA from the Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Fine Arts from Portland State University, Portland, Oregon.

Her works are a part of the permanent collections of the School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Autry Museum in Los Angeles, IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts in Santa Fe, and the Nevada State Museum in Carson City, Nevada, and the Lilley Museum, at the University of Nevada, Reno.

She is currently exhibiting regionally and nationally as an individual artist and with the Great Basin Native Artists art collective. Her influences are in – are imagery found in the Great Basin landscape, petroglyphs, beadwork, and basketry from the Indigenous tribes of Nevada and California.

Melissa currently lives with her family in Hungry Valley, Nevada working as a professional artist, contributing writer for First American Art Magazine and founder/independent curator of the Great Basin Native Artists. So, welcome Melissa.

Melissa Melero-Moose thanked Chair Rappa and expressed her excitement of being appointed by Governor Sisolak to the Nevada Arts Council Board. She stated that being an indigenous person and to be on this board is really special and that she is excited to contribute and provide her perspective as an artist.

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Tony Manfredi announced that Jerry Schefcik had been reappointed by Governor Sisolak for another four years.

D. For Possible Action – Approval of Minutes _____

- a. Approval of Board Minutes – Gail Rappa

Mark Salinas made a motion to approve the April 10, 2020 minutes as presented. Andy Lott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Salinas made a motion to approve the May 1, 2020 minutes as proposed. Jerry Schefcik seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. For Possible Action – Round Two FY 2022 Grants _____

Tony Manfredi stated the budget authority of \$786,400 for National Endowment of the Arts American Rescue funding, which is connected to two of the grants in discussion today, was approved during the Interim Finance Committee of the Nevada legislature. This was a requirement to be able to award this grant funding and that the Nevada Arts Council is grateful to the Governor's Finance Office and the Legislative Counsel Bureau for agreeing to expedite, consider and approve this request. All Nevada Arts Council Board members were sent detailed information on items A through D via e-mail to review prior to today's meeting. Tony then explained some minor corrections to the documents and asked the board if there were any questions on the changes. There were none.

Sierra Scott stated the American Rescue Plan Grant for Organizations are split into two different grants - One for organizations and one for individual artists. She then explained that the National Endowment for the Arts added the ability to award project-based grant to individual artists with this round of funding.

- a. FY22 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN GRANT ORGANIZATIONS – Tony Manfredi, Sierra Scott

Sierra Scott described details of the American Rescue Plan Grant for Organizations. (See NAC American Rescue Plan Grant: Organizations attachment). She stated the grants will be one-time relief payments that must be used for eligible expenses between July 1 and the end of our Fiscal Year, June 30th, 2022. These funds are for nonprofit arts organizations. Due to the financial impacts of the pandemic, the grant amount request is to be based on their total annual revenue as reported on their submitted 990 – either 2018, 2019 or 2020

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whichever shows the higher amount. The agency is proposing opening the grant on July 1 with the applications closing on July 23rd. Sierra highlighted possible funding scenarios based up on the agency's knowledge of Nevada's non-profit arts organizations through its Operating Support Grants and recent CARES Act Relief Grants.

Mark Salinas asked if ARP money needs to be dispersed by June 30, 2022. Sierra Scott stated they have a little bit longer time to use it but that they do want to get it out as soon as possible.

Tony Manfredi stated that this, like the CARES Act funding from last year, was an amendment to the current year partnership grant to the agency from the NEA. With the amendment they allowed a one-year extension, so the official due date of when this funding must be spent down will be August 31st of 2022.

Mark Salinas stated he was really happy that in looking at the numbers that the council is able to keep every organization in the state in mind and asked if there was an e-mail that could be sent to them to be proactive in getting this money accessible.

Sierra Scott stated that the vast majority are past grantees that are in our mailing list and new ones came in for CARES Act funding last year and that we will be communicating directly with them. Staff is going to be working to get the word out as much as possible.

Tony Manfredi stated they are also going to be doing a marketing campaign around this with a state-wide press release, social media and they will be conducting some grant webinars as well.

Andy Lott asked if this would only be for organizations that existed pre-pandemic. Sierra Scott stated they had to have been incorporated nonprofit with the date of exemption of their IRS letter, by January 1, 2020.

Possible vote to approve FY22 American Rescue Plan Grant for Organizations – Gail Rappa

Gail Rappa entertained a motion on item A FY22 American Rescue Plan Grant for Organizations.

Mark Salinas made a motion to accept the FY22 American Rescue Plan grant for organizations with edits as presented by staff. Jerry Schefcik seconded the motion. The motion passed

Gail Rappa stated they would move on to item B, FY22 American Rescue Plan grant for artists.

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- a. **FY22 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN GRANT ARTISTS – Tony Manfredi, Sierra Scott**

Sierra Scott described details of the American Rescue Plan Grant for Artists. (See NAC American Rescue Plan Grant: Individual Artists attachment). She stated that this will support the production and presentation of artistic projects in the form of first come, first serve \$1,000 grant awards. Grants will be awarded in two cycles. The first cycle (cycle A) will open July 1 for projects from August through December. Cycle B would be for projects from January through June. The project must occur in the six months cycle, must clearly demonstrate artistic excellence and artistic merit and this is open to individuals who are Nevada residents, 21 and older and non-students. Nevada Arts Council staff will review for eligibility and if eligibility is met will award funding.

Mark Salinas asked how many of these grants would be distributed.

Sierra Scott stated the current projection would be \$150,000 total or about \$75,000 per cycle with approximately 40 or 50 per cycle.

Mark Salinas asked if an artist could apply twice - once in each cycle?

Sierra Scott answered that for now, an artist could receive one per year.

Mark Salinas asked if that was listed in the eligibility requirements.

Sierra Scott stated the agency believes (based upon what occurred last year during the Virtual Mini Lesson Grant) that it will be better to be more flexible with this language to in case there is an instance where there are still available funds towards the end of Cycle B.

Andy Lott asked how the arts council will be marketing this grant opportunity to Nevada communities.

Tony Manfredi stated they will be doing a marketing campaign around the grant and conducting webinars that reach out to those throughout the state. He also encouraged board members to push out the information to their contacts and share via their social media channels.

Sierra Scott stated they also have the 900-plus persons who applied for the Artist Relief grant and information would be distributed to this group too.

Andy Lott asked if there was any non-digital outreach that was occurring.

Tony Manfredi stated they will be doing some traditional media notification in the form of press releases. The grant team and program specialists are available by

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phone and are out and about within their respective communities and the agency will be getting the word out as best they can.

Mark Salinas stated he was happy to see (board member) Melissa (Melero-Moose) joining today. He stated he knew a lot of her artists at GBNA (Great Basin Native Artists art collective), having worked with them personally, face internet connectivity problems and asked her if she had any thoughts on recommendations of how this information can get out to those artists.

Melissa Melero-Moose stated she was thinking about that. She uses postcards and flyers for those who are just not getting online and not in the social media mix. She suggested that printed flyers would be great to see for this campaign.

Tony Manfredi stated they would certainly look to produce that type of work. He stated that it will be fantastic to have the assistance of the board to help get the word out to those whom they know really well and that they communicate with regularly. He concluded that this is one of the best ways that the board can assist the agency in their work.

Jerry Schefcik asked, if artists have to be online to apply?

Sierra Scott stated that for this grant, they are asking folks to apply online.

Jerry Schefcik stated that, based upon what was shared in the presentation, the project requirements correspond to what is asked and then asked what information was required for the budget portion.

Sierra Scott stated that to be as clear as possible for applicants, the budget is just an expense budget not counting their artist fee.

Possible vote to approve FY22 American Rescue Plan Grant for Artists – Gail Rappa

Gail Rappa entertained a motion for approval for FY22 American Rescue Plan Grant for Artists.

Javon Johnson recommended a motion to accept the American Rescue Plan Grant for Artists with the recommended edits. Mark Salinas seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Gail Rappa stated they would move on to item C, FY22 Arts Learning Express grants for organizations.

- b. FY22 ARTS LEARNING PROJECT GRANT: ORGANIZATIONS – Tony Manfredi, Maryjane Dorofachuk, Sierra Scott

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Sierra Scott described the details of the Arts Learning Project Grant (See FY22 Arts Learning Project Grant: Organizations attachment). The agency proposes to open these July 1st and as a rolling grant that remains opened throughout the year, first come, first serve, until funds are exhausted. To get these funds out in the field, the agency is proposing an internal review. Funding is a flat amount of \$3,500 that includes the added flexibility of a one-to-one in-kind and/or cash match. It used to be cash match only.

There were no questions from the board.

Possible vote to approve FY22 Arts Learning Project Grant: Organizations– Gail Rappa

Gail Rappa entertained a motion to approve FY22 Arts Learning Project Grant for organizations.

Andy Lott moved to approve FY22 Arts Learning Project grants with suggested edits. Yale Yeandel seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Gail Rappa stated they would move on to item D - FY22 Arts Learning Express Grant for Roster Artists.

- c. FY22 ARTS LEARNING EXPRESS GRANT: ROSTER ARTISTS – Tony Manfredi, Maryjane Dorofachuk, Sierra Scott

Sierra Scott described the details of the Arts Learning Express Grant for Roster Artists (See FY22 Arts Learning Express Grant: Roster Artists attachment). Scott stated the Arts Learning Express grant is on the same cycle A and cycle B, as the American Rescue Plan Grant for Individual Artists. This grant is only open to Nevada Arts Council Roster Artists. Roster artists may apply for \$750 for one grant or \$1,500 for two grants or a maximum of \$1,500 for conducting an in-person or online lessons or workshop. The grant funding is for artist fees only, and requires no match. Applicantiun will be reviewed internally, and awarded on a first come, first serve basis. Roster artists may receive one grant in each cycle.

Andy Lott asked when the last time was that the roster was opened.

Maryjane Dorofachuk stated it was opened April 1st and it closed May 31st this year. She stated she used to open the roster every three years due to numerous applications. Dorofachuk stated that the intent moving forward is to open it up every year, so they do not miss out on people who want to apply.

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Tony Manfredi stated that they also ask all of those who are currently on the roster if they want to continue to stay listed.

Gail Rappa asked Maryjane how many artists and nonprofits are currently active on the roster.

Maryjane Dorofachuk stated about 80.

Andy Lott asked if there were any gaps in parts of the state without roster artists.

Dorofachuk stated she didn't have specifics in front of her but believes there are gaps in the rural communities.

Andy Lott stated he knew this isn't the time to talk about how we get people on the roster but perhaps if it ever moves back to the three years, perhaps those less populated areas with artists, can be reviewed every six months to make sure that those areas can get as much love as the areas that have lots of artists.

Gail Rappa added, given that she lives in a rural area, that roster artists travel all over the state and that one of the fantastic results of this program is, for example, to have Vegas artists come to Elko and teach there.

Rappa asked if there were any other questions on the Arts Learning Express grant.

There were none.

Possible vote to approve Arts Learning Express Grant for Roster Artists – Gail Rappa

Rappa entertained a motion to approve.

Jerry Schefcik proposed to accept the FY22 Arts Learning Express Grant for Roster Artists with suggested edits. Mark Salinas seconded the motion. The motion passed.

F. Discussion Only – Agency Updates _____

- a. Staffing Updates – Tony Manfredi
- b. Update on National Endowment for the Arts – Tony Manfredi
- c. Update on WESTAF – Tony Manfredi
- d. Updates on Americans for the Arts – Tony Manfredi
- e. Update on State Poet Laureate – Tony Manfredi

Tony Manfredi stated that Michelle Patrick has rejoined the Nevada Arts Council on June 1st as the Community Arts Development Specialist and our ADA coordinator. Her duty station resides in the Las Vegas Office. The agency has

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also extended an offer to Rhonda Peña for the Administrative Assistant for the Carson City Office who begins on June 28. There are currently three other open positions. The second Artist Services position, the Community Arts Development Specialist in northern Nevada, and the Arts Initiatives Specialist who's duty station will be the Carson City office but will serve the entire state. Manfredi stated that it is very exciting to be able to build staff levels back up after the staffing freeze and being down five people.

Manfredi then moved to item B, update on the National Endowment for the Arts. He let the board know that President Biden's FY22 budget calls for \$201 million for the National Endowment for the Arts. It's a \$35.5 million increase over Fiscal '21 levels. He reminded the board that the administration's budget is a request and that Congress has the responsibility to set funding levels for the federal government. This funding level first happens in the Appropriations Committee and Gail will be sending a letter on behalf of Nevada Arts Council Board to Representative Lee, who resides in southern Nevada, and serves on the Appropriations Committee for the interior - where the NEA budget lives. Manfredi mentioned that Nevada is very fortunate to have a congressional representative from Nevada serving in the Office of Interior on the appropriation side. He stated that Representative Lee is very supportive of arts and creativity and that he will be keeping an eye on the budget as it continues to move through Congress. He concluded that he will keep the board aware as well.

Manfredi moved to item c and informed the board that WESTAF officially announced it had received a one-time unrestricted and transformational grant of \$8 million from MacKenzie Scott (Amazon) and Dan Jewett. Over the coming months, WESTAF is going to be looking closely at how this funding can best be invested and leveraged in ways to reflect the mission of the organization and have the most significant impact on the communities that WESTAF serves. He stated he will be eager to see how that affects the Nevada Arts Council. Manfredi reminded the board that WESTAF is the regional arts organization that serves the 13 western states, including Nevada. He concluded that they are a great partner and that he is excited to see them receive this gift.

Manfredi moved on to item d. He stated that on Thursday, May 27th, the board of directors for Americans for the Arts announced that Robert Lynch agreed to retire as President and CEO effective immediately. The board thank Bob for his 36 years of service to the organization and the arts and communities across America. Nolen Bivens, who has been interim leader for Americans for the Arts since December has been appointed by the board as President and CEO. Nolen has a distinguished career as an expert in organizational strategy and in guiding institutions through cultural change, as a thought leader, and through decades of military service. He has been instrumental in many key initiatives in the arts, particularly arts and the military over his years of involvement with the organization. The board also announced that it has concluded multiple

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independent, third-party investigations as part of the ongoing work and commitment to create in a more equitable and transparent organization.

Manfredi concluded with Item e. On May 26, the Arts Council conducted a panel review of the six state poet laureate applicants. He described the panel experience as very positive and that the panelists provided very thoughtful remarks. He then shared the panel scoring showing Gailmarie Pahmeier with the score of 18.7, Claudia Keelan 18.3, Bruce Isaacson 17.7, David Olmeca Barragan 17.3, Pam Pantoja 15.7 and Jen Nails 13.3. The agency is now pulling all of the application, support information, and panelists' comments and scoring and sending it to boards and commissions to present to Governor Sisolak for his review and final appointment. Manfredi thanked Javon Johnson for his help in being a panelist and thanked Stephen and Sierra and the entire arts council staff for pulling this together. Manfredi stated that he would let the board know as soon as they receive information on the governor's decision.

Mark Salinas asked if there was a poet by the first name Jessie. He thought he recalled his name being among the applicants. Tony Manfredi stated there were only the six applicants.

Mark Salinas stated he had an idea he wanted to share. The city of Reno just reviewed their poet laureates and it made him think we may want to consider that a poet laureate could hold two positions, because, theoretically any of these state applicants could have applied for city of Reno and they wouldn't really have known the difference. He stated this could be a discussion at a later date.

Tony Manfredi stated that was a good point, especially given the project component of the state position, and that they will need to make sure to consider that in the future.

G. Discussion Only – Future Agenda Items _____

Tony Manfredi stated he had received no messages from any board members on future agenda items. He reminded the board to send him items that he can add and then asked if there were any now.

Mark Salinas asked when we would convene next.

Tony Manfredi stated he thought August or September, which will allow the agency to get through fiscal year end and the beginning of the next fiscal year. He also suggested the week of October 18th through the 22nd for a possible in-person meeting in Las Vegas.

Gail thanked Tony for the update.

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H. 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 during the meeting.

There was no public comment.

I. For Possible Action – Adjournment ---

Gail Rappa thanked the staff for working so hard on all of the grants and adjourned the meeting.