

**APPROVED**



**Nevada Arts Council**

**Board Meeting**

Thursday, December 16, 2021 – 1:00 PM

**MEETING LOCATION:**

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

**Websites:**

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

<https://notice.nv.gov>

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Jerry Schefcik, Chair  
Claire Munoz, Vice Chair  
Andy Lott, Treasurer  
Gail Rappa  
Patrick Duffy  
Javon Johnson  
Melissa Melero-Moose  
Mark Salinas  
Yale Yeandel

**STAFF:**

Tony Manfredi  
Erica Hill  
Tiffany White  
Rebecca Snetselaar  
Sierra Scott  
Krista Ficken  
Michelle Pena  
Cathleen Wyatt  
Maryjane Dorofachuk  
Stephen Reid

**DAG**

Harry Ward

**MEETING MINUTES**

**A. Opening**

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Proper Posting – Jerry Schefcik

**Chair Jerry Schefcik called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm and asked if the meeting had been properly posted.**

# APPROVED

**Executive Director, Tony Manfredi, responded that the meeting was in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law and had been properly noticed and posted.**

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum – Jerry Schefcik.

**Chair Schefcik conducted roll call and determined quorum was established.**

**Present:**

**Jerry Schefcik, Claire Munoz, Andy Lott, Gail Rappa, Patrick Duffy, Javon Johnson, Melissa Melero-Moose, Yale Yeandel, Mark Salinas.**

**Nevada Art Council staff in attendance were introduced – Tony Manfredi, Erica Hill, Tiffany White, Cathleen Wyatt, Krista Ficken, Michelle Patrick, Rhonda Pena, Sierra Scott, Rebecca Snetselaar, Maryjane Dorofachuk, Stephen Reid.**

**Harry Ward was present from the Attorney General’s Office.**

## **B. Public Comment**

1. 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.
2. Executive Director to state and read any written public comments that have been received before the meeting.

**There was no public comment.**

## **C. For Possible Action – Approval of Minutes**

1. Approval of Board Minutes – Jerry Schefcik

**There were no questions or corrections. Chair Schefcik asked for a motion to approve. Clair Munoz made a motion to approve. Andy Lott seconded. There was**

# APPROVED

unanimous consent from all board members. The vote passed to approve the minutes for October 27, 2020.

## D. Discussion Only – Target of Opportunity Grant Update

### 1. Broadway in the Hood – Performing Arts Touring initiative

Tony Manfredi stated that Broadway in the Hood is a performing arts organization in Las Vegas and was selected to receive a Target of Opportunity Grant for a pilot program for a performing arts touring initiative. The program will launch on January 8 and 9 at the West Las Vegas Library Theatre, where Broadway in the Hood will present the performance, American Son. This is in conjunction with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. There'll be a 30-minute talk back session with the cast and crew following the performance. This is free to the public in honor of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. After the programs in Las Vegas, Broadway in the Hood will take American Son on tour throughout Nevada with support from the Target of Opportunity Grant. Currently, it is scheduled in Reno, in Boulder City, and they are close to finalizing venues in Carson City and possibly Henderson. They are exploring talk back sessions with local law enforcement in Boulder City, Reno and other venues. The agency will take all the information that is learned from this pilot program and decide if they can move forward with grant opportunities around touring performing arts organizations.

Javon Johnson asked if other people will be a part of the talk back that's attached to an agency that exist outside of local law enforcement.

Tony Manfredi replied he is not aware of any other community members that are scheduled to be on it at the moment.

Michelle Patrick stated that Torey Russel, the Executive Director of Broadway in the Hood has and will be inviting a variety of different community members to the talk back on January 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at West Las Vegas and in future performances.

Javon Johnson stated he thought it is really important to get organizations and folks involved that think beyond just pro-police talking points to think about different ways to engage with police in historically disenfranchised communities.

Michelle Patrick stated this isn't an anti-law enforcement performance. This performance is actually something that's going to lead a discussion in terms of how communities and law enforcement can see past some of those misunderstandings and also dive in and talk about some of the racial components that will be explored throughout this performance as well.

## **APPROVED**

Javon Johnson stated that framing it as anti-police already puts other talking points at an incredible disadvantage from the [start]. He is ultimately not pushing for a both-sides conversation but a fully robust, in depth and nuanced conversation. He said he is an active and firm believer that art makes a difference in the world. His only push here is to think about this as a complex engagement that gets beyond pro- and anti- police to think about other possibilities that may be here as well.

Patrick Duffy described his experience with Torrey Russell stating anything he touches will be relatable, relevant, and will capture whatever is really necessary to be able to drive everyone on this call forward. The most important thing is to talk to Torrey and that will aid this conversation in an immense fashion.

Mark Salinas recommended that Jovan make a shortlist for Michelle, recommending a few organizations, references and some of those connections that might make this a healthy conversation where one can feel their authentic selves.

Jovan Johnson stated he had no problem dropping an email with names of organizations that he thought could be helpful. if Michelle and he could talk about whatever options there are to add other names to the list even the agency chooses not to use them for whatever reason. He has no problem lending expertise there.

Tony Manfredi stated the intent is to have the conversations be robust and thoughtful and taking into account each individual's perspective. He encouraged every board member to attend the performances if able. He reminded them that this is not the Nevada Arts Council's program only that they are a funder for it and not driving the detail behind it. He stated sending names to him would be great if they have some suggestions of those who would be beneficial to be there and attend the meeting. He suggested to Jovan that he and Torrey find some time to connect so both could meet each other and understand a little bit more specifically about what Torrey's take is [for the performance].

Chair Schefcik asked what the grant amount was.

Tony Manfredi stated it was \$45,000. The intent of the pilot project was to take the funding challenge off of the organization so that they could get this program going right away, utilizing funding efficiently and effectively. He continued that the agency has funding that, if it is not used, will have to be returned. It is a combination of NEA and State funds. He stated that in the future, the agency would not be able to award this grant amount and [the program] would require an organization to match any amount.

## **APPROVED**

Andy Lott stated there are parts of the state that would struggle to find access to something like this and was wondering why they aren't trying to build in some infrastructure to get into those less accessible places.

Tony Manfredi stated that Nevada's smaller rural communities think and act uniquely. He described that Michelle has done tremendous work in reaching out many smaller communities to offer the performance and there is hesitancy in some of these communities to bring a topic like this into their respective area. His hope is that if they could bring it in to these areas it would help open up even better dialogue. The idea is to get as much information on this pilot initiative as they can.

Andy Lott stated his fear was, if they're not able to access those communities with \$45,000, how then is an organization supposed to do it with less money.

Tony Manfredi stated that's a question that they will have to determine and see. It depends on the type of production. Frankly, it may end up that it's just not feasible. It could be one of the challenges with the difference between a performing arts organization touring and a visual arts touring exhibition.

Gail Rappa stated she thought that after the pilot project is complete, there is a likelihood of partnering with other organizations. After having seen the success of the pilot project, hopefully, they then will be able to provide the space. The fact that the arts council is putting forth so much of that expense right now, I don't think that would be the case going forward if it was an implemented project. That's my understanding.

Tony Manfredi stated that was correct.

Jerry Schefcik thanked all for their substantive comments on this topic.

### **E. For Possible Action – FY 23 Grant Offerings Opening January 2022**

1. Review OPERATING SUPPORT GRANT (1 YEAR) – T. Manfredi, S. Scott, M. Patrick

Sierra Scott stated the operating support grant is usually a two-year grant. In FY '22, instead of re-opening it, the board approved renewing the current offerings for grantees to go for another two-year cycle due to capacity issues and COVID-19. She stated that the agency is currently in the middle of that two-year cycle and that there are a fair amount of arts organizations who are not currently recipients of these existing awards that would be eligible for this grant. The impetus for creating this one-year grant was to allow those arts organizations to apply for operating support before this full two-year cycle is over. This is a one-

## **APPROVED**

year unique opportunity for arts non-profit organizations to join this grant cohort. It wouldn't affect the existing 49 arts organizations that are currently part of the operating support grant cohort. She estimated that between 20 and 30 applicants might apply for this for FY '23 and then the agency will open the regular two-year cycle operating support grants in FY '24. She explained the changes that have occurred to this grant. The first is the requirement for the UEI number from the federal government. This will be a challenge for all grant applicants [across the country] in regard to making sure the information gets out. There will be webinars in January about this change. The second change she described is that the agency's level one [funding range] used to be \$30,000 to \$99,999. With the CARES Act grant, the agency presented and board approved to bring that amount down to \$10,000 to better serve smaller organizations. Sierra described that the same amount would be used in this grant. She described a third change that was made across all grants in the community impact and artistic merit section around inclusion, diversity, equity, accessibility. They added the language, "demonstrates an authentic and collaborative commitment." This is meant to help applicants and panelists be better able to answer and qualify that question. The community arts development program has a fantastic IDEA page on the council's website that they will direct people to if they have questions.

Claire Munoz appreciated the authentic and collaborative commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility and asked when they would know the application open and deadline dates.

Sierra Scott stated no later than January 3rd. She stated that most of this year's grants will open in February and March, and they will close in April and then most panels will be in May and June.

Claire Munoz stated this is an incredibly meaningful grant. Operations support is the hardest thing to get funding for. It's the least attractive to funders who want their names out there.

Tony Manfredi stated this is the agency's flagship grant program and they know that operating support grants are hard to come by and really critical.

### **2. Possible vote to accept Operating Support Grant – Manfredi**

Chair Schefcik asked if there was a motion to approve. Claire Munoz motioned to approve, and Yale Yeandel seconded the motion. There was unanimous consent from all board members present and the vote passed to approve the Operating Support Grant.

### **3. Review PROJECT GRANT FOR ORGANIZATIONS – T. Manfredi, S. Scott, M. Patrick**

Sierra Scott stated that this is one of the agency's regular annual grants. She described that the main change is that the grant amount has been raised to from

## **APPROVED**

**\$5,000 to \$7,000. The goal of this grant is to support arts and culture activities of organizations and public institutions. This can be from non-arts organizations doing arts and cultural activities. She described that the agency is now making the application questions available before the application is open so applicants may click on a link and better prepare to answer the required questions.**

**Gail Rappa asked what will not be funded on page two. She felt it needed to be a more clear.**

**Sierra Scott stated was something they can adjust and since the formatting for all grant guidelines are similar, they may be able to implement this adjustment across all grants. She stated something else the board may have noticed was the color coding for the grants as they are connected to their respective program areas. This year all grants also have primary contacts from our program areas. The color of this document is orange to match our CAD colors and Michelle Patrick and Erica Hill are the point persons for this grant since it serves constituents in their program area.**

- 4. Possible vote to accept Project Grant for Organizations – Jerry Schefcik**

**Chair Schefcik asked if there was a motion to approve. Claire Munoz motioned to approve with the clarification noted in discussion, and Gail Rappa seconded the motion. There was unanimous consent from all board members present and the vote passed to approve the Project Grant for Organizations with the recommended clarification.**

- 5. Review ARTS LEARNING PROJECT GRANT – T. Manfredi, S. Scott, M. Dorofachuk**

**Sierra Scott stated that this grant is open to PreK-12 and lifelong learning. They adjusted language to include in-person or online and virtual. Grant amount has been increased to \$7,000. The match this year can be cash or in-kind. Usually, this grant has only allowed up to 50 percent in-kind, but the agency has been looking at improving equitable grantmaking practices and the cash match can be a barrier. Allowing folks to use volunteer hours and in-kind to match is one way to remedy inequitable practices. She continued that the grant is open to organizations and public institutions. This year the agency clarified the specific use of grant funds based on historical applications that Maryjane and the Arts Learning Program have seen.**

**Chair Schefcik asked if the thousand [dollars] for equipment, relevant to the project, was lease or rent or to purchase.**

**Sierra Scott responded it was for purchase. If the use was meant for rentals, then her recommendation was that it would go into materials and supplies.**

## **APPROVED**

### **6. Possible vote to accept Arts Learning Project Grant – Jerry Schefcik**

Chair Schefcik asked if there was a motion to approve. Claire Munoz motioned to approve and Javon Johnson seconded the motion. There was unanimous consent from all board members present and the vote passed to approve the FY 23 Arts Learning Project Grant.

### **7. Review ARTS LEARNING EXPRESS GRANT – T. Manfredi, S. Scott, M. Dorofachuk**

Sierra Scott stated that this grant supports short term teaching artist residencies. The grant is an internal review so it's open throughout the year and reviewed internally through the grants department and then through the arts learning department as well. These funds are divided into two 6-month grant cycles so funding is also available in January through June for activities throughout the year. The grant is open to nonprofit organizations and public institutions who could bring in any teaching artist including teaching artists on the [Nevada Arts Council] roster. It is also open to individual teaching artists who are on the roster. This project must be an active hands-on educational experience. This will be the first opportunity for the newest members of the roster to come in for a grant.

### **8. Possible vote to accept Arts Learning Express Grant – Jerry Schefcik**

Chair Schefcik asked if there was a motion to approve. Claire Munoz motioned to approve, and Andy Lott seconded the motion. There was unanimous consent from all board members present and the vote passed to approve the FY 23 Arts Learning Express Grant.

### **9. Review FOLKLIFE COMMUNITY GRANT – T. Manfredi, S. Scott, R. Snetselaar**

Sierra Scott stated this is another internally reviewed grant for FY 23. The grant amount has been raised from \$1,500 to \$3,000. This is open to 501(c)(3) organizations with budgets of \$30,000 or less. This is for festivals, cultural events, concerts, other gatherings that bring traditional artists, cultural specialists, and communities together. For all folklife grants, the agency requires applicants to meet with Folklife staff before they apply.

Claire Munoz asked how much funding there is to support the folklife community grants.

Tony Manfredi stated they don't have a determination of that yet. He described that they look at their fiscal year 23 budget, incorporate adjustments based upon their NEA grant, and then determine the exact amount of funding is available for each grant category. He will then share that with the board.



## **APPROVED**

Claire Munoz stated this grant is slated for small organizations with annual budgets of \$30,000 or less. She asked if that is prohibitive to organizations or does the agency feel like that supports more access. She said if they're able to produce a festival or a concert then their budget might be higher than \$30,000 and it might exclude some people.

Sierra Scott stated this grant has had different names over the years. Folklife Opportunity Grant, Folklife Education Initiative Grant, but now this grant serves to reach out to the small cultural organizations that would struggle to be able to do a project grant. She continued that the agency has had success over the years in working with some of the smaller community organizations through this grant and then supporting and encouraging them to [later] apply into the project or the operational grant category. It's a non-competitive grant. The council has also opened this back up to accepting an applicant through a fiscal agent. This gives applicants opportunity if they do not yet have 501 (c)(3) status. They can use a fiscal agent who can accept the funding and help distribute it.

Claire Munoz asked if the fiscal agent acts on behalf of the organization, does the fiscal agent's budget have to be under \$30,000.

Sierra Scott replied no.

Rebecca Snetselaar stated she always gives them the option. If the fiscal agent wanted to charge 10 percent of the grant, that's a reasonable charge. They could get \$300 to help to defray their costs for that administration. She encourage the board that if they know of these small cultural organizations, to reach out and let her know because she could do outreach [to them] with this grant.

### 10. **Possible vote** to accept Folklife Community Grant – Jerry Schefcik

Chair Schefcik asked if there was a motion to approve. Claire Munoz motioned to approve, and Andy Lott seconded the motion. There was unanimous consent from all board members present and the vote passed to approve the FY 23 Folklife Community Grant.

### 11. Review FOLKLIFE ARTIST GRANT – T. Manfredi, S. Scott, R. Snetselaar

Sierra Scott stated the amount for this grant has also been raised. The primary change on this grant is that it has gone from an internal staff review to a panel process.

Rebecca Snetselaar stated this is basically the old Folklife Apprenticeship Grant. The apprenticeship grants are the cornerstone of folk life programs in arts agencies nationwide in terms of funding for the past 20 or 30 years. It used to be a \$2,500 to \$3,500 grant. This was cut severely back in the last economic downturn, 2011, 2012 and the agency went to fewer grants in the category. They

## **APPROVED**

moved to a first come first serve basis because of the lesser amount. Rebecca stated that it's more challenging to get the apprenticeship projects to come in for a smaller grant. This proposed version gets this grant back up to where the agency was and in the same range as other western states. With a larger amount, the agency is going back to the panel process once a year, inviting people to come in for those six months to one-year projects. She continued that it may take a while to get back up to the previous number of applications. The agency is also going to stress that applicants can do a paper application and make sure they know that's an option.

Claire Munoz asked, as board members, are we able to encourage people to apply for this grant if we know individuals that would be qualified for this.

Rebecca Snetselaar replied yes. She stated that some people don't know what folklife is. Meeting with them gives her an opportunity to ask questions about the cultural community they belong to, and to find out more about the artist and their qualifications. She continued that if board members know somebody in the community, if they know a small organization, it gives her an opportunity to put them on her list for proactive outreach.

### **12. Possible vote to accept Folklife Artist Grant – Jerry Schefcik**

Chair Schefcik asked if there was a motion to approve. Claire Munoz motioned to approve, and Andy Lott seconded the motion. There was unanimous consent from all board members present and the vote passed to approve the FY 23 Folklife Artist Grant.

### **13. Review PROJECT GRANT FOR ARTISTS – T. Manfredi, S. Scott, S. Reid**

Sierra Scott stated this grant this past year in FY 22 was replaced by the American Rescue Plan Grant for Individual Artists since there was a large infusion of federal funding. She said for next year they are proposing going back to the Project Grant for Artists. This grant has two cycles of funding. The funding amount has been raised from \$1,500 to \$3,000. This is a competitive grant with a panel review. There is no match requirement. This is going to be managed by the Artist Services Program, which can work with all artists on this opportunity. Sierra continued that this grant includes funding for exhibitions and performances, but also for the creation of art. She said that some language was tightened up for clarity. She said that with the recent, non-competitive, Artist Relief Grant and American Rescue Plan Grant for Individual Artists, the agency received applications from new artists who hadn't applied before. They realized there is an opportunity for more artists to apply and that they will work to transition them into this grant.

### **14. Possible vote to accept Project Grant for Artists – Jerry Schefcik**

## **APPROVED**

Chair Schefcik asked if there was a motion to approve. Claire Munoz motioned to approve, and Andy Lott seconded the motion. There was unanimous consent from all board members present and the vote passed to approve the FY 23 Project Grant for Artists.

Deputy Attorney General Harry Ward made one clarification for those that may be listening without having the agenda in front of them. He stated for the record under agenda item E, 1 through 14, all items were completed and that the odd numbers were the listing, and the even numbers were to inform of possible vote. For example, number one, review operating support and number two, is possible vote on that operating support grant.

Chair Schefcik thank Deputy Attorney General Harry Ward for that clarification.

### **F. Discussion Only – FY 23 Grant Offerings June/July Opening**

1. NEVADA HERITAGE FELLOWSHIP, ARTIST FELLOWSHIP GRANT, TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY (BRX INITIATIVE) – T. Manfredi

Tony Manfredi said they are working on the grants listed in this item for a June and July opening. These include the Nevada Heritage Fellowship, The Artist Fellowship Grant for visual artists for fiscal year 23. He stated that the agency will get these guidelines to the board in advance of an upcoming board meeting for review and approval.

### **G. Discussion Only – Agency Updates**

1. Arts Council Program Area and Staffing Updates – T. Manfredi

Tony Manfredi said he and Stephen are finalizing interviews for the artist services specialist position. They have their last interview today at 4:00. They had 18 applications for this position and narrowed that down to five interviews. He expects it to take anywhere from three to four weeks for that person to begin. He said that Stephen has been coordinating the panels for the performing artists and literary fellowship reviews. Those panels take place January 11th and 12th. He stated that they will reach out to board members to be panel chairs soon.

He described that Sierra and Krista will be posting the grant guidelines that were just approved and get those opened and the applications ready to go.

Tony said that Maryjane has been doing great work around our creative aging initiative and training that will begin in January. Poetry Out Loud, the national competition has decided to go virtual again so the council is too. The state finals will be in early March.

He said Michelle and Erica are continuing planning for the 2021 BRX. Preliminary applications for the 2020 participants are open. All other applications will open on

# APPROVED

December 27th. The convening is scheduled for April 18th through 20th in Tonopah. The Basin to Range Exchange has been one of the most popular programs for the agency.

Tony said that Tiffany, Cathleen, and Rhonda are spending their time with the administrative functions of the organization.

Manfredi stated that he was grateful for the staff. He stated that they are doing amazing work on behalf of the agency, the state and representing you all so well. He said it has been a remarkable time for the agency over the past year and that the staff deserve credit and thanks. He said he is grateful for them and excited about the team moving forward. He concluded by thanking the board for their support

Chair Schefcik congratulated the staff and extended his appreciation to each of them.

## H. Discussion Only – Future Agenda Items

1. Grant Metrics Discussion to be scheduled during future meeting.
2. Request other future agenda items.

Andy Lott stated he would love if Broadway in the Hood would come in and offer a presentation about their project that they're working on. He thought it would be nice if they could ask questions about their process so that they have a better understanding in the future if we're going to continue with the program.

Chair Schefcik asked Tony if that could be worked out.

Tony Manfredi stated they can communicate with Torrey from Broadway in the Hood on a presentation at a time that works best for everyone. We have it added on as a future agenda item.

Chair Schefcik stated he thought it's worth the board's time to make the effort to go and see some of the things that the Arts Council funds and then reporting back to the board. He said that their presence helps to validate what the agency is doing.

## I. Public Comment

1. 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

## **APPROVED**

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.

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

**There was no public comment.**

### **J. For Possible Action – Adjournment**

**Chair Schefcik adjourned the meeting.**