

**APPROVED**



**Nevada Arts Council**

**Board Meeting**

Friday, October 22, 2021 – 12:00 PM

**MEETING LOCATION:**

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

**Websites:**

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

<https://notice.nv.gov>

**BOARD MEMBERS**

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

**STAFF:**

Tony Manfredi  
Rhonda Pena  
Michelle Patrick  
Sierra Scott  
Krista Ficken  
Rebecca Snetselaar  
Stephen Reid

**MEETING MINUTES**

**A. Opening**

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

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

**Executive Director, Tony Manfredi, responded that the meeting is in compliance and has been properly posted.**

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

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

**Present:**

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

**Nevada Art Council staff in attendance were introduced – Tony Manfredi, Rhonda Pena, Michelle Patrick, Krista Ficken, Sierra Scott, Rebecca Snetselaar.**

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

- a. Approval of Board Minutes – Gail Rappa

**There were no questions or corrections. There was unanimous consent from all board members with the exception of Claire Munoz who was unable to vote. The vote passed to approve the minutes for March 26, 2021.**

## **D. For Possible Action – Executive Committee Elections**

**Tony Manfredi shared the executive committee slates on screen and stated this was for a two-year term for chair, vice-chair and treasurer, beginning November 1, 2021 to October 31, 2023.**

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- a. Present Chair Candidates – Tony Manfredi, Gail Rappa

**On the presented slate, Jerry Schefcik was the only member to submit his name to serve in the chair position. Gail Rappa called for a motion. Mark Salinas made a motion to nominate Jerry Schefcik. Claire Munoz seconded.**

- b. **Possible vote** to select Nevada Arts Council Board Chair – Gail Rappa

**Chair Rappa moved forward with conducting a vote. There was unanimous consent from all board members and the vote passed to approve Jerry Schefcik as Nevada Arts Council Board Chair.**

- c. Present Vice-Chair Candidates – Tony Manfredi, Gail Rappa

**On the presented slate, Mark Salinas and Claire Muñoz submitted their names to serve in the vice-chair position. Mark Salinas and Claire Munoz each gave a brief personal background.**

- d. **Possible vote** to select Nevada Arts Council Board Vice-Chair – Gail Rappa

**Chair Rappa asked each board member to state who they were voting for. Voting for Mark Salinas were Andy Lott, Mark Salinas, Javon Johnson, Melissa Melero-Moose. Voting for Claire Munoz were Jerry Schefcik, Patrick Duffy, Yale Yeandel, Claire Munoz.**

**Chair Rappa broke the tie and voted for Claire Munoz. She moved forward with requesting a motion to approve Claire Munoz as Nevada Arts Council Board Vice-Chair. Mark Salinas made a motion and Patrick Duffy seconded. The vote passed unanimously.**

- e. Present Treasurer Candidates – Tony Manfredi, Gail Rappa

**On the presented slate, Andy Lott was the only member to submit his name to serve in treasurer position. Gail Rappa called for a motion. Jerry Schefcik nominated Andy Lott for treasurer. Mark Salinas seconded.**

- f. **Possible vote** to select Nevada Arts Council Board Treasurer – Gail Rappa

**Chair Rappa moved forward with conducting a vote to appoint Andy Lott as Nevada Arts Council Board Treasurer. The vote passed unanimously.**

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## E. Discussion Only – Agency Updates

### a. Staffing Updates – Tony Manfredi

**Tony Manfredi stated there were five strong candidates for the CAD position for northern Nevada, who will be interviewed in the next two weeks and the hope is to introduce them at the next board meeting. He stated the artist services position is open statewide and they are pooling all resumes and applications for possible interviews for that position.**

### b. Creative Aging Update – Tony Manfredi

**Tony Manfredi stated yesterday the Interim Finance Committee approved the acceptance of the \$23,000 grant from NASAA and Ahorha Philanthropies for the creative aging initiative, which will be utilized to provide professional development training throughout the state that creates opportunities for seniors to benefit from meaningful creative expression through the arts. This work addresses one of the focus areas of the Nevada Arts Council strategic plan of building healthy communities through collaborating with health care providers and partners to increase and support the understanding, value, and use of the arts in healing, quality of life initiatives and wellbeing, and the creative aging of Nevada's residents. He thanked Rebecca Snetselaar for taking the lead in this initiative.**

**Chair Rappa asked how old the participants have to be. Rebecca Snetselaar stated 55 plus.**

### c. Arts Council Program Area Updates – Tony Manfredi

**Tony Manfredi provided an update on the state poet laureate program stating that Stephen Reid and Gailmarie Pahmeier are currently planning and coordinating schedules and events. Gailmarie is retiring from teaching at UNR after 36 years. When she finishes her last semester, the agency will launch the program beginning in January. Stephen is also coordinating the Artist Fellowship Grants for performing and literary artists that will be paneled in January. Those panel scores will be brought forward to the board.**

**Manfredi continued with an Arts Learning update informing the board that Maryjane has launched the Nevada Poetry Out Loud 2022 program. Registration is open now for teachers and students. It will be open until December. The agency is currently planning a live competition in March, in Reno, at the Pioneer Center for Performing Arts. Maryjane is also coordinating meetings with members from the Nevada Department of Education and Bob Morrison from Quadrant Research on data collection for the arts education data project. They will be**

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reconvening in January to take a look at some of this data. Manfredi stated one of the objectives that he is passionate about bringing forward into the next legislative session is K-12 credit requirements in the arts field for graduation.

Manfredi continued with a Community Arts Development update. He stated that Michelle Patrick facilitated an IDEA session for Washoe County on October 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> and seven people attended. The first day focused on inclusion diversity and equity primarily, and the second day focused on accessibility. He stated they have sent out a survey to the participants asking for their feedback.

Tony Manfredi stated Michelle is also now focused on the Basin to Range Exchange program, where state arts leaders from across the state convene in Tonopah for a couple days in April.

He stated that Michelle and Stephen are also working in tandem on a pilot program for a performing arts touring initiative. This is a pilot program that will test the viability of offering a performing arts touring addition to the NTI program.

From Folklife, Rebecca Snetselaar has been working with the Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas to exhibit Find Your Folklife. The exhibit is currently the featured exhibit at the museum. She's also been working with Sarah Hume from the museum and they've created English and Spanish websites that highlight the exhibit. Manfredi stated there are also Q.R. codes in place at the physical exhibit at the museum and they link to the Spanish pages for inclusion.

Manfredi continued that the Grants team, Sierra Scott and Krista Ficken, have been reviewing and processing grant applications at a furious pace. They have also begun strategy sessions with staff for Fiscal Year 23 grant offerings.

From the admin side, Rhonda Pena has been instrumental in helping staff with their needs, and she has been particularly helpful in getting the Carson City office organized.

### **F. Discussion Only – Board Chair Updates**

Chair Rappa read a statement she had prepared.

“When I stepped into the chair position in 2019 I hoped that my role might help Nevada’s rural communities have a voice at the table in discussions about the arts around our state. In March 2020 the *rurals did* become more part of the conversation- but not the way any of us imagined.

For the last two years I had the privilege to watch first-hand the Nevada Arts Council shift gears to be as responsive as possible to the dramatic impact the

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state-wide shutdown had on the arts in Nevada. This while the state hiring freeze and budget cuts left this state agency operating with a staff reduced from thirteen to eight. Agency spending shifted to “essential and emergency” amidst the unknown status of the near non-existent venue from live entertainment tax and tourism.

Through it all, I watched Executive Director, Tony Manfredi and the Nevada Arts Council staff do an amazing job.

When the *Cares Act* funding came through, money was distributed quickly and efficiently. In July 2020 the Nevada Arts Council issued \$392,250 in federal funds to 79 arts organizations. Throughout the shut-down and beyond the agency ran virtual "State of the Arts" and "We Are Listening" sessions to gather feedback about programs and policies, to assess the needs of Nevadans, and to investigate the state of the arts in Nevada's communities. The agency used that feedback to be even more responsive, with more emergency relief funding going towards the newly created Artist Relief Grant and Virtual Mini Lesson Grant. Amidst the pandemic, the staff, with the support of NAC Board, were able to reboot the governor-appointed *Nevada State Poet Laureate* position, integrating it into the Nevada Arts Council and creating a program that will be much more than just a title.

My time as chair taught me so much about the agency and the fantastic programs it supports and makes me prouder than ever to serve as a Nevada Arts Council Board member. I am grateful to have been able to work with my fellow board members who generously share their time and expertise to support the agency and arts throughout Nevada. I hope we can all safely meet again in person soon, some of us for the first time. In the meantime, I feel confident that no matter what challenges arise, Tony and the dedicated staff at the Nevada Arts Council will face it with clarity and care for the arts all over Nevada. So, thank you guys. I wish Harry was here so I could thank him for his patience with me and my lack of Robert's rules expertise.”

### **G. Discussion Only – Future Agenda Items**

- a. Grant Metrics Discussion to be scheduled during future meeting

Tony Manfredi stated they would add the grant metrics discussion to a future board meeting. He stated if there were other items, they could let him know right now or send an e-mail.

### **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.

**Tony Manfredi stated he had personal comments to provide.**

**“Thank you, Gail. I am so grateful to you for your guidance and leadership. In your roll as chair and board member, you have consistently been a tremendous advocate for the agency keeping it top of mind and helping to establish great partnerships and connections. During this past two years, I have been fortunate that you have been in the chair role. You have been a trusted guide in helping me navigate the uncharted waters of the pandemic. You have the wonderful ability to kindly and understandingly - push for progress. I am a better thanks to you and the Nevada Arts Council is better because of your service as chair. Thank you again.”**

**Patrick Duffy provided personal comments.**

**“Gail, I don’t know you personally other than this little square that I’ve seen you in. And might I say you really resonate beautifully in that square. But more importantly, it’s very easy for me to see the manner in which you have held your position with incredible dignity, objectivity, transparency, and you bring an authentic and beautiful manner to Nevada, and certainly, through to Nevada given the Nevada Arts Council. So, for the brief time that we have had the pleasure, I look forward to the future of meeting you in person, giving you a hug when everything is fine, but more importantly until then, thank you very much for your contribution.”**

**Jerry Schefcik provided personal comments.**

**“I’d like echo what Tony said. It really was an unprecedented time that you served as chair and it really was a pleasure to be here with you. So, I thank you for your service. And hope to follow in your footsteps. Thank you.”**

**Gail Rappa thanked all for the comments.**

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There was no other public comment.

## I. For Possible Action – Adjournment

Chair Rappa adjourned the meeting for her final time as chair.