



**Nevada Arts Council  
Board Meeting**

Tuesday, October 27, 2020 – 2:00 PM

**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  
Andy Lott  
Mark Salinas  
Yale Yeandel

**Deputy Attorney General**

Harry Ward

**STAFF:**

Tony Manfredi  
Stephen Reid  
Cathleen J. Wyatt  
Sierra Scott  
Rebecca Snetselaar

**GUESTS**

Tia Flores

## MEETING MINUTES

### A. Opening

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

Chair Rappa called the meeting to order at 2:08 and confirmed proper posting.

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

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. **For Possible Action** – Review, Discuss, and Approve FY 21 Artist Grants

- a. Review of Nevada Arts Council FY 21 Artist Relief Grants funding intent, timeline, and statute requirements.

Tony Manfredi reviewed and discussed the budget reductions to date in the amount around \$796,000. We really were unable to move forward with our previously approved FY 21 grant programs. Tony read a note they received from Joshua Abbey, a past NAC board member:

Dear Tony and Sierra,

Thank you for your clarification during this morning's "Public Comment" PETS Grant orientation Zoom meeting explaining the decision-making process regarding the NAC 2020/2021 budget cuts more adversely impacting smaller budget Project Grant applicants rather than the 2-year larger budget Project Grants applicants that received their grants.

During the 2020/2021 NAC Project Grants Orientation (which I understand was recorded) I specifically asked if there was a possibility that in light of the then pending emergency NV Legislature COVID related budget session, there was a possibility that there might not be any funding for the 2020/2021 NAC Project Grants. Everyone at the orientation was reassured during the online session, that although there would likely be drastic State budget reductions the NAC would do everything possible to insure that some amount of funding would be provided to all grant applicants who met the standard requirements for funding.

Can you please explain why there was no NAC "Public Comment" opportunity to receive input from the established NAC grantee community and other stake holders to help contribute to the conversation about this decision that has adversely impacted smaller budget arts organizations who are more vulnerable to surviving the COVID crisis than larger budget arts organizations that have well established more diverse funding resources?

Thank you for your response.

Best Regards,  
Josh

Tony answered that the agency went back and reviewed the meeting that Josh referenced, and it was a CARES Act webinar on 5/27/202 and that Josh asked the question in the Chat function:

From Joshua Abbey : Is there a possibility that there may be no NAC funding for 2021?"

Tony stated that he answered the question in the meeting as Josh stated and that the answer was based upon there being no NAC funding for 2021 - just as Josh stated. Tony then clarified that his response was not specific to any grant.

Tony continued that in multiple open meetings with the board, it was agreed to move forward with the approved obligations of the agency's two-year grants for ' Fiscal year 21 that included operational support grants, community impact grant and fellowship project grant,

because these had already been reviewed for eligibility, paneled, recommendations presented to and accepted by the board.

Many of the FY21 grants were submitted pre-covid or in the early stages of the pandemic and included projects for upcoming festivals and events that were either canceled, or in jeopardy of being canceled. With COVID, the timing and ability to panel these grants was going to have to be pushed back.

At this same time, the agency was determining CARES act funding capabilities. This funding had to go to arts organizations. The agency opened this funding to capture organizations whose annual revenue was lower than our operational funding grants to cast a wider net and provide an opportunity for smaller organizations who didn't meet NAC Operating Support Grant eligibility requirements.

Tony stated that given the budget reductions facing the agency, they could not fund the FY 21 grants in meaningful ways. This could impact the possibility of these projects occurring or would not provide the appropriate level of funding that's appropriate for the awards. He provided the example of the Artist Fellowship Awards as an example.

Tony described that most importantly the agency wanted to be responsive to the current environment. To that end, they conducted numerous virtual We Are Listening Sessions, State of the Arts Meetings, attended other statewide and national conversations, and conducted many staff meetings, and in all of those, artist relief was a hot topic of conversation. From the onset, the NAC was looking at ways that they could find relief funding for individual artists. Tony reminded the board that they are unable to fund non-project related grants with NEA funding so any artist relief funding would need to come from state revenue which was the revenue area that had the most significant reduction for the agency.

He then went on to introduce the discussion for the proposed fiscal year 21 Artist Relief Grant and the fiscal year 21 Virtual Mini-Lesson Grant. He informed the board that staff had made the adjustments as requested from the board based upon the discussions on this grant from the previous board meeting. Tony stated that the grants had been submitted for public review for the required 14-day time period and that the required workshop took place yesterday to go through both grants. The workshop lasted about 30-minute and there were community comments that will be shared. He then asked Sierra Scott to begin the review and discussion on the Artist Relief Grant.

- b. Review Nevada Arts Council FY 21 Artist Relief Grant public comments, discuss proposed grant, possible vote to approve grant.

Sierra Scott read the three community comments that were received on this grant.

**Eugene Shapiro (via email 10/9/20)**

FY21 Artist Relief Grant: It is an excellent idea, as artists really need support after the COVID-19 devastation! Thank you so much for coming up with this grant! The struggle is real for us in the world of Arts and pandemic made it even more challenging. I wish the grant was bigger, I think \$2000 would have been a more appropriate amount considering the needs of artists.

**Kat Galli (via email 10/12/20)**

I think it is fantastic that the Nevada Arts Council is actively reacting to the budget cuts and the way Covid has affected the arts industry. I believe it is a great choice to limit the grants to these very important relief grants as there has not been much financial help for the arts industry and artists unless they are established within a non-profit organization. I am glad you are ensuring that Nevada artists can continue to work.

**Dane Kronick (at Zoom meeting on 10/26/20)**

Bravo, I think this is a great idea and I think that particular vertical market has been missed by most all of the aid that's offered in Nevada. I know that independent contractors have had no success going through DETR and bravo, I think this is a good idea.

Karen Michaels asked how many artist relief grants the agency would be able to fund. Tony Manfredi stated they were still determining that amount. Sierra Scott stated the currently the agency has discussed approximately \$150,000 for artist relief and about \$41,450 for virtual mini-lesson grant.

Mark Salinas made a motion to approve the FY 21 artist relief grants as presented. Yale Yeandel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Andy Lott asked what the next steps are for this and when will it be available for people.

Tony Manfredi stated they must be posted for 90 days. They will then open the grant January 1 and close it towards the end of January.

Amanda Horn asked the reason for the delay in the timing.

Tony Manfred stated the timing duration is a requirement in state statutes and regulations.

- c. Review Nevada Arts Council FY 21 Virtual Mini-Lesson Grant public comments, discuss proposed grant, possible vote to approve grant.

Sierra Scott read the one comment from Eugene Shapiro.

**Eugene Shapiro (via email 10/9/20)**

FY21 Virtual Mini Lesson Grant: again, a fantastic idea that allows artists on the Artist Roster to engage in virtual teaching and virtual presentations while getting paid for it. Thank you for coming up with this grant! All of us, the teaching artists, want to continue inspiring Nevadans, young and old, by exposing them to arts. Again, I wish the grant was bigger and allowed each Artist to produce up to 4 mini lessons (\$2000).

Mark Salinas asked if those on the artist roster are eligible to receive the artist relief grant.

Tony Manfredi answered that they would be eligible.

Mark Salinas made a motion to approve the FY 21 virtual mini-lesson grant as presented. Amanda Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Tony Manfredi stated that there is not the same 90-day requirement on this grant. Sierra Scott stated this is a noncompetitive grant so there's not a deadline and that the agency will open this grant sooner.

- c. Review Nevada Arts Council FY21 Folklife Grant Funding.

Tony Manfredi stated they were continuing with the Folklife grants that were originally in place for FY21. They will determine the amount of funding available and then move forward with awarding those grants to eligible applicants.

**D. For Possible Action – Board Leadership Changes**

- a. Vice Chair Position – Gail Rappa, Tony Manfredi

Tony Manfredi reminded the board that Edward Estipona has resigned from the board and therefore the vice-chair position he held is open until June of 2021 and needs to be filled at this time.

Chair Rappa stated Jerry Schefcik has expressed interest in the chair position. Mark Salinas stated he would be interested in the position as well. Amanda Horn asked if they could hear from the two people that are interested in this. Mark Salinas and Jerry Schefcik gave brief explanations of why they were interested in serving. Tony Manfredi went over the duties of the vice chair.

Yale Yeandel made a motion to nominate Jerry as vice-chair. Jerry Schefcik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Amanda Horn made a motion to nominate Mark as vice-chair. Yale Yeandel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Rappa asked for those in favor of voting in Jerry as interim vice-chair. Jerry Schefcik, Karen Michael, and Yale Yeandel voted Yes. Mark Salinas, Andy Lott, and Amanda Horn voted no.

Chair Rappa stated she would break the tie and vote for Jerry. The motion passed to elect Jerry as the interim vice chair.

To close out the second motion, Gail took a vote on the motion to nominate Mark Salinas. Mark Salinas, Andy Lott and Amanda Horn voted yes. Jerry Schefcik, Karen Michaels, and Yale Yeandel voted no. To break the tie Gail voted no. The motion did not pass.

b. Treasurer Position – Gail Rappa, Tony Manfredi

Tony Manfredi stated that current treasure Karen Michaels' is in renewal process for the board. DAG Harry Ward advised that we table this item at this time.

Chair Rappa tabled the item.

**E. For Possible Action – Board Advocacy Items**

a. Letter to Governor Sisolak – Gail Rappa

Tony Manfredi stated the board previously agreed to craft a letter to the Governor about the effect to performing arts organizations due to in person restrictions on public gatherings and about including a Nevada Arts Council Board Member on the Governors' COVID Task Force. Restrictions on in-person gatherings were subsequently lifted and the Governor included funding for arts organizations in the PETS Grants. Given these changes, Tony stated that the agency would, over time, look to create another letter at an appropriate time and as needed and that the agency would send a link for board review, edit and input. No further action taken.

b. Cultural Alliance Nevada Presentation – History, Advocacy Updates – Gail Rappa, Tia Flores

Tia Flores gave a background of the Cultural Alliance Nevada (CAN) – an arts advocacy group in Nevada that supports the Nevada Arts Council during the Nevada legislative session. She stated in 2018, CAN launched a new website, social media account. They hosted Champions for the Arts Advocacy Day in May of 2017. They have Champions for the Arts Advocacy Day

scheduled Friday, March 12th from 8:00 to 12:00. Currently, with the support of WESTAF and Sierra Arts Foundation, they have hired a part-time UNR student who is interested in nonprofit organizations, to assist in building a digital database and infrastructure which they have not had in the past. Mark Salinas joined as a new board member. They have received funding from WESTAF to hire a lobbyist. They are working in partnership with Sierra Arts to host the Reno/Tahoe Airport statewide art exhibition and that will be up at the end of January and run through mid-April. Immediate goal for CAN is the RFP and the selection process for the lobbyist. After the election, they will be sending out an email to all elected officials with a survey and information on how arts impact our state and their districts. They are also in the process of developing a geographically diverse board and advisory committee.

Andy Lott asked who the biggest champions are and how many of them are carrying over into the next session.

Tia Flores stated they have strong support from Senator (Joyce) Woodhouse. Senator (Yvanna) Cancela and Senator (Julia) Ratti.

Andy Lott asked if there are any trends or BDRs we're trying to push through at this time or is it still up in the air.

Tia Flores stated it is still up in the air.

Amanda Horn stated she wanted to learn a little bit more about that RFP process for the lobbyist and what the timeframe is and what CAN is hoping to achieve.

Tia Flores responded that CAN would send the RFP to potential lobbyists, then she and Tony will meet and decide on the dates.

Gail thanked Tia for the presentation and support they are providing for the Nevada Arts Council.

## **F. Discussion Only – Board Membership**

- a. Board Member Term, Position, and Composition Updates – Gail Rappa, Tony Manfredi

Tony Manfredi went over the current board membership. He informed that board that Karen Michaels renewal is pending and that there are two open positions formally held by Edward Estipona and Ryrie Valdez. Tony stated that some board members have submitted prospective names to Gail and him and that he will put all these names onto a list and distribute to the board for review and input. He asked the board to rank this list. Gail will then reach out to top five and encourage them to apply. Tony has been in contact with Boards and



Commissions, and they are grateful for the agencies suggestions and efforts to diversify the Nevada Arts Council Board.

**G. Discussion Only – State Poet Laureate**

- a. Review and discuss state laureates – Tony Manfredi

Tony Manfredi provided some history about the state poet laureate and the agency’s vision and planning around this new initiative. They will continue this process, share plans with the board as they develop and move this forward working with the Governor in a selection process.

**H. Discussion Only – Agency Updates**

- a. Review National Endowment for the Arts Grant Submission – Tony Manfredi
- b. Review Nevada Arts Council Strategic Plan – Tony Manfredi

Tony Manfredi discussed the NEA submission and strategic plan. The agency will be continuing their strategic planning process with staff in the next few weeks. Its 3-year partnership grant review is currently under review. Tony thanked Rebecca (Snetselaar) for her assistance in helping write the grant, Sierra (Scott) for helping with administrative portions and MaryJane (Dorofachuk) who assisted with the Poetry Out Loud component.

- c. PETS Grant – Tony Manfredi

Tony Manfredi stated the PETS grants are CARES Act funding that came through the Nevada Governor’s Office of Economic Development. That have worked with GOED on some of the details that pertain to arts granting and conducted two webinars to help support the launch of the program. The process opened on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> and closed on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. They’re in the process of distributing the funding.

- d. Review of FY22 and FY23 Budget – Tony Manfredi

Tony Manfredi stated the agency is working with the Governor’s Finance Office on their FY22 and FY23 budget. Once this is finalized, the Governor’s Finance Office will submit the Governor’s recommended budget to the legislature and then they will review during the session.

- e. Review of Nevada Arts Council Board Members Advocacy Plans for 21 Session – Tony Manfredi

Tony Manfredi stated once the agency knows the recommended budget, that will help set the stage for the advocacy work from the board.

**I. Discussion Only – Board Member Updates**

Amanda Horn stated their education team at the Nevada Museum of Art brought the school tours program online and is now doing several virtual school tours with students from across Nevada. She said they are now seeing an uptick in their professional development offerings and are moving forward with the NV STEAM conference in early February. Registration will open in early December.

**J. Discussion Only – Future Agenda Items**

Tony Manfredi stated he did not have anything to add.

**K. 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.

**L. For Possible Action – Adjournment**

Chair Rappa adjourned the meeting.