

**New York State Council on the Arts
Council Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2019 3:45 PM – 4:45 PM
300 Park Avenue South, 10th Floor, New York, NY**

Present: Katherine Nicholls (Chair), Scott Eberle, Joan Hornig (joining via the WebEx video conferencing system (“WebEx”)), Janet Kagan, Jayne Keyes (WebEx), Hildy Kuryk (WebEx), Eric Latzky, Laudelina Martinez (WebEx) (Co-Chair Performing, Literary & Visual Arts Committee), Richard Mittenenthal (Co-Chair Multi-Disciplinary Arts Committee), Mahnaz Moinian, John Morning (Co-Chair Performing, Literary & Visual Arts Committee), Hal Payne (WebEx), Deborah Ronnen (WebEx).

Quorum present: Yes

Others in attendance:

Mara Manus, Executive Director
Megan White, Deputy Director of Programs
Abigail Young, Deputy Director of Operations and General Counsel

Meeting called to order by Chair Katherine Nicholls at approximately 3:45 PM.

CHAIR’S WELCOME

KATHERINE NICHOLLS: Good afternoon and welcome to the December Council meeting for the New York State Council on the Arts. I am Katherine Nicholls, Chair of the New York State Council on the Arts. Thank you all for joining us. To remind all in attendance: this is a public meeting that is being recorded.

Thank you to our Council Members joining us via video conference and for those of you who traveled to join today us in-person.

We would like to underscore the importance of your attendance at each and all our meetings. As you know, in order to conduct business vital to the agency’s operations and mission, we must have a quorum in attendance.

At today’s meeting, we will review and vote on the Committee funding recommendations for three NYSCA Programs: Individual Artists, Presenting, and the Regional Economic Development Initiatives and Capital Fund (REDC). We will also review one application from the State and Local Partnerships Program, and three applications from the September 2019 Council meeting.

For FY2020, NYSCA received 1,769 applications (including REDC) in addition to 830 existing multi-year contracts from prior year awards. The programs we will be voting on today represent 20.7% grantmaking budget and 37.6% of the Fiscal Year 2020 applicant pool.

PERFORMING, LITERARY & VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

KATHERINE NICHOLLS: The Council will now review and vote on the Performing, Literary, and Visual Arts Committee grant recommendations for Fiscal Year 2020. Performing, Literary & Visual Arts co-chair, John Morning, and NYSCA's Deputy Director of Programs Megan White will review the committee's recommendations.

JOHN MORNING: Thank you Katherine. At this point, I would like to welcome Megan White, NYSCA's Deputy Director of Programs.

MEGAN WHITE: Three requests were presented in this committee meeting, none were recommended for funding. These requests were: Museum (#30); Visual Arts (#21 and #54).

The Council had an opportunity to ask questions.

JOHN MORNING: That concludes the report for the Performing, Literary, and Visual Arts Committee.

Chair Katherine Nicholls then calls upon Deputy Director of Programs Megan White to read any conflicts for the vote on the Committee funding recommendations programs and reminds the Council that those members cited as having a conflict will be deemed to be recused on their vote with respect to the applicable applications from the cited organization. Deputy Director of Programs Megan White states there are no recusals to report. Katherine Nicholls requests the Council to confirm there are no recusals and no recusals are reported.

At the request of Chair Katherine Nicholls, a motion of the Council to approve the Committee funding recommendations is made and seconded. The motion to approve the Committee funding recommendations carries unanimously with the Council members in the room and on WebEx with no oppositions or abstentions.

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY ARTS COMMITTEE GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

KATHERINE NICHOLLS: The Council will now review and vote on the Multi-Disciplinary Arts Committee grant recommendations for Fiscal Year 2020.

Multi-Disciplinary Arts Committee co-chair, Richard Mittenenthal, and Megan White, NYSCA's Deputy Director of Programs, will review the committee's recommendations.

RICHARD MITTENTHAL: Thank you, Katherine. The Multi-Disciplinary Arts Committee reviewed 667 requests in the Individual Artists, Presenting, State and Local Partnerships, and Regional

Economic Development categories; 303 of these have been recommended for funding for a total dollar amount of \$9,044,900.

Individual Artists

The Individual Artists panel reviewed 232 requests. Funding is being recommended for 108 organizations for a total dollar amount of \$1,345,900.

Individual Artists (IND) offers support for the creation of new work by New York State artists through artist-initiated projects in electronic media (video, sound art, installations, and new technologies) and film production, and the creation of new work by composers, choreographers and theatre artists. Artists at various career stages are welcome to apply. Funding Categories include Composer, Dance, Theatre Artist and Film, Media and New Technology Production.

The Council reviewed a video sample of *Kids Can Spit* by Chelsi Bullard, a grantee artist.

Presenting

The Presenting panel reviewed 64 applications, recommending 35 applications for funding for a total dollar amount of \$508,000. The Presenting Program develops, nurtures, and strengthens presenters of live professional performing arts inclusive of works that explore multiple disciplines and arts forms, boundaries between art disciplines, and new forms of expression. Categories include General Operating Support, Project Support – Presenting, Services to the Field, Re-grants and Partnerships

Highly rated applicants include City Parks Foundation for their 2020 Summerstage Citywide festival; The Media Alliance in Rensselaer county for their project Upstate Freedom Sounds; and The Upper Jay Arts Center in Essex County; offering concert series to residents in the Adirondack hamlet of Upper Jay and its surroundings.

State and Local Partnerships

The State and Local Partnerships program request totals \$81,000 dollars. This request will facilitate the delivery of important training and information to a significant number of organizations and their administrative staff across the state.

Regional Economic Development (or REDC)

In REDC 50 requests were reviewed by panel in Mid-Size Capital Fund of which 17 were funded for a total dollar amount of \$2,110,000; and 319 requests were reviewed in Initiatives of which 142 were funded for a total dollar amount of \$5,000,000.

The Council had an opportunity to ask questions.

Chair Katherine Nicholls then calls upon Deputy Director of Programs Megan White to read any conflicts for the vote on the Multi-Disciplinary Arts Committee funding recommendations for the Individual Artists, Presenting, REDC and State and Local Partnerships programs and reminds the Council that those members cited as having a conflict will be deemed to be recused on their vote with respect to the applicable applications from the cited organization. Deputy Director of Programs Megan White then reads the conflicts:

Individual Artists	Arts Services Initiative of Western NY, Inc.	Hal D. Payne
Individual Artists	Henry Street Settlement	John Morning
Individual Artists	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Laudelina Martinez
Individual Artists	Women's Project & Productions Inc	Janet Kagan
Presenting	Carnegie Hall Corporation	Mahnaz Moinian
Presenting	Carnegie Hall Corporation	John Morning
Presenting	Henry Street Settlement	John Morning
Presenting	The Symphony Space, Inc.	Richard Mittenthal
Regional Economic Development	Manhattan Theatre Club, Inc.	Hildy Kuryk
Regional Economic Development	Museum of Arts and Design	Joan Hornig
Regional Economic Development	New York City Center, Inc.	Laura Aswad
Regional Economic Development	Saratoga Performing Arts Ctr	Jayne Keyes
Regional Economic Development	The Jewish Museum	Mahnaz Moinian
Regional Economic Development	The Vivian Beaumont Theater, Inc.	John Morning

At the request of Chair Katherine Nicholls, a motion of the Council to approve the Committee funding recommendations for the Individual Artists, Presenting, REDC and State and Local Partnerships programs is made and seconded. The motion to approve the Committee funding recommendations for the Individual Artists, Presenting, REDC and State and Local Partnerships programs carries unanimously with the Council members in the room and on WebEx with no oppositions or abstentions.

KATHERINE NICHOLLS: Thank you, panelists, staff, leadership, and Council, for your ongoing service and commitment to NYSCA. Today in doing our civic duty, we have worked to ensure that all state residents receive the benefits of the arts, including communities that need it the most.

I would like to take this opportunity to announce that our next Council Meeting will be held the last week of February 2020. At this meeting we will vote on panelist recommendations and the FY20 Appeals, then review the multi-year grant recommendations. We expect the meeting to run only about 2 hours, so we encourage any Council Members who typically travel from upstate to join the meeting via WebEx. The executive team is also finalizing our FY20 calendar, which will include the Council Meeting dates. Please expect the calendar the first week of January.

Thank you all for a wonderful and exciting year.

At the request of Chair Katherine Nicholls, a motion of the Council to adjourn is also made and seconded. The motion to adjourn carries unanimously with the Council members in the room and on WebEx with no oppositions or abstentions. The Chair mentioned that council members were welcome to remain for a presentation by the Preservation League of New York State by WebEx.

Meeting adjourns at approximately 4:45 pm.
