



(Public Committee Meeting Minutes: June 21, 2017)

300 Park Avenue South, New York, NY

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Council Members:

Present: Dr. Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel, Estrellita Brodsky, Jaynne C. Keyes, Eric Latzky, John F. Morning, Katherine Nicholls, Rita Paniagua, Hal D. Payne and Deborah Ronnen

VIA WEBEX: Laura Aswad, Laudelina Martinez and Elsie McCabe Thompson

Absent: Amy Cappellazzo, Richard Mittenenthal and Dr. Marta Moreno Vega

Quorum present? Yes

Others Present:

Exec. Director: Mara Manus

Other: Deputy Executive Director of Agency Operations, Petra Maxwell; Deputy Executive Director of Programs, Megan White; Director of Public Information, Ronni Reich

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair, Dr. Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel

Welcome & Introduction provided by Chair, Dr. Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel:

- Diamonstein-Spielvogel explained that the purpose of the Public Meeting was to review and approve recommended awards in the following three disciplines: 1. Facilities, 2. Visual Arts, 3. State and Local Partnerships.
- Diamonstein-Spielvogel noted that detailed committee reports help provide additional transparency for NYSCA and the public.

Performing, Literary & Visual Arts Committee provided by Committee Co-Chairs, John Morning:

- Morning introduced the Facilities Program, run by Arts Program Director Christine Leahy.

Facilities Program provided by Arts Program Director, Christine Leahy and Panel Representative and Senior Associate and Firmwide Leader for Arts and Culture at Gensler, Bevin Savage-Yamazaki:

- Leahy reminded the Council Members that Facilities support is available to non-profit arts and cultural organizations that own a building or have a long-term lease, and have been funded by NYSCA for the past three years.
- Leahy stated that the Facilities Program panel meets for four days and is comprised of licensed engineers, architects, and other related experts. A total of 73 applications were completed in the Grants Gateway and 69 applications moved forward for review. Of these, 35 were recommended for funding.
- Leahy announced that this year for the first time, NYSCA is offering applicants in the Capital Projects category the option to apply for either a one or a two-year contract, should they receive a grant. Executive Director Mara Manus suggested offering this flexibility because of the longer-term nature of these types of projects, that often include unexpected delays. A highlighted program in the Capital Projects category was Manitoga, the historic property of mid-century modern designer Russel Wright, in Garrison, Putnam County. The organization is undertaking a restoration and renovation of the structure known as Dragon's Rock, Wright's home and studio. The organization said they will work with a preservation architect. Manitoga has selected the two-year contract option.
- MOTION to accept the recommended applications; seconded and passed.

Performing, Literary & Visual Arts Committee provided by Committee Co-Chair, John Morning:

- Morning introduced Arts Program Director, Karen Helmerston.

Visual Arts Program provided by Arts Program Director, Karen Helmerston; Program Officer, Rita Putnam; and Panel Representative/Visual Studies Workshop, Jessica Johnston:

- Helmerston said the Visual Arts Program is committed to contemporary living artists residing throughout New York State, and dedicated to traditional "still art forms" or non-moving image, such as painting, sculpture and photography, as well as critical dialogue. Helmerston noted that the Visual Arts Program also supports critical writing, artist talks and publications.
- Helmerston noted that the Visual Arts Program was reviewed by a seven-person panel. The Visual Arts Program received 82 applications, 69 applications moved on to panel, and 20 were from Upstate New York. Of these, 56 were recommended for funding. The VAP Panel Representative highlighted NURTUREart Non-Profit Inc. for being a high-quality art program.
- Helmerston stated that many of the applicants were returning applicants with well-developed applications, such as the Cooper Union. There was also an impressive amount of emails and phone calls from people asking for information about grant funding and other opportunities

offered by NYSCA. Helmerson noted an unusual amount of people emailing and calling who were not familiar with NYSCA.

- A program highlighted was Denniston Hill, Sullivan County, Catskills, new to the Visual Arts Program this year in the Workspace Artist Residencies category. Denniston Hill was founded in 2004, by a group of artists, architects, and writers who were interested in exploring the intersection of art and science across disciplines; each summer residents engage in new work and ideas both through dialogue and experimentation. Another program discussed was Art Oneida, which is a publication by Sculpture Space, celebrating public art works across Oneida County over the past century to date, and a strong proponent of tourism and economic development. A printed issue of Art Oneida was passed around.
- Helmerson said that the panel for Visual Arts Program reviewed applications from both new and returning organizations. The goal for the coming years is to remain responsive as a funder, and continue to refine application guidelines that help to strengthen proposals in a very competitive arena.
- MOTION to accept the recommended applications; seconded and passed.

Multi-Disciplinary Arts Committee provided by Committee Co-Chair, Rita Paniagua; Arts Program Director, Leanne Tintori Wells; Executive Director of Lake Placid Center for the Arts/Panel Representative, James Lemons:

- Paniagua noted that The State & Local Partnerships Program supports 85 regional organizations, comprised of multi-arts centers, local and regional arts councils and arts service organizations across the state.
- Paniagua introduced Arts Program Director, Leanne Tintori Wells. Wells noted that the State & Local Partnerships Program received 44 total applications from 33 organizations; 28 were returning applicants; 5 new applications. Of these, 35 applications were recommended for funding.
- Wells stated that the regrant process was tailored to each organization for all local levels. 27 of these organizations serve as NYSCA Decentralization or DEC sites that, in direct partnership with NYSCA, administer a comprehensive community-based regrant program in each of New York State's 62 counties. The DEC program is tailored to the communities and regions within each service area and ensures that public funding for arts and culture is accessible at the most local level. This is what makes NYSCA's funding truly statewide.
- Diamonstein-Spielvogel reminded all that the goal is to make NYSCA friendly and transparent. MOTION to accept the recommended applications; seconded and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.