

## **New York State Council on the Arts Council Meeting Minutes**

300 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10010

September 26, 2018

10:00 AM- 12:30 PM

Present: Katherine Nicholls (Chair), Lisa Baker, Estrellita Brodsky (WebEx), Scott Eberle, Joan Hornig, Janet Kagan, Eric Latzky, Elsie McCabe Thompson (WebEx), Richard Mittenthal, Nazee Moinian, John Morning, Rita Paniagua (WebEx), Hal Payne, Deborah Ronnen (after Multi-Disp), Laudelina Martinez (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)

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Meeting called to order by Chair, Katherine Nicholls.

### Chair's Welcome

KATHERINE NICHOLLS: Good afternoon and welcome to the New York State Council on the Arts September Council Meeting. 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.

At today's meeting, we will vote on the Committee funding recommendations for nine NYSCA Programs: Arts Education, Folk Arts, Special Arts Services, Dance, Electronic Media and Film, Literature, Museums, Music, and Theatre. These recommendations represent 21% of NSYCA's FY19 Budget and 35% of the applicant pool.

Before we get started, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the other 150 individuals serving on our advisory panels this year. Our panelists' expertise spans every discipline represented in NYSCA's grant programs as well as many facets of non-profit management. They travel from all over the state to provide valuable insight and interminable support. They are integral members of our grant-making process and we thank them for their service to NYSCA and the field.

I would like to highlight the initiative of Kristin Herron, Program Director for Museum, and Fabiana Chiu-Rinaldi, Program Officer for Museum, to make iPads available to our panelists for many of the panel review meetings. By utilizing iPads, panelists are able to deepen their engagement with each application and visual submissions. We also hope to utilize the iPads during our next Council meeting. Thank you, Kristin and Fabiana.

I am happy to share that this afternoon, Mara Manus, Executive Director of NYSCA, will be providing testimony at an Assembly Hearing held by the Committee on Tourism, Arts and Sports Development. I will also be in attendance and the hearing will be streamed in the NSYCA offices after the council meeting. Mara's testimony will provide insight into the economic impact and essential role the arts and cultural sector has on the economic and tourism sectors of New York State. Additionally, she will discuss the critical impact NYSCA grantees have on the health and vitality of their communities.

## **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 2019.

Multi-Disciplinary Arts co-chairs Richard Mittenthal and Rita Paniagua will review the committee's recommendations:

RICHARD RITTENTHAL AND RITA PANIAGUA: The Multi-Disciplinary Arts Committee reviewed 313 requests in the Arts Education, Folk Arts, and Special Arts Services Program, 192 of these have been recommended for funding for a total dollar amount of \$2,825,763.

### **Arts Education**

The Arts Education panel reviewed 158 requests. Funding is being recommended for 87 organizations for a total dollar amount of \$1,074,200.

The Arts Education Program funds hands-on, sequential arts instruction for students of all age groups, including public school students, lifelong learners, seniors, and intergenerational participants. The program supports nonprofits working in partnership with public schools, as well as in community settings; programs are led by professional, paid teaching artists. Highly rated requests include: Just Buffalo in Community Based Learning Category; Henry Street Settlement in General Operating Support, and Hudson Valley Shakespeare in Putnam County for the K-12 Category.

Young Dancemakers Company is recommended for support towards a unique free summer dance ensemble of NYC public high school teens dedicated to creating their own original choreography and performing it in free touring concerts city-wide for audiences of up to 2000 young people and adults each season. Please take a moment to learn more about Young Dancemakers.

*The Council then watched a video about Young Dancemakers Company.*

Please see the requests that the Council reviewed and discussed in detail at yesterday's Committee meetings.

Next up is the Folk Arts Program.

### **Folk Arts**

The Folk Arts panel reviewed 55 applications, recommending 44 applications for funding for a total dollar amount of \$602,141.

The Folk Arts Program is dedicated to safeguarding and revitalizing New York State's living cultural heritage of folk arts within the communities where they originate. The folk arts are traditional cultural expressions of ethnic, occupational and regional communities learned informally among families, friends, neighbors and co-workers rather than through formal education. Applications were reviewed in

the General Support, Project Support, Regional and County Folk Arts Programs, Folk Art Apprenticeships and Re-grants and Partnerships categories.

Highly rated applicants include: Center for Traditional Music and Dance in the Apprenticeships Category; Mano A Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders in the General Operating Support Category; Museum at Eldridge Street in the Project Support Category and Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls in the Regional and Folk Arts category.

Please see the requests that the Council reviewed and discussed in detail at yesterday's Committee meetings.

Thank you. Next is the Special Arts Services program.

### Special Arts Services

In Special Arts Services, 100 requests were reviewed by panel; 61 of which are being recommended for funding for a total dollar amount of \$1,149, 422.

Special Arts Services or SAS, is devoted to supporting arts activities that ensure access for historically underserved communities, including African American/Caribbean, Latinx, Asian, Native American, LGBTQIA and immigrant communities. SAS also supports programs that engage the arts to address the changing needs of New York's most vulnerable populations, including people in geographically remote areas with limited cultural offerings; disabled communities; the aging; impoverished and homeless populations; and court, jail, and prison-involved juveniles and adults.

Highly rated applicants include The Irish Art Center in General Operating Support, Center for Disability Services in Project Support, and the Music Conservatory of Westchester in Instruction and Training.

Heidi Latsky Dance is recommended for project support to fund the creation of an interactive arts experience involving people with disabilities, immigrant/foreign born populations, and the Harlem community through pop up performances, academic discourse, and a final presentation. Please take a moment to hear more from Jerron Herman, development director and dancer with Latsky Dance.

*The Council then watched a video about Latsky Dance.*

Please see the requests that the Council reviewed and discussed in detail at yesterday's Committee meetings.

Thank you.

This concludes the programs presented by the Multi-Disciplinary Arts Committee.

*Katherine Nicholls requests a motion and second to approve the recommendations of the Multi-Disciplinary Arts Committee.*

*Motion made and seconded.*

*Megan White reads the following recusals:*

For Arts Education: CNY Arts, Inc. (Rita Paniagua); Henry Street Settlement (John Morning); Punto de Contacto- Point of Contact, Inc. (Rita Paniagua); Sugar Hill Children’s Museum of Art & Storytelling (Estrellita Brodsky); The Vivian Beaumont Theater, Inc. (John Morning).

For Folk Arts: CNY Arts, Inc. (Rita Paniagua).

For Special Arts Services: Carnegie Hall Corporation (Mahnaz (Nazee) Moinian).

*Motion to approve the recommendations of the Multi-Disciplinary Arts Committee for grant awards Programs carries unanimously, subject to applicable recusals.*

Performing, Literary & Visual Arts Committee Grant Recommendations

*KATHERINE NICHOLLS welcomes JOHN MORNING and LAUDELINA MARTINEZ, co-chairs of the Performing, Literary & Visual Arts Committee.*

JOHN MORNING and LAUDELINA MARTINEZ:

The Performing, Literary & Visual Arts Committee reviewed requests to the Music, Electronic Media and Film, Literature, Museums, Dance, and Theatre programs, 553 requests in total. 421 of these have been recommended for funding for a total dollar amount of \$6,056,372.

Music

Received a total of 119 requests, 110 are recommended for funding for a dollar amount of \$1,085,361.

NYSICA's Music Program fosters the performance, creation and interpretation of music in communities throughout New York State. It offers support for public performances by established and emerging music organizations representing a broad spectrum of musical expression. Funding is provided for organizations producing chamber music, choral music, early music, jazz, new music, opera and orchestral music as well as community schools of music and services to nonprofit music organizations and musicians.

Recommended requests include the Brooklyn Queens Conservatory of Music in the Community Music Schools category; The Skaneateles Festival in General Support; the Jazz Foundation of America in Project Support; and Gotham Early Music Scene in Services to the Field.

Please see the requests that the Council reviewed and discussed in detail at yesterday’s Committee meetings.

Next is Electronic Media and Film.

Electronic Media and Film

Received a total of 115 requests, 64 are recommended for funding for a dollar amount of \$1,207,120.

Electronic Media and Film, or EMF, advances artistic exploration and public engagement in technology as an art form. EMF is dedicated to experimental and creative expression in all genres of time-based and moving image media, including Game Design, Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality. EMF also supports historical film and rarely seen works. Priority is given to strong curatorial vision and innovation, through the categories of exhibition, Film Festivals and Screenings, General Operating, Re-grants and Workspace.

Youth FX recommended for first time General Operating Support, is an intensive hands-on program, based in the City of Albany. Their primary mission is to work with diverse groups of young people from communities that have been historically under-served and in need of opportunities for training and engagement in emerging media technologies. Youth FX develops leadership, creativity, and critical thinking, through the collaborative process of digital filmmaking and media production. Please take a moment to learn more about Youth FX.

*The Council then watched a video about Youth Fx.*

Please see the requests that the Council reviewed and discussed in detail at yesterday's Committee meetings.

Thank you. Next up is Literature.

### Literature

Received a total of 56 requests, 48 are recommended for funding for a dollar amount of \$539,326.

The Literature Program supports organizations that promote the creation, publication, and dissemination of contemporary literary writing and encourage its appreciation by the general public. Literary genres supported include fiction, poetry, drama, and literary (creative) non-fiction, as well as literary translation into English.

Priority is given to applicants that demonstrate artistic excellence and a consistent policy of payment to writers. Applicants are encouraged to make substantial efforts to reach and to creatively engage a wide audience through innovative literary programming and promotional efforts.

Highly rated requests include Bellview Literary Press in the Publications Category; The Feminist Press in General Support; Geneseo Migrant Center in Livingston County in Public Programs, and Poets and Writers in Re-grants and Partnerships.

Please see the requests that the Council reviewed and discussed in detail at yesterday's Committee meetings.

Thank you. Next is the Museums program.

### Museums

Reviewed a total of 88 requests, 66 are recommended for funding for a dollar amount of \$1,409,070.

NYSCA advances museums and related professional service organizations by offering support for arts, cultural and heritage activities. The Museum Program underscores the importance of clear planning to foster stronger institutions, and encourages creative thinking to better serve the public.

The International Center of Photography (ICP) is recommended for General Operating support. ICP is the world's leading institution dedicated to the practice and understanding of photography and the reproduced image in all its forms. Since their founding, they have presented more than 700 exhibitions and offered thousands of classes, providing instruction at every level, and have become a center where photographers and artists, students and scholars can create and interpret the world of the image within their comprehensive educational facilities, library and archive.

*The Council then watched a video about ICP.*

Please see the requests that the Council reviewed and discussed in detail at yesterday's Committee meetings.

Thank you. Next up is the Dance Program.

### Dance

Received a total of 68 requests, 46 are recommended for funding for a dollar amount of \$813,823.

The Dance Program strives to uphold NYSCA's long-standing commitment to excellence in the field of dance and the development and growth of the field from dancemakers to audiences. Six distinct funding categories are designed to provide support to the field in all its diversity and stylistic scope from the development of new, emerging, and experimental work; funding for mid-career choreographers and companies and major institutions of ballet to support for the infrastructure that provides critical administrative and technical assistance to dance artists and organizations.

Highly rated requests include Dorrance Dance in General Operating Support; Performance Zone for choreographer Kyle Abraham in Professional Performances; The Joyce Theatre in the Rehearsal Space category; and the Actors Fund of America for service to NY Dancers in the Services to the Field category.

Please see the requests that reviewed and discussed in detail at yesterday's Committee meetings.

Thank you. Next is the Theatre program.

### Theatre

Received a total of 107 requests, 87 are recommended for funding for a dollar amount of \$994,995.

From the incisive dramas of Tony Kushner to the wordless clown suites of Bill Irwin and a multitude of other work, NYSCA's Theatre Program has long supported a wide range of theatrical creativity. The program sustains professional theatre companies with ongoing production and development programs. It also backs service organizations that build and reinforce administrative and institutional skills, provide resources and information, assist in the professional development of artists, and enhance education about and access to theatre for all audiences.

Located in Delaware County, Franklin Stage is recommended for General Support. Franklin Stage Company's dual mission is to produce professional, admission-free theater that brings together audiences and artists to create community and celebrate the enduring power of stories; and to ensure the preservation of Chapel Hall, their historic home, as both an architectural treasure and a center of community activity. Please take a moment to view this informative video from Franklin Stage.

*The Council then watched a video about Franklyn Stage.*

Please see the requests that the Council reviewed and discussed in detail at yesterday's Committee meetings.

Thank you. This concludes the programs presented by the Performing Literary & Visual Arts Committee.

*Katherine Nicholls requests a motion and second to approve the recommendations of the Multi-Disciplinary Arts Committee.*

*Motion made and seconded.*

*Megan White reads the following recusals:*

For Electronic Media and Film: Cornell University (Lisa Baker); Dia Center for the Arts (D/B/A Dia Art Foundation) (Estrellita Brodsky); Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Laudelina Martinez); The American Friends of the Ludwig Friends of Cuba (Elsie McCabe Thompson).

For Museums: Americas Society, Inc. (Estrellita Brodsky); Amigos del Museo del Barrio, Inc. (Estrellita Brodsky; Laudelina Martinez); Dia Center for the Arts (D/B/A Dia Art Foundation) (Estrellita Brodsky); Fashion Institute of Technology Foundation (Joan Hornig), Metropolitan Museum of Art (Estrellita Brodsky), Museum of Arts and Design (Joan Hornig), National Parks of New York Harbor Conservancy (Elsie McCabe Thompson), Rensselaer County Historical Society, Inc. (Laudelina Martinez), Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation (Lisa Baker, Estrellita Brodsky), Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling (Estrellita Brodsky).

For Music: Carnegie Hall Corporation (Mahnaz (Nazee) Moinian), The Symphony Space, Inc. (Richard Mittenenthal).

For Theatre: Women's Project & Productions Inc (Janet Kagan).

*Motion to approve the recommendations of the Performing, Literary & Visual Arts Committee for grant awards Programs carries unanimously, subject to applicable recusals.*

### Adjournment

KATHERINE NICHOLLS: Thank you all for your ongoing service and commitment to NYSCA. I move to adjourn our meeting for today.

*Motion to adjourn is made, seconded and carries unanimously.*

Meeting adjourns.