

**WASHINGTON COUNTY RAP ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 2024**

Chair Glenn Webb called the RAP Advisory Board to order at 12:06 PM on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, in the 3rd Floor Training Room of the Washington County Administration Building, 111 E. Tabernacle St., St. George, UT. Those in attendance were: RAP Advisory Board: Dimon McFerson, Tony Allen, Robert Schmidt, Glenn Webb, David Watson, and Ginger Nelson. Others in attendance were Deputy County Attorney Steven Scott and Deputy Clerk Jayanne Lewis.

WELCOME

Chair Glenn Webb welcomed all in attendance and it was determined that a quorum existed for voting on action items.

Approval of Minutes: November 5, 2024

MOTION: Motion by Robert Schmidt to Approve the Minutes of October 8, 2024. Motion seconded by Ginger Nielson and carried by a unanimous vote

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

The Cox Performing Arts Center Presents the Celebrity Concert Series

The Cox Performing Arts Center Presents the Celebrity Concert Series is seeking \$25,000 for operating expenses. The board agreed they are eligible for funding.

St. George Opera

St. George Opera is seeking \$13,100 to facilitate all concerts. The board determined they were not eligible for funding based on Inactive entity status at time of application.

St. George Chamber Singers

St. George Chamber Singers is seeking \$8,000 for operating costs. The board determined they were eligible for funding.

St. George Interfaith Choir

St. George Interfaith Choir is seeking \$6,000 for Capital funding. The board determined they are eligible for funding.

St. George Jazz

St George Jazz is seeking \$20,000 for operating costs including a festival. The board determined

they are eligible for funding.

The Stage Door

The Stage Door is seeking \$60,000 for operating and capital expenses. The board agreed they are eligible for funding.

United We Pledge

United We Pledge is seeking \$10,000 for operating costs. There were several questions between the application and the financial information provided. The board agreed they are not eligible for funding at this time due to discrepancies in their financial information provided.

Washington City Concert Band

Washington City Concert band is seeking \$2,500 for operating costs. The board agreed they are eligible for funding.

Washington County Historical Society

Washington County Historical Society is seeking \$7,000 for a special project. The board agreed they were eligible for funding.

Western Sky Aviation

Western Sky Aviation is seeking \$20,000 for operating costs. The board agreed they are eligible for funding.

Zion Canyon Mesa

Zion Canyon Mesa is seeking \$20,000 for operating costs. Several discussions were about Zion Canyon Mesa's contribution to the arts community. There was also a discussion about whether requested RAP funds should be used to pay support staff. (Chef/Assistant/Housekeepers) The board agreed they are not eligible for funding at this time.

Zion Youth Symphony Orchestra

Zion Youth Symphony Orchestra is requesting \$5,000 for operating costs. The board agreed they are eligible for funding.

Encore Performing Arts

Encore Performing Arts is requesting \$25,000 for operating costs. The board agreed they are eligible for funding.

BUSINESS

Board Chair Glenn Webb asked the board members to have preliminary funding numbers ready for the next meeting. It was requested all letters from Utah tech be attached to the minutes for future reference. (See Attached)

FUTURE MEETINGS:

December 3, 2024 at 12:00 pm

Having no other business, the RAP Advisory Board Meeting was adjourned at 01:20 PM



November 6, 2024

Dear Members of the Arts Advisory Board:

Thank you for reviewing our recent RAP funding application. As our arts programs continue to evolve at Utah Tech Live, I would like to provide some additional context about our organizational structure and funding approach.

The University Board of Trustees currently provides governance oversight for our programs, as indicated by the board representation in our application. We are currently working with University Legal Counsel Brian Graf and the Dean's office to build a board structure that better reflects and supports our department's programming mission and vision.

It's worth highlighting that our operations function independently of Utah Tech's academic budget allocations. Utah Tech LIVE does not receive state funding for our operating budget and this independence enables us to maintain our distinct programming while pursuing diverse funding partnerships. Beyond our RAP application, we regularly engage with other arts funding entities, including the Utah Division of Arts and Museums and the Western States Arts Federation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin Tyrrel". The script is fluid and cursive.

Benjamin Tyrrel
Director of Arts Programming
Utah Tech University
Utah Tech LIVE

Sears Art Museum
College of the Arts
James Peck
Director & Curator

Subject: Utah Tech Sears Art Museum Application for Washington County RAP Tax Grant

Jayanne Lewis
Washington County Arts Advisory Board
Jayanne.lewis@washco.utah.gov

Dear Jayanne,

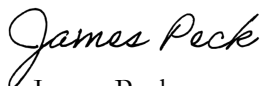
I hope this message finds you well. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your time and attention in considering our proposal. We deeply value the Washington County Arts Advisory Board's role in supporting and nurturing the arts within our community, and it would be an honor to work together to further enrich the cultural landscape of Southern Utah.

As part of our application, I included the University Board of Trustees' involvement as part of our governance structure. This reflects our current status, where the Trustees serve as our governing board. However, we're actively exploring a dedicated governance model tailored to the unique needs of our Pro Arts and non-academic initiatives. Our Dean, Jeff Jarvis, recognizing the specific nature of these programs, is working with our legal team—including Brian Graf—to create a new structure for the future of our organization.

Additionally, it's worth noting that our Pro Arts program at Utah Tech operates independently of state funding. We receive no direct funding from the state budget for our operating costs, and our program is sustained through external and local resources. To this end, we are actively pursuing various state and local grants, including those from the Utah Division of Arts and Museums, St. George RAP Tax grants, etc., to further support our initiatives.

Once again, thank you for your time and consideration. We are optimistic about the possibilities and grateful for any support and feedback you may offer. Please feel free to reach out with any questions, and I look forward to the opportunity to collaborate.

Warm regards,


James Peck

November 6, 2024

Washington County Arts Advisory Board

Friends:

Thank you for your volunteer service to the arts in our community. Your commitment to the arts is one of the best aspects to life in our little corner of the world. I write the day after our friends and neighbors overwhelmingly approved a continuation of the RAP tax. That result and your work have helped inspire my work today.

We at Utah Tech have long enjoyed the benefit of operating grants from both the State Division of Arts and Museums and the City RAP program. Recently, thanks to Mr. Brian Graf, we have begun asking for consideration for Washington County RAP funds. So, I thought it helpful to write to you clarifying some details about our organization.

The College of the Arts consists in two divisions, one academic, the other professional. In the academic side, we have degree programs in Visual Arts, Dance, Film, Music, and Theatre. These are funded rather traditionally, budgets being a mixture of state appropriations, student tuition, and traditional philanthropy. On the professional side, we have different types of programs: DOCUTAH, International Documentary Film Festival; UT Live or the Celebrity Concert Series; the Sears Art Museum; the OC Tanner Amphitheatre in Springdale; Summer Theatre (currently Tumbleweed Theatre); Utah Tech Creative Studios. These programs are funded differently than our academic programs. Each has a unique funding model, but all have this in common, that operational funding comes from private sources, not state appropriations. These programs are run quite like other non-profit arts organizations, which is why they seek grant funding.

As we prepared for this year's cycle of grant proposals, Brian Graf and I began to consider that our current governance structure needed improvement. We had listed our University Board of Trustees as the governing board, which is true, in that our Trustees oversee my work as Dean, and I oversee the work of these professional arts programs. However, we've come to realize that these parts of our organization need closer board oversight. So, Brian and I are developing a new board structure for these parts of the College of the Arts. We anticipate this structure including community and industry representation. We hope to have this system in place early this spring, in 2025.

Thank you again for your service to the arts in our community. If I may help with any details, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,



Jeffery W Jarvis, Dean
(435) 652-7792, office and voice mail
Jeff.Jarvis@utahtech.edu