



**Utah Arts & Museums Advisory Board**

**Approved 1.16.2025 MINUTES**

**December 5, 2024**

**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM - Virtual**

Utah Arts & Museums Advisory Board

(5 = quorum):

Sharon Johnson, Chair

Juan Carlos Claudio, Vice Chair

John Ballard - excused

Larry Cesspooch

Robb Alexander

Janet Smoak

Sudha Kargi - excused

Sam Tsugawa

Natalie Young

Utah Arts & Museums Advisory Council:

Kelly Stowell, Reporting Chair - attending

Amy Jorgensen, Reporting Chair of Art

Acquisition Council - excused

Susan Adams - excused

Diana Call - attending

Heidi Prokop - attending

Lisa Arnett - attending

Derrek Hanson - attending

LeRoy Transfield - excused

**Staff:**

Kat Potter, (CCE) Deputy Director

Victoria P. Bourns, Director

Natalie Petersen, Assistant Director

Stephanie Rokich, Grants Manager

Racquel Cornali, Grants & Data Coordinator

Em Cebrowski, Program Support Specialist &

Board Liaison

Emilie Starr, Administrative Assistant

Tracy

Jason

Jean

I - noon	<p><b>Opening &amp; Welcome - Sharon Johnson, Chair</b> Sharon Johnson called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees. She noted that the agenda would need to be adjusted to allow for voting prior to Juan Carlos' early departure.</p> <p><b>Roll Call - Emilie Starr</b> Emilie Starr conducted the roll call and confirmed that a quorum was present.</p> <p><b>Review of Procedures</b> Sharon Johnson provided an overview of the meeting procedures. Vicki reminded the group that there are nine official voting board members. Advisory council members are encouraged to ask questions and raise concerns, but only board members will participate in the voting process. Vicki also clarified that all grants would be voted on collectively as a single agenda item.</p>
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II - 12:05

## **Investments/Service Agreements/Grant Approvals - Sharon Johnson**

### **Introduction of Stephanie Rokich, UA&M Grants Manager**

Sharon Johnson invited Vicki to introduce Stephanie Rokich as the new Grants Manager. Vicki shared that the selection process was highly competitive, with 60 applicants, and expressed gratitude to Heidi for her participation in the interview process.

Vicki then welcomed Stephanie to introduce herself. Stephanie provided an overview of her background in program and grant management, as well as her experience in leadership and engagement. She highlighted her 12 years of service with the United Way.

### **NEA/UA&M Grant Approvals**

Stephanie Rokich introduced the NEA grant and reminded the board that this funding allows for the support of public agencies through National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) resources. She explained that applications could request funding for general operating support (GOS) or project-based funding. Applicants were awarded 73% of their typical GOS funding or 100% of their project-based request.

Stephanie opened the floor for questions. Robb sought clarification regarding the NEA, confirming that it refers to the National Endowment for the Arts. Sharon inquired whether these were new applications, to which Vicki confirmed that this was indeed a new process introduced to ensure transparency. Vicki commended Stephanie and Racquel for their efforts in personally reaching out to applicants to explain the scope of the new grant opportunity, noting that the grants team had done an excellent job in managing the process. Sharon expressed appreciation for this tailored approach, and Derrek thanked the division for their creativity in finding ways to fund these organizations.

### **FY25 Creative Aging**

Stephanie then introduced the Creative Aging grant and informed the board that one applicant had been removed from the handouts sent out the previous evening. She invited questions, and Sharon asked whether this was consistent with prior years and if there had been any growth or contraction in the number of applicants. Jason responded that this year had seen the largest group of applicants to date. Vicki shared that this was a pilot program entering its fourth year of funding, and noted that the number of applications would continue to grow as interest in the funding opportunity increases. Tracy added that the division was pleased to

	<p>be able to allocate the full budgeted amount for funding, thanks to the numerous applications received. Stephanie asked if there were any further questions, and there were none.</p> <p><b><u>FY25 Artist Career Advancement</u></b></p> <p>Stephanie asked Natalie Young to explain the process for the Artist Career Advancement grant. Natalie reported that the process had gone smoothly, with Racquel playing a key role. She noted that there had been 149 applicants, of which 106 were funded. The majority of applicants were performing and visual artists, with fewer applicants from folk and literature disciplines. Stephanie asked if there were any questions about this grant. Vicki inquired whether the number of applicants was consistent with previous years. Racquel noted that fewer people had applied this year compared to past years.</p> <p>Stephanie then turned the meeting over to Sharon for the vote.</p> <p>Sharon asked Kelly to seek the Advisory Council’s approval. Kelly asked the Advisory Council if they were in support of the grants. There were no dissenting opinions. Sharon proceeded with the official vote, asking for a motion to approve all three grants discussed. She reminded participants to recuse themselves if necessary. Robb made the first motion, and Natalie seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Larry, Janet, Sam, Natalie, Robb, Juan Carlos, and Sharon all voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p>III</p>	<p><b>Chair Report   Comments</b></p> <p>Sharon Johnson began by acknowledging the exceptional performance of division employees at national conferences. She then requested approval of the minutes from the October 17, 2024, meeting. Robb made the first motion, and Janet seconded. The motion was passed by acclamation with no opposition.</p> <p>Robb took a moment to comment on the success of the meeting held in Green River this fall. He emphasized the importance of community engagement, service, and building relationships with constituents. Sharon agreed, noting the significance of the board traveling around the state to ensure meetings are not solely held in Salt Lake City.</p> <p>Sharon also reminded the board that the next in-person meeting will take place in June 2025 in Cedar City. Vicki encouraged the board members to save the date so they could plan accordingly to attend in person.</p>

IV

**Division & Department Updates - Sharon Johnson**

**Reminder - December 10, 2025: [125th Exhibition Opening at Utah Valley University Museum of Art](#)**

Vicki reminded the board about the upcoming 125th Exhibition opening at the Utah Valley University Museum of Art on December 10, 2025. She noted that the board should have received an invitation to the event. Emilie shared a [promotional video](#) about the exhibition. Vicki emphasized that this has been a team effort, with everyone in the division contributing to the project in some way. Half of the staff was at the UVU Museum that day to help set up the exhibit, which includes 9 galleries.

Vicki provided details for the event, noting that remarks would begin at 6:45 PM. Representative Val Peterson would be speaking, and the division was grateful for his time and interest. Utah's Poet Laureate would also be speaking, and Claudia Borjas, the first Poetry Out Loud winner, would perform a poem. There would be live music, and the exhibition would be open through March 14. Vicki encouraged board members to attend either the opening or visit the exhibit afterward.

Robb asked for the date again, and Vicki confirmed it was Tuesday, December 10. Natalie added that the event was open to friends and family, and they were welcome to invite others.

**Legislative Update – Kat**

Kat provided an update on the upcoming legislative session, which begins on January 21. She noted that there is a new appropriation subcommittee, replacing the previous BEDL committee. The new Economic and Community Development (ECD) subcommittee is chaired by Rep. Christine F. Watkins and Senator Calvin R. Musselmen. Kat expressed excitement about presenting to them before the budget moves forward in the legislative process.

The subcommittee's first meeting will likely be on January 22, when the department will present its budget. Kat outlined two primary requests for the arts and museums:

1. To reinstate higher education funding within the broader pool of grant funding.
2. To restore the board in order to create a more equitable and representative body.

Kat also mentioned that the Governor had released his budget, and explained that the department makes recommendations, which the Governor then reviews and incorporates into his own recommendations before the legislature takes it through the budgeting process. The department has requested \$2 million in ongoing funding, but if that is not an option, a one-time allocation of \$4 million to cover two years. The Governor's budget proposed \$2 million in one-time funding.

	<p>Kat noted that the Governor’s budget was conservative, with a focus on energy, strengthening families through childcare and education, school safety, and aging services. This could provide an opportunity to highlight creative aging. One of the Governor’s goals is to eliminate taxes on Social Security income.</p> <p>Robb commented that he had heard in a meeting that the legislature expects to have zero ongoing funding this year, anticipating a lean budget. Kat thanked Robb for the insight, noting that the department had already been asked for budget cuts and understood the push for one-time funding.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Cultural Industry Advocacy Day on the Hill – February 4, 2024</u></a></p> <p>Vicki invited the board to participate in Cultural Advocacy Day on the Hill, scheduled for February 4, 2024.</p> <p><b>Arts Education Manager Hiring Process</b></p> <p>Natalie explained the open position for the Arts Education Manager, which will close in January. She highlighted the importance of the role to the division and its focus on creating partnerships and supporting arts education. Natalie acknowledged the challenge of filling Jean's position, noting that there would be a couple of months of overlap between Jean’s departure and the new hire. She assured the board that they would be kept updated on the hiring process.</p> <p>Sharon expressed appreciation for Jean's significant impact on the division and her contributions to its success. Vicki invited Jean to share a few words. Jean expressed her gratitude in the chat, saying it had been a great and wonderful experience working with the team.</p>
<p>V- 12:55 minutes</p>	<p><b><u>Next Board Meeting</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● January 16, 2025 - VIRTUAL</li> <li>● March 20, 2025 - VIRTUAL</li> <li>● June 20, 2025 - IN PERSON Cedar City</li> </ul> <p><a href="#"><u>Schedule for FY25 Board Meetings</u></a></p> <p>Vicki noted that the January meeting might be canceled depending on developments. Sharon then addressed the schedule for the next three board meetings. She called for a motion to adjourn the meeting and invited the board members to visit the website and share their thoughts on what the division means to them.</p>
<p>VI</p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b> - Larry Cesspooch moved to adjourn</p>

**Via Statute:**

A simple majority of the voting members of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.