

Salt Lake City Arts Council
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 18, 2022
WebEx Online

Present:

Ayanna Allen
Andrea Ashdown
Cale Newhouse
Kathy Davis
Annie Dayton
Erika Hill
Josanne Glass
Matt Castillo
Susan Koles Rickman
Richard Taylor
Torle Nenbee
Sarah Longoria

Staff:

Taylor Knuth
Kelsey Ellis

Excused:

Sonali Loomba
Kat Potter

I. Call to Order and Welcome Guests

Ms. Annie Dayton, Chair of the Board called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM and welcomed Cale Newhouse, the newest member of the Board of Directors. No guests were present at the meeting.

II. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – April 2022

A. April 2022

No comments or corrections were made to the April 2022 minutes. Ms Susan Koles Rickman moved to approve the minutes and Mr. Matthew Castillo seconded that motion. The April 2022 minutes were approved unanimously.

B. May Grant Sub-Committee Minutes

Ms. Koles Rickman moved to approve the May 9, 2022 Grant Sub-Committee minutes. Ms. Torle Nenbee seconded that motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Ms. Kathy Davis pointed out that the April minutes do not include that the March 2022 meeting minutes were approved. Ms. Dayton amended the motion to approve the to approve the April minutes with the addition that the March minutes were approved in the April meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

III: Management

A. Program/Administrative Updates

a. Program Updates

Mr. Taylor Knuth updated the Board on the Living Traditions Festival preparations for May 20-22, 2022. Setup began on Tuesday, May 17 and a school day event is taking place on Friday morning with children being bused in from schools in the area. The fundraising goal of \$47,000 in corporate donations was met for the Festival.

Busker Events are taking place on the Jordan River Parkway. Events took place on May 12th and 26th. Brown Bag has been combined with Busker Festival. The Busker Festival is taking place June 23 – 24 at the Gallivan Plaza, the same days as the Utah Arts Festival.

On June 23rd the Mayor's Artist Awards will be presented at the Utah Arts Festival.

Twilight Concert Series is selling well. The Board can request sponsor passes from the Arts Council for concerts, but access is limited and first come, first serve.

b. Hiring Updates

The Arts Council has hired three individuals for the new positions. Brenda Alavez was hired as an Arts Coordinator and will support the public art program. The second Arts Coordinator position went to Shawnee Johnson as the Special Projects Coordinator. Susan Campbell will become the Community Investment and Development Manager overseeing the grants program for the Arts Council.

IV: Budget/Financial

A. Review of Financials-Matt Castillo

Mr. Castillo presented on the current budget. Revenue from sponsorships and individual donations are strong. Because many of the Living Traditions expenses have not yet been processed the expenses appear lower than they will be. There have been issues with cost due to inflation. Balance sheet is looking great as well.

B. Presentation of Budget Draft FY23 and Salt Lake City Budget Highlights – Kelsey Ellis

Ms. Kelsey Ellis began with an end of year projection for the budget and highlighted changes from the amended budget. The changes are related to the Living Traditions Festival costs.

The FY23 Budget Draft was presented next. The Board will approve the Arts Council budget in the June meeting. The final numbers related to the City Budget will not be finalized until the City Council approves the budget in June. Three areas of increase from the City Budget are for professional development of staff, increase in salaries for the three new hires and an increase of \$150,000 for programming costs that will help to cover the costs that have risen this year due to inflation.

A significant change is projected with the County Grant. In past years the Arts Council received \$270,000, but this year and next it will decrease to an estimated \$148,000. The award amount is based on the past three years of qualifying expenses and with Twilight expenses decreased, due to moving that program to a contracted

service, there was a decrease in expenditures by over a million dollars each year since 2018.

The budget draft is looking to be a balanced budget for FY23.

Mr. Castillo mentioned that the funds balance is stabilizing at \$500,000 and it may be time to think about how the Arts Council can spend some of those funds, so there isn't too much money sitting in a savings account.

V. Board

A. General- Annie Dayton, Vice Chair

a. Grants Committee: Approval of Grant Recommendations - Andrea Ashdown

The grants sub-committee met the prior week and reviewed 103 grant applications in four separate categories.

Artist in the Classroom received seven applications and the committee is recommending all seven to be funded at \$3,000 each for a total of \$21,000. This is for fiscal year 2023. This program will be revamped in the coming year by working with educational leaders and school districts.

Racial Equity and Inclusion Grant for non-profit organizations. These grants were scored and then received points based on how well the grant application aligned with the City and Foundation priorities. There were twenty-four applications and twelve are being recommended for funding, a total of \$79,500. These grants funds are part of the National Endowment for the Arts grant the Arts Council received in November 2021.

The subcommittee is recommending nineteen of the twenty-seven Artist Career Empowerment Grant (Tier 2) for fundings, a total of \$35,250. These applicants were all Salt Lake City residents, and the funds are part of the City non-departmental funds. Fifty-eight percent of awardees self-identify as BIPOC. These grants were smaller and allowed artists to use the funds for purchasing equipment or creating a project.

Artist Career Empowerment Grant (Tier 1) also took priority points into consideration. We received forty-six applications and are awarding ten applicants the full award of \$15,000 each and the artist will create a large-scale project by the end of the grant period. The total amount funded is \$150,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts grant the Arts Council received in November 2021. There are two alternates being recommended in case any of the selected artists are unable to fulfill the terms of the grant.

The total allocation of grant funds is showing a deficit of \$11,050 for FY22, but this will be offset by grant funds from previous cycles that were unused.

Ms. Rickman moved to approve the grant recommendations. Ms. Erika Hill seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Operating Agreement/Lease/Bylaws Update – Annie Dayton

The operating agreement and lease for the Art Barn are currently with the Salt Lake City Attorney's Office. The operating agreement has not been updated for many years and there has never been a lease in place.

The governance committee is reviewing the bylaws to see if there are any changes needed to bring the document into better alignment with best practices and the Utah Nonprofit Associations Standard of Ethics.

Ms. Dayton brought up a topic from the Executive Committee Meeting. In the Mayor's budget the issue of affordable housing is highlighted, and the Executive Committee wanted to know if the Board would like to write a letter to the Mayor asking her to prioritize affordable housing for artists. Many artists are not able to live in Salt Lake City due to housing costs. Mr. Castillo spoke about the many examples nationwide of housing projects that focus on living spaces for artists. Members of the board will draft a letter to send to City Council and the Mayor prior to the budget being approved on June 19, 2022.

VI. Arts Event Discussion

Ms. Sarah Longoria went to the Jordan River Busker Fest event on May 12th. It seemed like a good number of people attended.

There is a new event *Alleyways Amplified* taking place Saturday, May 21. They are activating Edison Street by placing a stage and hiring local musicians to perform. Tumbleweeds is also taking place at the Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center in Taylorsville, Friday through Sunday.

Ms. Rickman shared that she attended Ballet West's Choreography Festival. It included Harlem Dance Theatre.

VII. Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

VIII. Other Business

No other business was presented to the Board. Mr. Castillo motioned to close the meeting. Ms. Longoria seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:29:44.