

Board Meeting Minutes

Washington State Arts Commission

Tuesday, May 7, 2024 / Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, 550 Winslow Way E,
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Commissioners Present

Robin Avni, First Vice Chair
Claudia Castro Luna
Dr. Kelvin Frank
Tony Ginn
Ryan Hardesty
Jasmine Mahmoud, PhD, Second Vice Chair
Tisa Matheson
Terry Morgan
Noël Moxley
Catherine Nueva España
Justin Raffa
Charlie Robin, Chair
Star Rush
Rosanna Sharpe
Krishna Thiagarajan
Judy Tuohy
Senator Lisa Wellman
Representative Sharon Wylie

Commissioners Absent

Senator Matt Boehnke
Lou Oma Durand
Reinaldo Gil Zambrano
Representative Jacquelin Maycumber
Joan McBride

ArtsWA Staff Presenters

Karen Hanan, Executive Director
Tamar Krames, Arts in Education (AIE) Program Manager
Rayann Kalei Matsui, AIE Program Coordinator,
Annette Roth, Community Development Manager
Alexis Sarah, AIE Project Manager
Deane Shellman, Deputy Director
Mike Sweney, AIPP Program Manager
Michael Wallenfels, Communications Manager

Guests & Speakers

Sheila Hughes, Executive Director, Bainbridge Island
Museum of Art

Thomas Grant Richardson, Director, Center for
Washington Cultural Traditions

Washington Youth Arts Leaders (WAYAL):

- Vibha Krishna, Sammamish
- Karis Bokma, Liberty Lake
- Karen Zhang, Mercer Island
- Harshita Raja, Redmond

Julie Ziegler, Director, Humanities Washington

For a full transcript of the meeting, please view the recording at: [May 2024 Board Meeting Recording](#)

Call to Order / Land Acknowledgement / Roll Call

Robin, ArtsWA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Rayann Kalei Matsui, Arts in Education (AIE) Program Coordinator, gave the land acknowledgement. Roll call was conducted, and a quorum was verified. Public comment rules were shared.

A MOTION to approve the agenda was made by Moxley, seconded by Justin, and passed unanimously.

Robin read the rules for public comment.

Welcome from Bainbridge Island Museum of Art

Sheila Hughes, Executive Director, welcomed the ArtsWA Board. BIMA is dedicated to the arts and crafts of the region. The museum is deeply rooted in collaboration and partnership. The focus is on meeting the community where they are and is open with free admission for all.

Board Chair's Report

Robin reviewed his report (packet p. 1). This is the time that commissioners shift from ambassador roles to advocacy. He encouraged commissioners to get to know their legislators.

Krames introduced a few representatives from the Washington Youth Arts Leadership members, who read the Governor Inslee's Proclamation of May as Arts Education Month (packet p. 2). WAYAL is an annual cohort of youth and young adults ages 16-19 from across Washington State. They build community amongst their peers and explore arts careers with mentors in the arts field. Carina del Rosario, WAYAL coordinator, guides the program and was not able to join the meeting today.

Robin read the Governor Inslee's Proclamation for 50th anniversary of AIPP naming May 5, 2024 as Art in Public Places Day (packet p. 3).

Executive Director's Report

Hanan reviewed her report (packet pp. 4-8). She reviewed operating and capital budget funding approved by the Legislature.

Department of Commerce published the Creative Economy Strategic Plan, which is a first for any state. Hanan played a vital role in development serving on the committee to ensure an ArtsWA voice in the process.

The federal budget contains a slight funding increase for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), which would result in a small increase in funding to ArtsWA through the State Partnership grant. The Senate is committed to this increase, but the House still has to decide on the budget.

Hanan provided updates on current projects. The strategic plan for ArtsWA is being refreshed. The Tribal Cultural Affairs program has completed allocation of grant funds to 20 out of 29 federally recognized tribes. Every applicant that applied received funds. The projects are designed by each tribe based on their self-identified needs and interests. The partnership with Path with Art is funding

their program to train arts practitioners and arts organizations statewide on mental wellness. Hanan showed the current size of the Billy Frank Jr. statue, which is progressing.

2024-25 Biennium 3rd Quarter Report

Shellman, Deputy Director, reviewed the budget report details indicating the budget is on track with expected benchmarks met for this period of the fiscal year (packet pp 9-20). Shellman reviewed the status and progress for each of the agency's programs. The report was for information only; no action was required.

Hanan thanked Shellman for her team's efforts to make the report more accessible and readable. The Board agreed.

Approve Consent Agenda

A MOTION to accept the consent agenda of minutes for the February 8 (packet pp. 20-25) and March 20, 2024 (packet pp. 26-27) board meetings was made by Mahmoud and seconded by Moxley. There were no other changes. The motion passed unanimously.

Center for Washington Cultural Traditions

Julie Ziegler, Director, Humanities Washington, expressed appreciation for the ongoing partnership with ArtsWA for the Center for Washington Cultural Traditions and the Poet Laureate program.

Thomas Grant Richardson, Director, shared Heritage Arts Apprenticeship program (HAAP) accomplishments. The archives inventory and assessment funded by a grant from the NEA has concluded. A 2025 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) will support preservation of materials. He reviewed rebranding plans to change the organization name to Washington Cultures (WACultures).

Creative Districts

Roth, Community Development Manager reviewed the panel recommendations for Board consideration (packet pp. 28-29).

A MOTION to ratify the panel's recommendation for Walla Walla Creative District certification was made by Raffa and seconded by Thiagarajan. There was one abstention: Rush. There were no conflicts of interest. The motion passed.

A MOTION to ratify the panel's recommendation to recertify Chewelah Creative District was made by Avni and seconded by Moxley. There were no conflicts of interest. The motion passed.

A MOTION to ratify the panel's recommendation to recertify Olympia Creative District was made by Moxley and seconded by Castro Luna. There were no conflicts of interest. The motion passed.

Rush asked how board members can add items to the board meeting. Hanan instructed to email her and copy the Board Chair.

Arts in Education

Sarah and Matsui provided an overview of Arts in Education (AIE) programs and grants (packet pp. 30-34).

A MOTION to approve the panel recommendations for the FY25 Creative Start Project Grant Program, for a total of \$184,999.49 as outlined in the lists for funded and non-funded organizations, was made by Mahmoud and seconded by Raffa. There was one conflict of interest: Thiagarajan (Seattle Opera). The motion passed with one recusal.

COVID Impact Recovery Grant Program

Guillén presented the COVID Impact Recovery grants (packet pp. 35-58).

A MOTION to ratify the Executive Director's approval of the panel recommendations as shown in the recommended and declined lists in the packet for total funding of \$1,840,000 was made by Rep. Wylie and seconded by Rush.

Conflicts of Interest: Raffa (Mid-Columbia Master Singers); Rush (Kirkland Art Center); Thiagarajan (Seattle Symphony, Seattle Opera); Robin (Capitol Theatre); Morgan (King County Media); Sharpe (the Reach); Nueva España (Rain City Rock, Degenerate art ensemble); Moxley (Tieton).

The motion passed by unanimous vote of remaining board members without conflicts.

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

Robin and Hanan recognized the many contributions of outgoing board members McBride, Sharpe, Gil Zambrano, Tuohy, and Raffa.

Board Development and Nominating Committee Process

Avni, Nominating Committee Chair, is working with Nueva España as co-chair. Avni provided an overview of the upcoming board survey and nomination process for FY25 board officers. An online survey will be sent to all board members. Please complete the survey in a timely manner. It is hoped that there will be 100% participation. This is an opportunity for each board member to have a voice in leadership of the board for the coming year.

Art in Public Places

Sweney, AIPP Program Manager, provided an overview of 50 years of the Art in Public Places program. On May 5, 1974, Governor Dan Evans signed the program into law (packet p. 59). Washington State has the second oldest public art program in the nation after Hawaii. Our legislation is modeled after Hawaii.

ArtsWA will celebrate this 50 year milestone with news, stories, and videos about the program throughout the year on the ArtsWA website, social media sites, and other media outlets. We are excited to share not only how we enhance communities across the state, but also our support for working artists, curators, fabricators, conservators, and the collective public art ecosystem.

Governor's Arts & Heritage Awards

Wallenfels, Communications Manager, and Roth, Community Development Manager provided an overview of updates to this program (packet p. 60). For the first time, ArtsWA received dedicated state funding for the program. These funds will provide a monetary award to recipients this year. The ceremony will be held in February, in conjunction with Arts, Heritage & Science week and the ArtsWA board meeting.

ArtsWA continues to update the Governor's Arts & Heritage Awards to make them increasingly relevant to Washingtonians. These updates include monetary awards for all honorees, refreshed award categories, and a new 2024 category developed internally and with the Tribal Cultural Affairs program. The award statuettes will also be redesigned.

Thiagarajan and Matheson will serve on the panel this year.

LEAD conference presentation

Sarah, AIE Project Manager, and ArtsWA ADA Coordinator, discussed the upcoming Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD) conference sponsored by the Kennedy Center. Sarah and Hanan have been actively involved in the planning process. The purpose is to gain an awareness of disability in our communities (packet p. 61). LEAD advances the full inclusion of people with disabilities in the arts and cultural sector.

Strategic Plan

Hanan and Wallenfels reviewed strategic plan year two goals by program. Accomplishments in the last year were highlighted. They are working to revise and update agency metrics and shared a prototype for the updated dashboard that tracks progress.

Advocacy - Updates and Future Activities

Thiagarajan, Advocacy Committee Chair, spoke about the importance of meetings during the interim with a wide constituency of elected officials, foundations, corporations, venture capital funders, and other possible partners. Commissioners shared their thoughts on advocacy approaches.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present to make comment.

Adjourn

Robin adjourned the meeting at 3:54 p.m.
