

Board Meeting Minutes -Tues, Aug. 6 & Weds, Aug. 7, 2024 / Moses Lake

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT - VERIFY

Robin Avni, Second Vice Chair
Mary Big Bull-Lewis
Michael Cade
Claudia Castro Luna
Jackson Cooper
Lou Oma Durand
Dr. Kelvin Frank
Tony Ginn
Chonchol Gupta
Ryan Hardesty
Jasmine Mahmoud, PhD, First Vice Chair
Tisa Matheson
Noël Moxley
Catherine Nueva España
Charlie Robin, Chair
Star Rush
Krishna Thiagarajan
Senator Lisa Wellman

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Senator Matt Boehnke
Representative Jacquelin Maycumber
Terry Morgan
Bennyroyce Royon
Representative Sharon Wylie

ARTSWA STAFF PRESENTERS

Daniya Baisubanova, Wellness, Arts & Military
Program Coordinator and ArtsWA PEAR Lead
Korja Giles, Budget Analyst 3
Miguel Guillén, Grants to Organizations (GTO)
Program Manager
Karen Hanan, Executive Director
Annette Roth, Community Development Manager
Alexis Sarah, AIE Project Manager
Mike Sweney, Art in Public Places (AIPP) Program
Manager
Michael Wallenfels, Communications Manager
Cheryl Wilcox, Tribal Cultural Affairs Program
Manager

GUESTS & SPEAKERS

Dollie Boyd, Museum Superintendent, Moses Lake
Museum & Art Center
Pam Breaux, Director, National Assembly of State
Arts Agencies
Christian Gaines, Director, Western States Arts
Federation (WESTAF)
Thomas Grant Richardson, Director, Center for
Washington Cultural Traditions
Shannon Halberstadt, Department of Commerce
David Foster, WESTAF Lobbyist
Blaze Rowan, 2024 Washington State Poetry Out
Loud Champion

For a full transcript of the meeting, please view the recording at:

Tuesday, August 6: [Washington State Arts Commission - TVW](#)

Wednesday, August 7: [Washington State Arts Commission - TVW](#)

Call to Order / Land Acknowledgement / Roll Call

Robin, ArtsWA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm and read 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 Durand, seconded by Gupta, and passed unanimously.

Welcome

Dollie Boyd, Museum Superintendent with the Moses Lake Museum & Art Center, welcomed the board. The museum is deeply rooted in collaboration and partnership. Admission is free and the museum exhibits are focused on supporting the community.

Board Chair's Report

Robin reviewed his report (packet p. 1) and introduced new board commissioners. He encouraged commissioners to get to know their legislators during this time, when the role of commissioners shifts from ambassador to advocacy.

Robin reviewed the draft 2025 board meeting locations and dates. Commissioners are asked to contact Robin if there are conflicts or concerns about dates or locations. A final schedule will be published in the November board packet. (packet p. 3).

Executive Director's Report

Hanan reviewed her report (packet pp. 5-10).

The state's forecast for the FY2025 budget and beyond is uncertain. Despite steady though slowing growth in the state budget, there are several issues that will affect available state funding. Hanan reviewed ArtsWA budget requests to be submitted for consideration in the Governor's budget. These requests will increase the impact of the arts in Washington and support existing projects and programs.

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) funding is being scrutinized in the current federal budget. ArtsWA receives a state partnership grant of approximately \$1 million and Washington is required to match the funding. This creates the agency budget of approximately \$2 million annually. At this point in time, it is unknown how federal funding will be impacted.

Hanan has been on the review panel for Building for the Arts (BFA) grants for many years. The Department of Commerce does an amazing job with this program and has contracted with ArtsWA to interact within the arts sector to promote and educate the BFA opportunity. Prior to our participation, applicants came largely from the I-5 corridor, were fewer in number, and were

typically the same every year. In 2022, when ArtsWA was first under contract to expand outreach and nurture projects along, the applicant pool expanded from 21 to 32. This year, the applicant pool expanded once again, from 32 to 54. Geographically, the distribution has never been wider. A big thank you to our Communications and Outreach team of Annette Roth, Michael Wallenfels, and Adrienne Kerrigan for their hard and impactful work on this program.

The Wellness, Arts and the Military (WAM) is working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to expand the Serving Those Who Served conference that will take place in Spokane later this month. The WAM program continues to work on expanding their reach and impact around the state, including connect with other ArtsWA programs and specifically the Tribal Cultural Affairs program.

ArtsWA received funding for Path with Art to provide trainings focused on using the arts to address trauma.

It is tradition to commission a portrait of an outgoing Governor. Hanan worked with the Governor's Office to vet artists to paint the Governor's portrait. Final selection was made by the Governor and ArtsWA is managing the project.

ArtsWA continues to manage the Billy Frank Jr. project that will replace the Marcus Whitman statute in the State Capitol and in Statuary Hall in Washington D.C. Sweney said the final maquette is being completed and subject to final review by the Library of Congress. Wallenfels has been instrumental in coordinating communications and relations with the Nisqually Tribe and the Frank family. Hanan said the artist, Haiying Wu, has captured the spirit of Billy Frank Jr.

2024-25 Biennium 3rd Quarter Report

Hanan reviewed operating and capital budget funding approved by the Legislature. Giles reviewed the budget report details indicating the budget is on track with expected benchmarks met for this period of the fiscal year (packet pp. 11-21).

Strategic Plan Dashboard

Wallenfels reviewed the new dashboard (handout) that measures agency accomplishments of strategic plan goals. Metrics are grouped by impact area.

Approve Consent Agenda

A MOTION to accept the consent agenda of minutes for the May 7, 2024 board meeting (packet pp. 25-29) was made by Mahmoud and seconded by Cooper. There were no changes. The motion passed unanimously.

Grants to Organizations

Guillén reminded commissioners that the executive director may approve grants that do not exceed five thousand dollars. Grants approved by the executive director are subject to ratification by the board at the next board meeting (WAC 30-12-015). He reviewed the two grants (packet pp. 30-35).

General Operating Support: Emerging offers funding to arts organizations created in the last three years. This grant assists with everyday costs so that new groups can focus on providing creative, communal, and cultural experiences with and for the people of Washington State.

A MOTION that the Board ratify the Executive Director's decision to approve the panel's recommendation for FY25 GOS: Emerging grants totaling \$57,250 as provided in the packet was made by Senator Wellman and seconded by Moxley. Conflicts of interest: Nueva España (Partners in Print/Port Townsend Creative District), Mahmoud (Yun Theater), and Big Bull-Lewis (NCW Arts Alliance). The motion passed with three recusals.

Fy25 Project Support grants offer support to groups providing art programming with and for the people of Washington State. Organizations did not need to have an arts-focused mission to apply.

A MOTION that the Board ratify the Executive Director's decision to approve the panel's recommendation for FY25 Project Support totaling \$80,750 as provided in the packet was made by Moxley and seconded by Matheson. Conflicts of interest: Nueva España (Karin Stevens Dance), Mahmoud (TeenTix & Tacoma Art Museum), and Thiagarajan (TeenTix).

Tribal Cultural Affairs Program

Wilcox explained that this non-competitive grant offers funding for Washington State Federally recognized Tribes to support Tribal communities as they expand, enhance, or create space for art and culture that is respectful and responsive to each community's needs (packet pp. 45-47). The current allocation amount per application this cycle is \$18,000 per Tribe if all 29 Tribes apply. The application includes space for each Tribe to identify an additional funding request that will be considered if additional funding becomes available, or if all Tribes do not apply. Funding not requested by the closing date will be reallocated as additional funding to those that applied.

A MOTION for the Board to approve the recommendation for Round 1 of the FY25 Tribal Cultural Grant totaling \$18,000 as provided in the packet was made by Moxley and seconded by Thiagarajan. There were no conflicts of interest. The motion passed unanimously.

Governor's Arts and Heritage Awards

Roth reviewed the list of potential honorees (packet pp. 48-52) of arts and cultural bearers in Washington State. During the 2024 Legislative session, legislators provided one-time funding for the Governor's Arts & Heritage Awards (GAHA). Because of this funding, this is the first year that ArtsWA can offer a grant award of \$5,000 to individual honorees and \$7,500 to organizations. The awards ceremony will be held on February 3, 2025 at the Kenneth J. Minnaert Center for the Arts at South Puget Sound Community College. The ceremony will be at the beginning of Arts, Heritage & Science week as a kick-off for the week's activities around the arts sector, accomplishments and advocacy. Legislators will be invited to the event. Roth reviewed the list of honorees.

A MOTION that the Board approve the panel's recommendations for the Governor's Arts & Heritage Awards was made by Cooper and seconded by Senator Wellman. Conflicts of interest: Matheson (Joe Feddersen), Big Bull-Lewis (Inspire WA, Joe Feddersen), Hardesty (Dahn T. Pham,

Joe Feddersen), and Avni, Thiagarajan, and Mahmoud (Inspire WA).

The approved panel recommendations will then be forwarded Governor Inslee for his approval of the slate of honorees. Only after the Governor has approved the recommendations are they made official, and the results made public.

WACultures (formerly Center for Washington Cultural Traditions)

Richardson reviewed panel recommendations for the new cohort of Heritage Arts Apprenticeship Pairs (HAAP) (packet pp. 53-57).

The Center for Washington Cultural Traditions CWCT is the state's center for cultural traditions in Washington. It is a partnership between Humanities WA and ArtsWA. CWCT will be rebranded a WACultures in the near future. Only the name will change, because it is easier to say and remember. The mission remains the same. This year's HAAP pairs represent 16 teams and 12 new traditions.

A MOTION to approve the panel's recommendation to fund 16 HAAP pairs was made by Mahmoud and seconded by Big Bull-Lewis. There were no conflicts. The motion passed unanimously.

Art in Public Places Program-50th Anniversary and Agency Request Legislation

Sweney shared that the Art in Public Places (AIPP) program is now 50 years old (packet p. 58). Watch for new content that features the accomplishments and State Art Collection in celebration of this milestone.

For 50 years, funding for this public art program has always come from ½ of 1% of new state building construction. ArtsWA will introduce legislation to increase this funding to 1%, which would bring Washington in line with most of the other states with a public funded art program and are funded at 1%.

2024 Poetry Out Loud State Championship

Sarah introduced the Poetry Out Loud program which is a national poetry recitation program for High School students. The NEA and National Poetry Foundation partner with state agencies like ArtsWA, to coordinate the program (packet pp. 59-60).

Blaze Rowan, 2024 Washington State Champion, introduced himself and recited several poems.

Board Handbook/Toolkit/Code of Conduct

Robin and Hanan reviewed the Board Handbook (packet pp. 61-74). Commissioners were asked to read the code of conduct page, sign and return it to ArtsWA. Washington State produces a handbook with information for all Board and Commission members serving the state, including roles, resources, laws, and required trainings. Guidance in the ArtsWA Board handbook also includes restrictions on Commissioner activities.

Nominating Committee Report

Avni and Nueva España, serving as co- chairs of the Nominating Committee, presented the survey results and the proposed slate of officers (packet pp. 75-78). Nineteen of 23 commissioners participated. The results show that commissioners feel positive about the work they do.

The proposed slate of officers includes Charlie Robin, Chair; Jasmine Mahmoud, Ph.D. as 1st Vice Chair; Robin Avni as 2nd Vice Chair. At large members would remain the same, as would the Advocacy Chair and members.

A MOTION to adopt the slate of officers as presented in the handout was made by Gupta and seconded by Big Bull-Lewis. Conflicts of interest: Robin. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn for the day

Robin closed the meeting for the day at 4:06 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2024

The Board was given a tour of the Moses Lake Museum & Art Center Tour.

CALL TO ORDER

Robin called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Roll call verified that a quorum was present. Robin introduced new commissioner Michael Cade.

Regional and National Partnership Presentation

Christian Gaines, Executive Director, Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF) has supported 13 states and 3 pacific jurisdictions for 50 years. About 20 years ago, WESTAF made some risky investments in online platforms when the world wide web was beginning. WESTAF now has five lucrative web-based programs that help to sustain the organization.

WESTAF will change its name to Creative West as part of a strategic shift to develop a stronger story-telling culture to lift up community voices; build and maintain financial resilience; engage in grantmaking that is responsive, equitable, and trust-based; and continue strong arts advocacy.

In some states WESTAF is unable to promote some of their program opportunities because of the backlash around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work. WESTAF

is engaging in deep conversations around how to move forward with DEI work and equity in light of pushback where it exists in the western service area.

Pam Breaux, Executive Director, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) explained that NASAA was created 56 years ago to strengthen state, jurisdictional arts agencies. NASAA organizes its work around what state arts agencies need from national support: knowledge, representation, and community. NASAA provides a variety of services including research, education and training, and data. Webinars are available to all state agencies and individualized service to state arts agencies is provided as needed and requested. They work with congress, the White House, NEA, NEH and other organizations on behalf of the arts sector. NASAA maintains a non-partisan focus but work to maintain the arts for the public good across the political spectrum.

NASAA represents state agencies at the federal level. At the state level, NASAA does not get involved in state-level advocacy but does provide accurate state level information when requested, and shares tools and best practices amongst arts peers.

Pro-Equity Anti-Racism (PEAR) Team Overview and Discussion

Hanan said that in Washington state, the Governor supports focus on DEI issues. We are in a good place to use the power of this board and agency to further this work.

Wallenfels provided an overview of the ArtsWA Pro-Equity Anti-Racism (PEAR) Team. Following the Governor's executive order, ArtsWA formed a team of staff, board, and the public to discuss policies and develop a strategic action plan to identify key investments. It is important to be in community more, to have listening sessions, and be involved with the constituency we serve so we can understand how better to serve them.

Mahmoud said the Governor's office provided a training where the trainer called out the bind between racist policies in federal government and state challenges to be more equitable. Washington is fortunate to have the Governor's commitment to a more equitable society and that agencies are becoming more conscious of the issues

Daniya Baisubanova, Wellness, Arts & Military Program Coordinator, was introduced as the new ArtsWA PEAR Leader. Baisubanova is looking forward to putting into action the PEAR strategic plan and policies.

Mahmoud asked commissioners to email her with questions and ideas on how the board can integrate the work of the PEAR team.

Rush asked for the charter for PEAR, the scope of responsibility and limits of authority, and how they relate to the work of ArtsWA and the board.

Strategic Plan and New Approach to Budget Requests

Hanan and Wallenfels reviewed the one pagers with the board. The budget requests will include goals for the future for each program.

Grants to Organizations Purpose and Reach

Guillén said this year's funding process is very important to the future of the Grants to Organizations (GTO) program. This program provides funds for either operating or

program support to organizations of various fiduciary sizes. Available funds traditionally fall far short of the needs of the arts sector and the vast number of organizations that need support. These organizations receive grants, but they receive a great deal more through education and support.

The GTO team works directly with grantees to understand their needs, shape programs that meet those needs, and provide education and support around applying for grants. The mentoring that the GTO team provides extends far beyond grant writing. GTO staff provide mentoring, listening, advising to understand how constituent organizations create and pursue new art forms. The GTO program in ArtsWA is an entry point for organizations to access state funding and services.

Guillen believes trust is the most important step. When the GTO program has to send a decline notices to a significant percentage of applicants for a grant, it creates a negative environment. These relationships are much deeper than just the funding, but it would be so much better for the arts sector in Washington state to have more funds to grant at a higher dollar amount and to more organizations. Advocacy in this next legislative session will guide the future impact of this program.

2024 Advocacy Strategy Discussion

Creative Economy Strategic Plan

Shannon Halberstadt, Creative Economy Sector Lead with the Department of Commerce, spoke about the State's creative economy strategic plan. She strives to be the state's subject matter expert on the arts sector and creative economy. Halberstadt worked with a group of experts, including Hanan and Big Bull-Lewis, to create this strategic plan. The work group spoke with more than 450 people around the state to gain an understanding of the creative economy in Washington state. Equity and access, creating pathways for people to gain creative skills to work in the creative sector, and infrastructure development were major themes. Another important theme was funding for business development. Her work fits neatly with ArtsWA, where not only economic but cultural value is important.

Review Local Advocacy Action Plan

ArtsWA budget requests were reviewed in the one-pager documents for each request. Hanan said the agency works with the Office of Financial Management to understand how best to communicate funding needs clearly. Board members input on the content of one pagers. Thiagarajan said it is important to strike a balance between the economic and intrinsic value of the arts.

Strategies and Action Items for Commissioners

David Foster, WESTAF lobbyist that represents arts interests in Olympia for many years. He spoke about the value of contacting legislators during the interim session. Even during a major election cycle, it is important to meet with current legislators to develop relationships before the legislative session.

Robin said having personal examples ready for legislative meetings is helpful to show how the arts are important to the people in a district and the state. Act now to get on the

schedules of legislators for meetings prior to beginning of legislative session.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present to make comment.

Adjourn

Robin adjourned the meeting at 2:13 p.m.