

# Oregon Arts Commission Meeting Minutes



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March 11, 2022

Teleconference

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**Commission Members Present:** Jenny Green, Chair; Christopher Acebo; Avantika Bawa; Michael Dalton (joined late); Subashini Ganesan; David Harrelson; Harlen Springer; Matt Stringer, Anne Taylor

**Board Members Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Brian Rogers, Executive Director; Kat Bell, Grants & Office Coordinator; Carrie Kikel, Communications Manager; Eleanor Sandys, Visual Arts Coordinator; Liora Sponko, Senior Program Manager.

**Guests Present:** Thomas Bruner, executive director, Oregon Ballet Theatre; Peter Franc, Interim Artistic Director, Oregon Ballet Theatre; Richard and Annie Linzer, Linzer Consulting.

## Welcome and Call to Order

Jenny Green called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. She introduced Subashini Ganesan and welcomed her as an Arts Commissioner. She thanked Christopher Acebo and Michael Dalton as departing Arts Commissioners. She thanked the staff for their hard work over the past two years and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

## Oregon Ballet Presentation

Thomas Bruner and Peter Franc gave an update on the work of Oregon Ballet Theatre.

## Minutes

Harlen Springer moved approval of the minutes from the December 12, 2021, meeting. Seconded by Matt Stringer. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## Planning Process

Brian Rogers and Liora Sponko presented packet update on planning process and introduced Richard and Annie Linzer.

Richard said the information is beginning to form into a series of key issues. He and Annie will be sending Commissioners a packet of information in advance of the upcoming retreat.

## Poetry Out Loud Update

Liora Sponko presented report. She encouraged the Commissioners to watch the Poetry Out Loud State Contest and participate in the chat.

## Upcoming Panel Dates

Kat Bell presented her memo and encouraged Commissioners to email her to sign up to be a panel chair.

Green called for a 10-minute break at 10:22 a.m.

Discussion about the value of in-person meetings and networking with arts organizations and artists.

Green reconvened the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

### **Committee Updates**

Green introduced the work of the various Committees and presented the memos. She asked for Commissioner feedback on potential Commissioners re: the email she sent out.

Springer talked about the purpose of the Advancement Committee. He spoke to a recent meeting with the Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon and work to establish a Cultural/Creative Caucus. The Committee met with Nick Batz, the legislative liaison for Business Oregon and he was very supportive of the Caucus. He said the key to a Caucus being successful is its leadership and that we need to run the concept by the Governor's team.

A NASAA report shows that Oregon ranks 36<sup>th</sup> for arts funding. Anne Taylor asked about Arizona's ranking at number 50; where does their funding come from? Springer said the Committee would look into that. The Committee will also be looking into other sources of funding.

Subashini Ganesan spoke to the tremendous arts funding in Minneapolis and said it's important that we also do advocacy work at the community level. She would be happy to join the Committee and contribute to that work.

Discussion about potential corporate support and student participation in the Caucus.

Michael Dalton asked about the Arts Summit and the Governor's Arts Awards as other advancement opportunities.

Springer said the Artist Registry is a tremendous potential for advocacy as well.

Discussion about informal convenings. Avantika Bawa and Ganesan will work on a Portland convening in September.

David Harrelson said the Commission should work on a list of priorities that can be shared in advocacy work.

Green said that work should start with the Grants Committee and moved to the Advancement Committee.

Springer said that is a discussion for the planning retreat.

### **Artist Resiliency Program Update**

Eleanor Sandys presented report. Commissioners are welcome to email Sandys if they are interested in attending the panel meetings.

Discussion about reaching artists with opportunities. Ganesan said we should talk about different ways artists may self-identify in rural communities.

Discussion of what defines a professional artist and how to better reach diverse and rural artists.

### **Arts Access Program Report**

Bell presented report and said we have \$13,000 of \$17,000 left in the budget. We will start promoting awards and the grant program.

### **Commissioner and Staff Updates**

Sandys presented her report and said we received 69 COG applications. The Art in the Governor's Office series will be on hiatus for three years while the Capitol is under renovation. Discussion about usage of the list; agreed the list will be used only by the Commission and the Foundation.

Bell presented her report and talked about how helpful the PEAK grantmaking meetings are for her. She won a scholarship to attend the virtual national conference. Green asked about the updated grant history and dashboard. Bell will share.

Sponko presented her report. She asked Commissioners to promote Small Operating Support in their communities. She'll be issuing an RFP for a Cultural Districts consultant. Harrelson asked if Oregon Solutions/Governor's Office could help pay for the consultant. Rogers said we'll look into that. Taylor asked if it would be helpful for Commissioners to reach out to arts organizations in their areas who are participating in AEP6. Sponko said yes, they would likely appreciate the support.

Taylor said Oregon East Symphony is presenting two ballet suites and a piece by a Native American composer. It's very meaningful event Saturday night.

Bawa said she's part of a national panel talk on Sunday: "Unfolding How Artists Shape Diaspora." March 19 is the Festival of Color (HoliFesitval).

Springer talked about his work to organize the local AEP6 event. It's really important data.

Green shared the current Scalehouse exhibition.

Acebo reflected on his experiences as a Commissioner and said he is grateful.

### **Adjourn**

Green adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.