Commission Members Present: Jenny Green, Chair; Avantika Bawa; Subashini Ganesan-Forbes; David Harrelson; Stephanie Kim, Roberta Lavadour, Kamilah Long; Harlen Springer; Matthew Stringer; Anne Taylor

Commission Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Brian Rogers, Executive Director; Sarah Baylinson, Artist Collection & Artists Services Specialist; Kat Bell, Grants & Office Coordinator; Jill Coughlin, Arts Administrative Specialist; Carrie Kikel, Communications Manager; Eleanor Sandys, Visual Arts Coordinator; Liora Sponko, Senior Program Manager.

Guests Present: Meagan Atiyeh, Ryan Burghard, Peg Butler, Renee Couture, Claire Schechtman

Welcome and Call to Order
Jenny Green called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. She welcomed new Arts Commissioner Stephanie Kim and incoming staff member Sarah Baylinson. She bid farewell to Eleanor Sandys and thanked her for her dedication. She announced Tiffany Harker as the incoming Arts Education and Grants Coordinator.

Minutes
Springer moved approval of the minutes from the July 15, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Bawa. Taylor recused herself from voting as she was not present at the July 15, 2022 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Artist Resiliency Update
Sandys presented her memo. Ganesan said it did not seem equitable that one artist was awarded more money than other artists with the same score and wondered if the overage could be distributed amongst the other artists. Rogers said it involves Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) funds and OCF was satisfied with the distribution. Staff will discuss this with OCF and see if anything can be done.

Bawa inquired whether all artists names were mentioned in the press. Eleanor said there were 25 to 30 individuals and that they are all included in the last meeting packet.

Art in Public Places Program Updates (Percent for Arts) – Project Managers
There are 7 Managing Art Acquisition Project Managers. Eleanor thanked them for facilitating the arts selection process and service as a face of the organization. There is good geographic diversity in the Arts in Public Places projects.
Project Managers Meagan Atiyeh, Ryan Burkhard, Peg Butler, Renee Couture and Claire Schectman presented their public arts projects. Springer thanked the Project Managers for their hard work and said he would love to see the public arts program receive more exposure in the press. Bawa said the commissioners are here to support them.

A lack of funding for maintenance of public arts projects was noted. This needs to change. The Board also wants to ensure indigenous communities are included and promoted.

Ganesan encourages geographic barriers being removed and commissioners supporting artists outside of their communities. Sandys said regular updates from project managers at meetings is one way to help keep everyone connected.

Sandys made a farewell speech and thanked staff and commissioners for their support.

**Strategic Plan and Action Plan**

Sponko discussed the Strategic Plan. It can be modified if needed. The action plan lays out how the strategic plan will be implemented and includes estimated timelines and who’s responsible for tasks.

Springer likes that the plan is specific and actionable. Stringer likes the timetables because capacity is always an issue. Springer requested that we review the plan twice a year. Rogers approved. Green added that committees can also track their own progress.

Green called for an approval vote. Stringer interjected and asked if staff was happy with the plan, or if it was overwhelming. Sponko said it’s an ambitious plan and staff is excited about it. Roger said our next application to the NEA is in 2024. OAC will be solidly into the plan by then and it will help strengthen our application. Ganesan likes that it is a living document, and we are not locked into unattainable goals.

Green called for a vote on the Strategic Plan. Springer moved. Taylor seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

*Green called for a 15-minute break. The meeting reconvened at 10:40 a.m.*

**Committee Updates**

**Executive Committee**

Rogers presented the report. CACO has put forward a bill for $200 million to create an endowment fund for the Cultural Trust through lottery bonds. In practice it would be approximately $4 to $7 million annually distributed to cultural organizations across the state for operating support. The Arts Commission was not involved in the development of this bill and consider it a long shot. It is extremely rare that lottery bonds would be used for the arts. CACO wants to meet after the election to work on how the Trust would implement this.

The Trust’s priority is removing the $400,000 administrative cap and replacing it with a percentage up to 5% of our permanent fund. We are also working on an Arts Advocacy Day at the Capitol in April 2023.

Ganesan asked if the $50 million request from CACO for relief funding interferes with the Commissions ask for $10 million for the general fund. Rogers said there will be competition between these two asks.
CACO also has a request out for ongoing cultural construction projects called the Cultural Resource Economic Fund. There are 17 projects on the list for a $15 million ask.

The $200 million lottery bonds would also be in direct conflict with Business Oregon goals. Green asked if the Business Oregon/Arts Commission lobbyist could help with this. Rogers noted it would put our lobbyist in a bad position as he would be forced to pick a side.

**Advancement Committee**

Stringer presented the report. The committee is developing an Arts and Culture Caucus to help us gain legislative support. 8 diverse legislators, including senators and representative, have been identified and a Zoom meeting is scheduled. The goal is for the legislators to officially approve the caucus’ creation and membership.

CACO, the Cultural Trust and the Arts Commission need to form a united front for their legislative asks. Stringer said building the Artist Registry is a huge piece in demonstrating the importance of the arts to the legislature. Next year we will have the AEP 6 data, which will include a tally of all money spent on arts and culture in Oregon. 21 regions in the state are working on collecting this data.

**Grants & Equity Committee**

Green delivered the report. The committee is fine tuning the grants process and making various improvements to grant eligibility and the application process.

Sponko said Business Oregon hired a community partnerships position. This person will be in charge of creating panelist stipends. Arts Commission staff are working with the Interim Chief Information Officer on pursuing Foundant as our grants management system. We are not ready to pilot video applications yet. We are gathering feedback from various groups and organizations so that a future rollout is successful.

**Executive Director Report**

Rogers delivered the report. The Chair of the NEA, Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson is visiting Portland area next week. Congresswomen Bonamici is hosting, and the visit will include various tours and meetings.

**Commission and Staff Reports**

Bell presented her report.

Sandys presented her report.

Sponko presented her report.

Green said her community has been very active with festivals and cultural events such as Bend Film and the Sisters Folk Festival.

Taylor was pleased to see OAC on the program for School of Rock and Beauty and the Beast. She is proud that OAC supported Joan Gilbert, who completed 55 works of art by 55 years old, with a Career Opportunity Grant.
Bawa invited board and staff to her show which runs through October 28.

Stringer mentioned upcoming mayoral and city council elections in November. He is eager to see increased diversity in government.

Springer was pleased that Fiesta Cultural came to the Florence community and said it provides great exposure for Latino/a/x artists. He is also excited about the public art program which gives artists stipends to display their work in outdoor spaces for 2 years at little cost to cities.

Harrelson attended a 2-day summit of an intertribal food sovereignty group. He asked if there is guidance provided by the NEA for folk art funding that includes tribal food and culture. He plugged the Hallie Ford exhibit called Transformations which features Pacific Northwest tribal art.

Adjourn
Green adjourned the meeting at 12:04 PM.