

**Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
Council Meeting
Monday, September 27, 2004
4:30 PM
St. Ann Arts & Cultural Center
Woonsocket, Rhode Island**

Council members present: Christopher McMahan, *Chairman*; Stu Giannini, *Vice Chairman*; Nancy Chapman; Ann Clanton; Peggy Melozzi; Regina Partridge

Council members unable to attend: Suzanne Augenstein; Patricia Doyle; Azim Mazagonwalla; Mary K. Talbot; Michael Watson; Carrie Zaslou

Staff members present: Randall Rosenbaum, *Executive Director*; Sherilyn Brown, *Director of Education*; Cristina Di Chiera, *Director of Individual Artists and Public Art Programs*; Steven Feinberg, *Director, RI Film & TV Office*; Dan Kahn, *Assistant to Education Program*; Winnie Lambrecht, *Traditional & Community Arts Program Director*; Diane Pertuso, *Fiscal and Office Manager*; Estelle Verte, *Grants Coordinator*

Public present: Roland Richer, *President, St. Ann Arts & Cultural Center*

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

Chairman McMahan asked the members of the Council and others to introduce themselves.

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts' May 10, 2004 Council Meeting

After review, a motion was made to accept the minutes of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts' June 28, 2004 Council meeting as presented.

(Motion: Stu Giannini; seconded by Peggy Melozzi; Passed: Unanimously)

Committee Reports

Finance Report

Chairman McMahan asked Ms. Pertuso and Mr. Rosenbaum to report on the preliminary "end of year" figures for FY04. The agency ended the year as expected, with a surplus in Personnel anticipated through the reorganization of the agency, and a small surplus in Grants mostly as a result of legislative grants not paid to First Night Providence and Veterans Memorial Auditorium Foundation. After discussion, a motion was made to

accept the preliminary financial report for the end of FY04, and place the report on file for audit review.

(Motion: Regina Partridge; seconded by Nancy Chapman; Passed: Unanimously)

Chair's Report

Chairman McMahan reported that the Council submitted its budget early in the month of September, and that it was prepared in keeping with the conditions established by the State budget office. Included in the budget was an offline request for additional support for the Rhode Island Film Office.

Chairman McMahan also reported on a variety of RISCA initiatives, including the developing relationship with the Non-Profit Finance Fund of Boston, which will conduct a financial review of Perishable Theatre. He remarked that the Council had approved a \$10,000 budget line item for this, \$5,000 of which would be used to commission a report he hoped the Council would be in a position to review at our February 2005 meeting. He also reported on the artist housing initiative partnership with RI Citizens for the Arts and the Housing Network of RI, in particular announcing the appointment of Laura Mullen as its coordinator.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Rosenbaum reported on the following items:

- Congratulations to staff on the positive responses from our first "customer satisfaction survey"
- Congratulations to Steven Feinberg on his work ensuring that the Showtime television pilot (Brotherhood) would film entirely in Rhode Island
- That the Council offices would remain in One Capitol Hill
- That the Governor would be signing a proclamation for Arts and Humanities month in Rhode Island in a public ceremony on Oct 7
- That music teacher David Neves of Scituate High School would be receiving a special award from the U.S. Department of Education
- That Mr. Rosenbaum and Chairman McMahan would be attending a National Assembly of State Arts Agencies' meeting in Orlando, FL in November.

Old Business

Issues arising from FY05 Cycle 1 grants

Chairman McMahan reported that while the vast majority of our grantees were happy with the Council, a very few of our grant recipients were not happy with the decisions that were made at the June Council meeting. He wanted Council members to be informed of some of the more important problems, issues and disagreements. He reported on correspondence that had been exchanged with WRNI and Scene:Teens.

He also reported that we are waiting for additional information from the Ocean State Chamber Orchestra, which has not been received as of this date.

Update on RI Arts Learning Network

Chairman McMahan asked RISCA Education Director Sherilyn Brown to report on progress with the RI Arts Learning Network. Ms. Brown informed the Council that regional representatives had been hired to gather information about arts learning opportunities in regions throughout the state. The information would be made available via a special web site.

Update on RI Film & TV Office

Chairman McMahan congratulated Stephen Feinberg, RISCA's Film & TV Office director, on his work convincing the Showtime Television Network to film its pilot "Brotherhood" here in Rhode Island rather than move it to Toronto. Mr. Feinberg reported to the Council on his efforts in this area, and on other film and TV productions interested in coming to Rhode Island.

New Business

Authorization to submit FY2006 Budget to the State

Chairman McMahan informed the Council that the FY05 Budget Request has been submitted and referred the Council to the narrative of the budget submission in the Council Meeting Book. Mr. Rosenbaum informed the Council that this year the Budget Office had not included the 10% cut it had asked for in previous years, saying that they saw no need to do this with the smaller agencies. He also reported that we had included an "off-line" section of the budget submission seeking additional resources for the Film Office activities. After review and discussion, a motion was made to authorize RISCA to submit the FY06 Budget Request.

(Motion: Peggy Melozzi; seconded by Stu Giannini; Passed: Unanimously)

Approval of Watershed Art & Science Grant Collaboration with DEM

Chairman McMahan reported that last year for the first time RISCA entered into collaboration with the RI Department of Environmental Management to manage a small grant program bringing artists and classroom teachers together on projects that use the arts to educate about watershed and water quality issues. Last year's program was a success, and we were requesting Council permission to continue it in FY06.

(Motion: Christopher McMahan; seconded by Peggy Melozzi; Passed: Unanimously)

Approval of recommendation on additional music composition fellowship for FY05

Chairman McMahan reminded the Council that last year a music composition fellowship was not awarded at the recommendation of our out-of-state juror. He introduced Cristina Di Chiera, RISCA's Individual Artists Program Director, who reported on a

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meeting she had with the state's music composers. She recommended, and a motion was made and seconded, that if a sufficient number of applications for composers were received at the upcoming October 1 fellowship deadline, that the Council approve awarding two \$5,000 music fellowships in FY05, and that the \$1,000 not awarded last year be added to music composition-related project grants for Cycle 2.

(Motion: Peggy Melozzi; seconded by Regina Partridge; Passed: Unanimously)

Authorization to submit applications to NEA

After discussion a motion was made to authorize RISCA to submit its interim Partnership Agreement application and its Folk Arts Infrastructure application to the National Endowment for the Arts.

(Motion: Ann Clanton; seconded by Peggy Melozzi; Passed: Unanimously)

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

(Motion: Peggy Melozzi; seconded by Stu Giannini; Passed: Unanimously)