

**Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
Council Meeting
Thursday, December 7, 2006
5:30 PM
Newport Art Museum
Newport, Rhode Island**

Council members present: Carrie Zaslow, *Vice Chairman and Acting Chair*; Mary K. Talbot, *Secretary*; Ann Clanton; Nancy Chapman; Stu Giannini; Peggy Melozzi; Regina Partridge;

Council members unable to attend: Suzanne Augenstein; Azim Mazagonwalla; Christopher McMahan; Anne Quintero; Andrea Valentini; Michael Watson

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

Public present: none

Vice Chair Carrie Zaslow, serving as chair in the absence of Chairman McMahan, called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

The Council and staff were welcomed to the Newport Art Museum by director Karl Willars, who spoke to the recent activities of the Art Museum.

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts' September 28, 2006 Council Meeting

A correction was noted, that the heading for the Minutes should reflect that the meeting had taken place at Mixed Magic Theatre in Pawtucket on September 28, 2006. After review, a motion was made to accept the minutes of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts' October 15, 2005 Council meeting as corrected.

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

REPORTS

Financial reports for 1st Quarter of FY07

Vice Chair Zaslow asked Ms. Pertuso and Mr. Rosenbaum to comment on the financial reports. They said that it was still early in the fiscal year, but nothing of concern was indicated in the current financial reports.

After discussion, a motion was made to accept the financial reports for the end of FY06 and place the report on file for audit review.

(Motion: Mary K. Talbot; seconded by Regina Partridge Passed: Unanimously)

Promotions Committee

Vice Chair Zaslow directed the Council's attention to the report of the Promotions Committee, and then asked its chair, Peggy Melozzi, for a presentation.

Ms. Melozzi gave a PowerPoint presentation describing the importance of a logo and a brand to the visibility of an organization, and describing the differences between the two terms. She reported that the Committee, whose members include Mary K. Talbot and Andrea Valentini, have started, on behalf of the Council, a process for selecting a new logo for RISCA. Three designers with significant careers have expressed interest, and the Committee will meet with the designers later in the month for the purpose of choosing one to design the logo.

Nominating Committee

Vice Chair Zaslow directed the Council's attention to the report from Azim Mazagonwalla, chair of the Nominating Committee. In Mr. Mazagonwalla's absence, Vice Chair Zaslow asked Council members to consider recommending to Mr. Rosenbaum the names of people who could be forwarded to the Governor's Office for possible appointment to the Council. In addition to the names already under consideration, Ms. Clanton recommended Cindy Ross-Meeks, an art teacher, and Rebecca Flores-Amado, an artist.

Report from the Executive Director

Mr. Rosenbaum gave a report on the following items: the ongoing series of holiday concerts being performed at the Rhode Island State House, organized by Dan Kahn on behalf of RISCA; the upcoming exhibition of works by RISCA fellowship recipients, organized by Cristina Di Chiera and scheduled for Tuesday, February 20th at Firehouse 13 in Providence; a report from Steven Feinberg on upcoming film productions; a report on recent federal grants from the NEA to Rhode Island arts organizations; and a discussion with Winnie Lambrecht on the ongoing collaboration with The Steelyard.

OLD BUSINESS

Review and approval – RISCA goals and objectives

Vice Chair Zaslow directed the Council's attention to the draft language on objectives, the next step in the Council's Strategic Planning process. The Council had a discussion on the language and found it an appropriate extension of the work that had already been done in developing the themes and goals of the plan.

After discussion a motion was made approving the language on objectives for the Strategic Planning Process, and encouraging the staff to continue working on the next level of the planning document.

(Motion: Ann Clanton; seconded by Mary K. Talbot Passed: Unanimously)

NEW BUSINESS

Grant Actions

Project Grants - Organizations

Per RISCA's Procedure and Regulations' Conflict of Interest Statement, the following Council members are excluded from voting or participating in any discussion regarding the following Project Grants for Organizations: Nancy Chapman, RI College

A motion was made to accept the panel recommendations for FY07 Cycle 2 Project Grants for Organizations as presented.

(Motion: Regina Partridge; seconded by Mary K. Talbot, Passed: Unanimous)

Project Grants - Individuals

Per RISCA's Procedure and Regulations' Conflict of Interest Statement, the following Council members are excluded from voting or participating in any discussion regarding the following Project Grants for Individuals: no conflicts reported

After review and discussion, a motion was to accept the panel recommendations for FY07 Cycle 2 Project Grants for Individuals as presented.

(Motion: Stu Giannini; seconded by Regina Partridge Passed: Unanimous)

Project Grants - Education

Per RISCA's Procedure and Regulations' Conflict of Interest Statement, the following Council members are excluded from voting or participating in any discussion regarding the following Project Grants for Individuals: Stu Giannini, Meeting Street and VSA arts

A question was raised by Mr. Giannini about the panel recommendation not to support the Jacqueline Walsh School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Pawtucket. Dan Kahn reported that there was a great deal of support for the school itself, but its grant application was weak and was subsequently not recommended by the panel for support. Mr. Giannini felt that this school was serving an important role in its community, and had personal knowledge of the impact it was having on young people's

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lives. Mr. Rosenbaum responded that the Council did, in fact, support the school, and that our Education director, Sherry Brown, had been a close advisor to its faculty and staff. Mr. Rosenbaum recommended that Mr. Giannini sit down with himself and Ms. Brown, and later with the Walsh School staff, to see what could be done to further help the organization.

After review and discussion, a motion was made to accept the panel recommendations for FY07 Cycle 2 Project Grants for Education as presented.

(Motion: Regina Partridge; seconded by Mary K. Talbot Passed: Unanimous)

Fellowship Grants

Per RISCA's Procedure and Regulations' Conflict of Interest Statement, the following Council members are excluded from voting or participating in any discussion regarding the following Fellowship applications: none reported

A motion was made to accept the jurors' recommendations for FY07 Cycle 2 Fellowships under consideration.

(Motion: Stu Giannini; seconded by Nancy Chapman, Passed: Unanimous)

Folk Art Apprenticeship Grants

Hearing no conflicts and after review and discussion, a motion was to accept the panel recommendations for FY07 Folk Arts Apprenticeship Grants as presented.

(Motion: Regina Partridge; seconded by Mary K. Talbot Passed: Unanimous)

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

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