

**Rhode Island State Council on the Arts  
Council Meeting  
Thursday, May 17, 2007  
4:30 PM  
RISCA Offices  
Providence, Rhode Island**

**Council members present:** Christopher McMahan, *Chairman*; Carrie Zaslow, *Vice Chairman*; Mary K. Talbot, *Secretary*; Douglas Bennett; Beverly Blais; Bill Brackett; Ann Clanton; Nancy Chapman; Anne Quintero

**Council members unable to attend:** Suzanne Augenstein; Peggy Melozzi; Regina Partridge; Andrea Valentini

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

**Public present:** Michael Sivatolo, RI State House of Representatives

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Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order at 4:40 PM.

Chairman McMahan welcomed the newly-confirmed members of the State Arts Council board – Douglas Bennett, Beverly Blais and Bill Brackett – and asked them to introduce themselves.

**Review and Approval of the Minutes of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts' February 15, 2007 Council Meeting**

After review, it was noted that in approving the December 2006 meeting minutes the date of that meeting (December 7, 2006) was incorrectly represented in the minutes. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts' February 15, 2007 Council meeting as amended.

*(Motion: Douglas Bennett; seconded by Anne Quintero, Passed: Unanimously)*

**Financial Report – 3rd Quarter FY07**

Chairman McMahan asked Diane Pertuso to report on the latest Council financials. Ms. Pertuso said that the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter is when we start to really get a sense of where we will

end the year. Based on her projections we should end the year in good shape. Mr. Rosenbaum reported that the third quarter is traditionally when the Budget Office starts to look for money to “scoop up” in difficult financial years. That, in fact, has started to happen, and about \$59,000 was taken out of general expenditure budgets for the Film Office and RISCA. We make a point of spending most of our state funds, particularly in grants, before this can happen.

After discussion, a motion was made to accept the financial reports for the 3rd Quarter of FY07 and place the report on file for audit review.

*(Motion: Anne Quinterno; seconded by Carrie Zaslou Passed: Unanimously)*

### **Promotions Committee**

Mr. Rosenbaum and Mary K. Talbot reported on the work of the Promotions Committee since the last Council meeting. The committee has been working with local designer Tom Roskelly of Portsmouth on a new logo and brand for the Council. The first step was a meeting to determine whether RISCA was the acronym we wanted to be associated with. A number of other options were explored but the committee determined that RISCA was the favorite, and it certainly is what the agency is known as in the community. This will have an impact on greater visibility by developing a brand and a package to promote the work of the agency. The committee will continue to work with the designer, and hopes to come to the Council at its June meeting with a design for their approval.

### **Chairman’s Report**

Chairman McMahan reported that Jonathan Katz, CEO of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) was invited to Providence to work with a group of community leaders on a project designed to promote and advance the cultural sector in our state. The group will work on developing a project that could garner support from a broad segment of the business and foundation community. Chairman McMahan also reported on a positive visit with the Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, William Murphy, who expressed his support for the arts and the work of the Arts Council. Chairman McMahan also reported that he was part of a group that met with Senator MaryEllen Goodwin and the director of the Rhode Island Lottery, and that Senator Goodwin would be introducing legislation to establish an “arts lottery” scratch ticket for the coming year that might generate additional revenue for the arts.

### **Executive Director’s Report**

Mr. Rosenbaum and staff reported on several ongoing projects:

Mr. Rosenbaum reported on the recent Geotourism Charter signed by the Governor, and shared a letter to the Governor asking that the Arts Council be involved in the

tourism sector work that will arise from positioning Rhode Island as a cultural destination.

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that the Arts Council has begun to collaborate with the Secretary of State's Office and the Governor's Office to commission the official portrait for Governor Carcieri.

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that he was been working with the Jamestown Town Council and with representatives from the Bristol and Portsmouth communities on developing arts districts in those towns.

Steven Feinberg reported that the second season of Brotherhood was currently filming in and around Rhode Island; a new film titled "27 Dresses" is also filming, starring Katherine Heigl and Ed Burns; and a premiere of the movie "Evening" will premiere at the Newport International Film Festival on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Old Business**

#### **Status report on current public art projects**

Cristina Di Chiera reported on a number of ongoing public art projects, including the Kent County Courthouse, Dunkin' Donuts Center and Traffic Tribunal projects. We are starting to think about ways to promote these projects, including developing a focus group of Council members to talk about how to handle this.

### **New Business**

#### **Establish Nominating Committee**

Chairman McMahan reported that the May Council meeting is when a Nominating Committee is established to prepare a slate of officers for presentation at the June Council meeting. The following individuals have expressed their willingness to serve: Peggy Melozzi, Doug Bennett and Ann Clanton. A discussion took place about the process the committee will follow in establishing the slate.

After discussion, a motion was made to establish a Nominating Committee consisting of Peggy Melozzi, Doug Bennett and Ann Clanton, whose charge is to develop a slate of officers to present at the June 28, 2007 Council meeting.

*(Motion: Anne Quintero; seconded by Mary K. Talbot Passed: Unanimously)*

#### **Review and Approval of Recent Federal Submissions**

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that RISCA was required to submit a variety of plans by the end of April for the use of federal funds in three categories of funding from the National Endowment for the Arts: Challenge America (in the amount of \$100,700); American Masterpieces (\$44,800) and Poetry Out Loud (\$15,000). The Council reviewed and discussed the plans as prepared by staff.

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After discussion, a motion was made to approve the plans for use of federal funds as prepared and submitted by staff to the National Endowment for the Arts on April 30, 2007.

*(Motion: Douglas Bennett; seconded by Carrie Zaslow Passed: Unanimously)*

### **Review of draft FY08 budget**

Chairman McMahan remarked that each May the Council reviews a draft of the coming year's budget, which allows us to go into the panel meetings with figures in place so grant recommendations can be prepared. Mr. Rosenbaum walked the Council through the proposed budget, which is based on the Governor's hold-even budget for the agency.

After discussion, a motion was made to accept the draft budget proposal for FY08.

*(Motion: Anne Quinterno; seconded by Carrie Zaslow Passed: Unanimously)*

### **Miscellaneous**

Ann Clanton reported that the Rhode Island for Community & Justice would be premiering a documentary called Traces of the Trade: Story from the Deep North, a documentary detailing the journey of ten descendants of the DeWolf family from their hometown Bristol, Rhode Island, to the slave forts in Ghana, and the family plantation in Cuba. The Rhode Island Congressional delegation will be sponsoring a showing on Capitol Hill in Washington, and RISCA will be supporting a showing in Rhode Island.

Nancy Chapman reported that the South County Art Association will have an open house on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

*(Motion: Mary K. Talbot; seconded by Anne Quinterno; Passed: Unanimously)*