

Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 24, 2010
4:00 PM
RISCA Offices
Providence RI

Council Members Present: Bill Brackett, Chairman; Carrie Zaslow, Vice Chairman; Mary K. Talbot, Secretary; Beverly Blais; Nancy Chapman; Ann Clanton; Regina Partridge; Jean Rondeau; and David Wax.

Council Members Unable to Attend: Dana Neugent; Carolyn Peck; and Andrea Valentini

Staff Members Present: Randall Rosenbaum, Executive Director; ; Sherilyn Brown, Education Director; Cristina DiChiera, Director Individual Artists & Public Art Program;; Dan Kahn, Asst. Education Program; Elena Calderón-Patiño, Community Arts Program Director; and Donna Fiske, Fiscal & Office Manager

Public Present: Adriana Thomas

Chairman Bill Brackett called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes – May 4, 2010 Council meeting:

(Motion: Beverly Blais, seconded by Carrie Zaslow)

Report from the Nominating Committee:

David Wax presented the report from the Nominating Committee. The committee recommended the following slate of officers for FY2011: Bill Brackett, Chairman; Carrie Zaslow, Vice Chairman; and Jean Rondeau as Secretary.

A motion was made to accept the slate as presented.

(Motion: David Wax; seconded by Nancy Chapman)

Chairman Brackett thanked the committee for their work, and gave particular thanks to Mary K. Talbot for her several years of wise counsel and support to the work of the Council in her role as Secretary.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Bill Brackett reported that two goals he had for this year were to get some representation from the arts community on the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation (EDC) board. We have succeeded by advocating with the Governor's Office for this, and currently there are two arts/creative people on the EDC. The Chairman's second goal was to get a study commissioned and completed that shows the economic benefits the film industry brings to our state, and the value of the tax credit in attracted business to Rhode Island. A study from Dr. Edward Massey of the University of Rhode Island has made this case well, and a new TV series is being filmed in Warwick, a direct result of the presence of tax incentives.

Approval of State Police Headquarters public art commission

In the absence of Public Art Program Director Elizabeth Keithline, Mr. Rosenbaum presented the recommendations of the State Police Headquarters public art selection panel. The panel unanimously recommended commissioning artist Benjamin Victor for a bronze statue of a State Policeman in full uniform.

A motion was made to accept the recommendation of the State Police Headquarters public art selection panel and commission work from artist Benjamin Victor.

(Motion: Carrie Zaslow. Second: Beverly Blais)

Mr. Rosenbaum also updated the Council on the RI School for the Deaf project. As was previously discussed, the School for the Deaf is building a new school on the site of the old school. The old school had a number of works of art, most created by artist (and teacher) Peter Geisser. Ms. Keithline has been working with Mr. Geisser and the Dept of Administration's Arn Lisner on de-installing the public art he had installed in the old school so it can be re-installed in the new school.

Approval of FY11 Budget:

Mr. Rosenbaum reviewed the final version of the FY11 budget. He explained to the Council that an aggressive advocacy effort during the past legislative season

resulted in the restoration of the public art program, the continuation of the film tax incentive program, and the restoration of \$600,000 of the \$700,000 cut of state grant dollars proposed by Governor Carcieri. The remaining \$100,000 was directed by the General Assembly to support a collaboration between the Rhode Island Philharmonic and Waterfire.

A motion was made to accept the FY11 budget as presented.

(Motion: David Wax. Second: Carrie Zaslow)

Approval of Grants:

General Operating Support:

The following individuals declared a conflict of interest with the following applicants: David Wax, Gamm Theatre and Providence Singers; Bill Brackett, Everett Dance Theatre, Festival Ballet, Fusionworks, Island Moving Company, Perishable Theatre, PPAC and the RI Philharmonic.

Mr. Rosenbaum, although he is not a voting member of the Council, declared a conflict of interest with the Providence Singers, Island Moving Company and Slater Mill.

Mr. Rosenbaum also directed the Council's attention to the first-time inclusion of reviews on accessibility by GOS applicants, a project done in cooperation with VSA Arts of Rhode Island.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations of the General Operating Support panel.

(Motion: Carrie Zaslow seconded by Beverly Blais)

Project Grants Individuals:

No conflicts of interest were declared on this set of applications.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations of the Project Grants Individuals panel.

(Motion: David Wax; seconded by Nancy Chapman)

Project Grants Organizations:

The following individuals declared a conflict of interest with the following applicants: David Wax, Manton Avenue Project and Musica Dolce; Jean Rondeau, Stadium Theatre; Bill Brackett, Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, Firstworks, Mixed Magic, City of Providence and Waterfire

Carrie Zaslow voiced her concern about the lack of funding to organizations serving the homeless and to neighborhood organizations for festivals and community celebrations. Carrie and Elena volunteered to explore issues related to the support of these festivals and community celebrations and report their recommendations at the September Council meeting.

A discussion took place about the proposed grant for the Colonial Theatre. RISCA has supported this program (Shakespeare in the Park) in the past but Mr. Rosenbaum reported that we have been informed informally that they are experiencing some financial difficulties and may not hold this summer's festival. The plan is to build up their resources to support the summer 2011 festival. The Colonial Theatre has asked whether they could use the funds recommended for this year to cover production costs to prepare for next year's performance. After discussing different options, a decision was made to award the grant but hold the money until they can guarantee the production will take place, and provide us with information on the costs they anticipate incurring prior to June 30, 2011.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations of the Project Grants Organizations panel.

(Motion: David Wax; seconded by Beverly Blais)

Project Grants Education:

No conflicts of interest were declared on this set of applications.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations of the Project Grants Education panel.

(Motion: Jean Rondeau; seconded by Regina Partridge)

Fellowship/ Folk Arts:

No conflicts of interest were declared on this set of applications.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations of the Fellowship panels.

(Motion: Mary K. Talbot; seconded by Beverly Blais)

Latino Radio:

Elena Calderón Patiño reported on her work with Latino Public Radio on a multi-engagement program of interviews of Rhode Island artists and arts organizations designed to give exposure to groups that many are not familiar with in the Latino community. Mr. Rosenbaum reviewed a request from Latino Public Radio for a \$5,000 grant to support this series of interviews.

A motion was made to award \$5,000 in FY11 funds to Latino Public Radio to support the costs of a series of public information interviews with Rhode Island artists and arts organizations for broadcast to the Latino community.

(Motion: Beverly Blais; seconded by Carrie Zaslou)

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 PM

(Motion: Jean Rondeau; seconded by Nancy Chapman)