

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

Council Members Present: Bill Bracket, Chairman; Carrie Zaslow, Vice Chairman; Mary K. Talbot, Secretary; Dana Neugent; and Jean Rondeau

Council Members Unable to Attend: Nancy Chapman, Ann Clanton, Carolyn Peck, Regina Partridge, David Wax; Beverly Blais; and Andrea Valentini

Staff Members Present: Randall Rosenbaum, Executive Director; Steven Feinberg, Director RI Film and Television Office; Sherilyn Brown, Education Director; Cristina DiChiera, Director Individual Artists & Public Art Program; Elizabeth Keithline, Project Grants for Organizations/Public Art; Carol Conley, Assistant to the Film Office Director; Elena Calderón Patiño, Community Arts Program Director, and Donna Fiske, Fiscal & Office Manager

Public Present: Adriana Thomas, Policy Analyst, House of Representatives; Lisa Carnevale, RI Citizens for the Arts; Amber Rose Johnson, National Poetry Out Loud Champion

Chairman Bill Bracket called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Chairman Brackett welcomed Amber Johnson, a student at Classical High School in Providence, who recently won the national championship of Poetry Out Loud, a collaboration between the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation in Chicago. This program is run in Rhode Island by RISCA.

Approval of Minutes – February 23, 2010 Council meeting:

(Motion: Mary K. Talbot, seconded by Carrie Zaslow)

Approval of Minutes – April 19, 2010 Executive Committee meeting:

(Motion: Mary K. Talbot, seconded by Dana Neugent)

Financial Report – FY10 – Third Quarter

Executive Director Randall Rosenbaum presented the financial report for the third quarter of fiscal year 2010. He reported that our finances for FY10 still appear to be in line with the budget and the time of year.

After discussion, a motion was made to accept the financial report for the 3rd Quarter of FY10 and place the report on file for audit review.

(Motion: Mary K Talbot; seconded by Carrie Zaslow Passed: Unanimously)

OLD BUSINESS

Preparations for House Finance Committee hearing: Chairman Brackett discussed the importance of the upcoming hearing on the FY 11 budget before the House Finance Committee. He introduced Lisa Carnevale, director of Rhode Island Citizens for the Arts, who together with Mr. Rosenbaum gave the Council an overview of advocacy efforts. The hearing would focus on the importance of the arts to be Rhode Island economy, including the preservation and creation of jobs. Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts has also agreed to testify. Chairman Brackett encouraged members of the Council to get involved in the advocacy effort, contact their legislators, and attend the hearing.

RI School for the Deaf public art update and proposal: Public Art Program Director Elizabeth Keithline brought the Council up to date on the RI School for the Deaf public art project. The school had requested assistance in preserving works created over the years by artist Peter Geisser, and after many meetings several of these works were preserved. The final work, a large mural piece, was in danger of being torn down during the demolition process. Ms. Keithline is working with the artist and the state Department of Administration to disassemble the mural and reassemble it in the new school building.

Ms. Keithline requested the Council's approval to allocate undesignated funds from the public art program budget, up to the amount of \$20,000, to support this work. A review is currently underway to identify unrestricted funds in the public art account, monies left over from unexpended administrative expenses in past projects. The Council approved moving forward with this project, subject to the availability of funds, and asked for a report and opportunity to formally vote on this proposal at its next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Nominating Committee: Chairman Brackett reported, in accordance with the Council's Procedures and Regulations, that he has asked David Wax, Dana Neugent and Andrea Valentini to serve as members of a Nominating Committee, charged with presenting a slate of officers at the June Council meeting.

After discussion, a motion was made that a Nominating Committee consisting of David Wax, Dana Neugent and Andrea Valentini be established and charged with presenting a slate of officers at the June Council meeting.

(Motion: Mary K Talbot; seconded by Carrie Zaslow Passed: Unanimously)

Request from Rhode Island Film Collaborative: At its last meeting, Chairman Brackett asked the Film Committee to review the request from the Rhode Island Film Collaborative regarding the commissioning from Dr. Edward Mazze from the University of Rhode Island of an economic study exploring the impact and financial benefits of the film industry and the motion picture tax credit here in Rhode Island. Dana Neugent, chair of the Film Committee, reported that his committee was highly supportive of this request. In their opinion, it was critically important to quantify the important role that the film sector provides -- and potentially could provide with increased activity -- to the Rhode Island economy.

Discussion by members of the Council showed their strong support for this request. Chairman Brackett referred the question to the Film and TV Committee for their review and recommendation.

After discussion, a motion was made to support the request from the Rhode Island Film Collaborative with a grant in the amount of \$9,500.

(Motion: Dana Neugent; seconded by Carrie Zaslow Passed: Unanimously)

Review of draft budget for FY 2011: Finance Committee Chair Jean Rondeau reported that he and David Wax met to review proposals for next year's budget. Since the General Assembly is still in the process of reviewing and revising the Governor's proposal, it was important that the Council be presented with a set of options if no cut were taken, if a 10% to 15% cut were taken, or if the Governor's more drastic proposals were accepted by the General Assembly.

Mr. Rosenbaum walked the Council through the various proposals, and reported that a final budget would be presented at the June Council meeting, depending on when the state budget is passed and signed into law.

After discussion, a motion was made to accept the proposed first draft of a budget for FY11

(Motion: Jean Rondeau; seconded by Mary K. Talbot Passed: Unanimously)

Proposal to participate in National Cultural Database Project: Mr. Rosenbaum reported on a community meeting held last week at the Rhode Island Foundation with representatives from The Pew Charitable Trusts in Philadelphia to talk about the National Cultural Database Project. This is a national program designed to gather significant information about programs, finances and operations from grant applicants to public and private funders that

would help funders and researchers gain access to statistical information about the economy of the arts. This program also helps all arts organizations organize their finances and operations in very positive ways.

Efforts are underway to expand this program throughout New England. Mr. Rosenbaum said that it would be important for Rhode Island to be a part of this program. While we are seeking regional and federal support, there may be some financial commitment on the part of RISCA -- as yet undetermined.

The Council expressed its interest in continuing this conversation, and eventually participating in this program.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 PM

(Motion: Mary K. Talbot; seconded by Carrie Zaslou)