

NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL BOARD MEETING - teleconference

Monday, December 12, 2016

10:00 am

Nevada Arts Council
716 N Carson St, Suite A
Carson City, NV 89701

Present:	Board	Julia Arger, Chair Edward Estipona Joe O'Neill Gail Rappa Jerry Schefcik Eric Strain Irma Varela Annie Zucker Ryrie Valdez
	Staff	Susan Boskoff, Executive Director Cathleen Wyatt, Administrative Assistant Teresa Moiola, Grants Program Coordinator Chenay Pointer-Bueltel, Grants Program Assistant Shoshana Zeldner, Community Arts Development Acting Program Coordinator
	Excused	Linda Ficklin, Administrative Services Officer
	Guest	Sarah Bradley, Deputy Attorney General

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting convened in open public session, via conference call, at 10:00 a.m. Julia Arger, chair of the Nevada Arts Council (NAC) Board, welcomed everyone, and asked for introductions. (*Attachment A: Public Meeting Notice/Agenda*)

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment in person or submitted via email.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 15, 2016 – For Possible Action

Arger requested a motion to approve the minutes from the NAC Board Meeting on September 15, 2016. (*Attachment B: Minutes from NAC Board Meeting September 15, 2016*)

MOTION: APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 15, 2016: Moved by Jerry Schefcik; seconded by Irma Varela. Passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 29, 2016 – For Possible Action

Arger requested a motion to approve the minutes from the NAC Board Meeting on September 29, 2016. (*Attachment C: Minutes from NAC Board Meeting September 29, 2016*)

Joe O'Neill started speaking about the agenda item to address Panel Recommendations for the FY17 Third Quarter Jackpot Grants. Susan Boskoff, executive director, requested that

O'Neill hold his comments until Arger received a motion and approval for the September 15, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 29, 2016: Moved by Irma Varela; seconded by Joe O'Neill. Passed unanimously.

REVIEW AND APPROVE PANEL FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS OF FY17 THIRD QUARTER JACKPOT GRANTS – For Possible Action

Arger welcomed Grants Program Coordinator Teresa Moiola to the staff and asked for her "inaugural presentation" of the FY17 Third Quarter Jackpot Grant recommendations. Moiola explained that Jackpot Grants of up to \$1,000 are designed to support first time or sudden opportunity arts or arts learning education projects initiated by artists, teaching artists, schools, non-profit organizations and public institutions. The agency received 17 applications for FY17 Third Quarter Jackpot Grants; all were deemed eligible. The Jackpot Review Panel met via conference call to review and score all 17 applications from 15 artists and two organizations that requested support for projects and activities scheduled to occur between January 1, 2017 and March 31, 2017. The panel reviewed application narratives and required support materials using the Grants Online system. Moiola informed the board, at this point, that the Jackpot Grant scoring rubric had been updated to insure that scoring for applications for both creation and public projects were based on 100 possible points.

Moiola continued with the panel review process report. After a very lengthy meeting, the panel's scoring resulted in an overall funding recommendation of \$14,830 with \$10,000 available for the quarter. No application was scored below 60%, the threshold established by the board for no funding. As is practice, staff provided the panel with two options to accommodate the available funding amount – to rescore individual applications or to recommend an across-the-board cut for all eligible applications. The panel unanimously chose an alternative option to present for board consideration, which would fund only the 12 highest scoring applicants, leaving no funding for the five remaining applications. Moiola then informed board members that there were provided two spreadsheets with both funding scenarios to assist with the discussion. The first spreadsheet presented the panel recommended option, and the second spreadsheet reflected an across-the-board cut for all eligible applications. Moiola then asked Arger if she would like to have each grant application discussed. Arger preferred to obtain a motion from the board to discuss the options presented, and requested such a motion.

MOTION: TO DISCUSS THE JACKPOT GRANT REVIEW PANEL'S RECOMMENDATION:
Moved by Irma Varela; seconded by Gail Rappa. Passed unanimously.

Arger started the discussion with a reminder that that the Board agreed to raise the threshold of fundability for grant applications from 50 to 60 percent during one its spring meetings several years ago. Continuing, she noted that the panel's alternative option recommended cutting applications that received scores above the "no-funding" threshold. Boskoff noted that in similar situations, when a panel recommended funding levels that exceeded the grant category's available grant dollars, the agency's practice was to request that the panel either rescore applications or consider recommending an across-the-board cut for all eligible applications. The choice of panels for years had been the latter recommendation as it preserves the integrity of the panel's rigorous discussion that usually occurs during hours of review. Arger thanked Boskoff for her comments, and called on O'Neill to offer his thoughts

as chair of the review panel. O'Neill noted that the panel meeting lasted nearly 4 1/2 hours, and he felt that several members wanted to wrap up the discussion because of other commitments. Because of this, he felt that the decision was made in haste. O'Neill then stated that he could not support the alternate option as the board has a responsibility to honor its own determination to provide funding to applications receiving a score of 60 percent or higher. The five lowest scoring applicants each had a score higher than 80 percent. Additionally, he stated that the mission of the agency was to support projects and programs that were deemed eligible to ensure that both new and established organizations were supported. For these reasons, O'Neill would be voting for the option of an across-the-board cut of 32.6% for all eligible applicants. He wrapped up his comments by reminding staff that during the September 15, 2016 Board Meeting, as noted in the minutes, the Grants Management Team offered to inform the board which Jackpot Grant applications were for creation or for projects. All agreed that the definitions of both options (creation and project) be clarified in the Grants Guidelines. Grants Program Assistant Chenay Pointer-Bueltel added that during the First Quarter Jackpot Panel meeting, at least two panelists suggested the same alternative, although its final recommendation was for an across-the-board cut for all eligible applications.

Arger asked for other comments. Irma Varela agreed with O'Neill that the board must honor its decision to fund grant applications that receive a score of 60 percent or higher. She added that some of these grant amounts might be small, but commented a small amount is better than none. Arger asks for any other comments. Gail Rappa asked about the process for the board to discuss these types of issues. Boskoff responded that the funding threshold issue had been an agenda item at a past board meeting. That discussion was vigorous and addressed a number of issues, including the agency's commitment to: (a) support both emerging and established organizations in rural and urban communities; (b) support a breath of projects and programs, and (c) engaging experienced grant review panelists that are able to review a proposed project on its merits, understanding that a number of our applicants don't have full time arts administrators or grant writers on staff. The board raised the funding threshold from 50 to 60 percent during this meeting. She suggested that this issue be placed on the agenda for the fall board meeting for another discussion. This would provide staff with time to prepare various documents to inform the board's discussion. She also reminded the board that no grantee is required to accept a grant award. Eric Strain voiced support to revisit this discussion at the fall board meeting.

Arger asks if there are any more comments. Hearing none, she requires a motion to accept the Jackpot Panel's recommendation.

MOTION: TO APPROVE PANEL FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY17 THIRD QUARTER JACKPOT GRANTS: No motion was offered. Motion defeated.

Arger asked if there were an alternate motion.

MOTION: TO APPROVE AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD CUT FOR FY17 THIRD QUARTER JACKPOT GRANTS: Moved by Irma Varela, seconded by Joe O'Neill. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

FY17 Third Quarter Jackpot Grants approved for funding:

- **Cathy Allen**, Las Vegas (Clark County) - requested \$1000 to support artist fees, materials and marketing costs for the applicant's choreographed multi-media performance piece "Strangers," based on the photography project, Humans of New York. *Average Score: 89.5%; Recommended Funding: \$895; Actual Award: \$604*
- **Eve Allen**, Reno (Washoe County) - requested \$1000 to support artist fees for the choreographers showcased in the applicant's dance performance. *Average Score: 95.83%; Recommended Funding: \$958; Actual Award: \$646*
- **Robert Beckmann**, Henderson (Clark County) - requested \$1000 to support costs for framing and transportation of paintings for a solo exhibit. *Average Score: 91.5% Recommended Funding: \$915; Actual Award: \$617*
- **Cameron Crain**, Dayton (Lyon County) – requested \$1000 to support the writing of a pilot episode for the applicant's television dramedy, "Idaho Boys," that he is developing. Funding will support artist fees. *Average Score: 91.2%; Recommended Funding: \$912; Actual Award: \$615*
- **City of Sparks** (Washoe County) – to support contracting with a professional facilitator to design and facilitate a five-year planning meeting for the City of Sparks newly established Arts and Culture Advisory Committee. *Average Score: 76.7%; Recommended Funding: \$767; Actual Award: \$517*
- **Karen Haid**, Las Vegas (Clark County) – requested \$1000 to support artist fees and the cost of travel for the artist to present and conduct a reading at the Dorothea House of Culture in Princeton, NJ and the Westchester Italian Center in Tuckahoe, NY. *Average Score: 87.0%; Recommended Funding: \$870 ; Actual Award: \$587*
- **William Troy Heard**, Las Vegas (Clark County) - requested \$1000 to support artist fees for directing the production "Anton Chekov's Cherry Orchard of the Living Dead" at the Majestic Reparatory Theatre. *Average Score: 66.5%; Recommended Funding: \$665; Actual Award: \$448*
- **Timothy Hoft**, Las Vegas (Clark County) - requested \$1000 to support the editing and mastering of a CD of contemporary Ukrainian piano music. *Average Score: 95.5%; Recommended Funding: \$955; Actual Award: \$644*
- **Wolf Kadavanich**, Las Vegas (Clark County) - requested \$1000 to support the cost of screenplay critique fees. *Average Score: 80.33%; Recommended Funding: \$803; Actual Award: \$542*
- **Eunkang Koh**, Reno (Washoe County) - requested \$1000 to support artist fees for editing and printing of an anthology. *Average Score: 99.0%; Recommended Funding: \$990; Actual Award: \$668*
- **Gregory Kompes**, Las Vegas (Clark County) - requested \$870 to support the cost of an editor to edit the applicant's book "Tamburlaine." *Average Score: 92.5%; Recommended Funding: \$925; Actual Award: \$543*
- **Heather Lang**, Las Vegas (Clark County) - requested \$1000 to support artist fees to edit an anthology and to pay for printing of the anthology. *Average Score: 93.2%; Recommended Funding: \$932; Actual Award: \$628*
- **Sandra Neace**, Reno (Washoe County) - requested \$1000 to support the artistic fees for the constructing of a theatre project, "A Taco Truck on Every Corner." *Average Score: 84.8%; Recommended Funding: \$848; Actual Award: \$572*
- **Erika V. Paul**, Reno (Washoe County) - requested \$1000 to support the recording and production costs of a CD of American jazz, "Sway – a Tribute to American Latin Jazz." *Average Score: 92.5%; Recommended Funding: \$925; Actual Award: \$624*

- **Jaime Lynn Shafer**, Reno (Washoe County) - requested \$1000 to support the cost of materials for the creation of an art book. *Average Score: 93.2%; Recommended Funding: \$728; Actual Award: \$534*
- **Sierra Nevada College: Poetry Center**, Incline Village (Washoe County) - requested \$1000 to support cost of honoraria and travel for three poets to participate in the applicant's Third Annual Sierra Nevada College's Poetry Center Celebration *Average Score: 88.2% Recommended Funding: \$811; Actual Award: \$595*
- **L. Martina Young**, Reno (Washoe County) - requested \$1000 to support the printing costs for SWAN Book IV, the fourth literary installment of the ongoing project, "SWAN: a poetical inquiry in dance, text & memoir." *Average Score: 91.7%; Recommended Funding: \$843; Actual Award: \$618*

Arger agreed that continued discussion of grant funding is not only worthy, but a charge for the board. She emphasized, however, that the board must be cognizant of the agency's mission to support our major institutions while providing funding to qualifying new and emerging small, mid-size and community-based arts groups, serving those in the state's rural or urban areas. She finished her comments by encouraging the board to embrace its advocacy leadership role to restore the agency's grants budget. This would be the only way that NAC could provide grant awards closer to the panel's recommended funded levels in the future.

Boskoff suggested that the Grants Management Team create a spreadsheet of Jackpot Grant applications/scores from the last several years for both staff and board to review for future discussions

UPDATE ON NAC'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION AND CEREMONY – For Discussion Only

Boskoff briefed the board on the agency's 50th Anniversary Reception and Ceremony, noting that the actual birthday begins on July 1, 2017 as the agency was created at the end of the 1967 legislation session. To engage the 2017 Legislature, NAC will start the celebration a bit earlier with the 50th Anniversary Awards Ceremony and Reception at the Nevada Museum of Art on March 9, 2017, 5-8 pm. The Nevada State Senate, the Nevada State Assembly and the Office of the Governor will be recognized for establishing Nevada's state arts agency in 1967, and for their support of the NAC mission to expand access to and participation in the arts for all Nevadans throughout the years. Award recipients will receive an original piece of art commissioned by the NAC. The event will include performances by Nevada artists, and presentations by representatives of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Americans for the Arts and other regional/national arts organizations. Laura Scanlan, the NEA State & Regional director, has confirmed her attendance. The funding to support this celebration came from the Legislative Interim Finance Committee's infusion of one-shot funding this summer, due to an increased revenue from room tax. Because of this, the event will be affordable although a ticket price has not yet been set. We have a commitment for underwriting for the wine for the event.

On the following day, Friday, March 10, NAC will sponsor a national roundtable in Reno to discuss the NEA and other issues of interest that would be free and open to the public. Scanlan will also attend and speak at the 2017 Nevada Poetry Out Loud State Final on Saturday, March 11 at KNPB Channel 5 studios.

Boskoff noted that the 50th Anniversary is the ideal occasion to focus on our stakeholders, arts organizations and artists that have, and continue to offer a rich tapestry of arts and cultural

experiences for all Nevadans. Events could be scheduled throughout FY18 and suggested that a celebration occur in Las Vegas during this time period. Arger asked that if anyone had ideas or suggestions in conjunction with the anniversary celebration to contact her or Boskoff, and looked forward to all of 2017 being a fun celebration for the Nevada Arts Council.

Boskoff also mentioned that SenArts Program and the Secretary of the Senate is interested in having the NAC coordinate rotating visual arts exhibits on the second floor of the Legislative Building. She promoted the idea at the Reno Arts Consortium a month earlier, and Sierra Arts, TMCC the Watercolor Society, and Open Studios had already voiced interest. Last session, Arts for All Nevada installed a student arts road map of Nevada in the same space, which was welcomed by the Legislators, the staff, and the visitors to the building.

CHAIR'S REPORT ON ADVOCACY AND BOARD ACTIVITIES – For Discussion Only

Arger requested that the board start familiarizing themselves with the newly elected and returning members of the 2017 Nevada State Legislature, and particularly those that are serving on the Senate Finance and the Assembly Ways and Means committees. Their contact information can be located on the Nevada State Legislature's website at <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Legislator/A/Senate/79th2017> and <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Legislator/A/Assembly/79th2017>. Once the Governor's Budget is released, the 2017 Board advocacy platform will be drafted and used as the basis for the session's advocacy strategy. She again emphasized the Board's individual and collective responsibility as advocacy leaders each and every day.

Arger then invited the board to share their recent engagement efforts and experiences. O'Neill mentioned that he was honored to represent the NAC at an upcoming State Arts Agency and Performing Arts Consortia meeting in Denver, hosted by Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF). Rappa will be attending the Northern Nevada Diversity Summit at UNR on March 30, 2017. She felt the summit's theme, "Enhancing Cultural Environment for all. Our community, our institutions, our stories," was relevant to the work of the agency. Boskoff encouraged staff and board to consider submitting a session topic for the convening, such as Strain's presentation about design public spaces and quality of life or Rappa's work on restoration of the Tuscarora Tavern/Society Hall in rural Nevada. Varela mentioned that she had applied for a scholarship to attend the Leadership Institute of National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC), though was not one of the 10 applicants accepted out of 300 applicants. She is looking forward to the Leadership and Diversity Gathering of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) in Portland this October, if funding was available. Boskoff suggested that if the agency's budget fared well during the upcoming session, perhaps there would be increased funding for both staff and board travel in the next biennium. Rappa asked if anyone from the NAC had attended the Rural Arts and Culture Summit. Boskoff replied in the negative, but suggested that interested board or staff members check out its next conference, scheduled for June in Minnesota.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was submitted in person or via email.

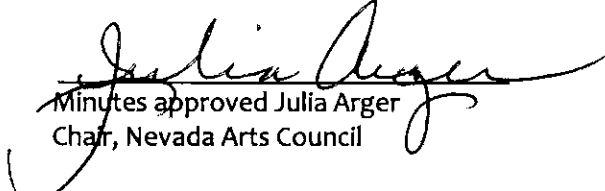
ADJOURNMENT

Arger requested a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Moved by Irma Varela; seconded by Joe O'Neill.
Passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Minutes prepared by
Administrative Assistant III


Minutes approved Julia Arger
Chair, Nevada Arts Council

List of Attachments on file with original minutes in NAC offices:

- Attachment A: Public Meeting Notice/Agenda
- Attachment B: Minutes From September 15, 2016 Board Meeting
- Attachment C: Minutes From September 29, 2016 Board Meeting
- Attachment D: FY2017 Third Quarter Jackpot Panel Grant Recommendations