

# Nevada Arts Council

## Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 27, 2019

1:30 PM

### Meeting Locations:

OFFICE	LOCATION	ROOM
Nevada Arts Council	716 N. Carson Street Suite A Carson City NV 89701	Conference Room
Nevada Arts Council	4000 S. Eastern Ave. Suite 240 Las Vegas NV 89119	Conference Room

### A. Opening

Ms. Gail Rappa, Vice Chair, called the September 27<sup>th</sup> 2019 Nevada Arts Council (NAC) Board Meeting to order. She said she was sitting in for Joe O'Neill, Chair, who couldn't be at the meeting. Ms. Rappa asked if there was proper posting for the meeting, and Mr. Manfredi affirmed that to be so. (*Attachment A: Public Meeting Notice/Agenda*)

Ms. Rappa conducted a roll call. **Quorum was established (5 Council Members present)**

#### Council Members Present:

Edward Estipona  
Jerry Schefcik  
Karen Michaels  
Ryrie Valdez  
Gail Rappa, Vice Chair

#### Others in Attendance:

Tony Manfredi, Executive Director of Nevada Arts Council  
Sierra Scott, Grant Program Specialist, Nevada Arts Council  
Grace Davis, Community Arts Development Specialist, Nevada Arts Council  
Cathleen Wyatt, Administrative Assistant, Nevada Arts Council

### B. Public Comment

None

### C. New NAC Board Member (Discussion Only)

Ms. Rappa welcomed aboard their newest Member, Amanda Horn. Ms. Horn is Senior Vice President of Communications for the Nevada Museum of Art. Though based in Reno, Ms. Horn works statewide, fostering deep relations in the Las Vegas community that are instrumental not only to the statewide expansion of the Nevada Museum of Art, but also to elevating the broader visual arts dialogue across the Silver State. She will be a valuable addition to the Board and everyone is looking forward to start working with her.

#### **D. Approval of Minutes (For Possible Action)**

There were no changes or corrections to be made to the March 29<sup>th</sup> Minutes. (*Attachment B: Minutes from March 29, 2019 and Attachment C: Minutes from June 27, 2019*)

**Motion: Approve the March 29<sup>th</sup> Nevada Arts Council Board Meeting Minutes**

**By: Edward Estipona**

**Second: Karen Michaels**

**Vote: Passed unanimously**

There here were no changes or corrections to be made to the June 27<sup>th</sup> Minutes.

**Motion: Approve the June 27<sup>th</sup> Nevada Arts Council Board Meeting Minutes**

**By: Ryrie Valdez**

**Second: Jerry Schefcik**

**Vote: Passed unanimously**

#### **E. FY21 Grant Review (For Possible Action)**

*(Attachment D: FY21 Grant Guidelines Changes Overview)*

Mr. Manfredi provided the overview of the FY21 Grant Guidelines adjustments and changes that are being proposed. He said all Board Members received the Grant Updates and Changes in advance of the meeting and had reviewed them. Before Mr. Manfredi got into details, he said he wanted to acknowledge the staff for this work. It was a remarkably smooth process. Particularly, thanks to Sierra for coordinating and managing everyone through the process, and thanks to Fran, Stephen, Maryjane, Rebecca, Michelle, and Grace for their input from their respective program areas.

Mr. Manfredi directed Members to the **FY21 Grant Guidelines Changes Overview**. He said that he would start with the overall FY21 Grant Policies and the changes that are being proposed in these areas.

In the **Grant Policies and Public Institutions** section the new verbiage being proposed is:

“Government agencies, including federal recognized Tribes, agencies that exist within the same governmental entity are eligible to apply independently when they have different, distinct mission statements and their own, separate Advisory Boards. Multiple departments, facilities within one agency, may not apply independently. Each agency must collectively determine the programs or projects for which to request funding.”

“From the colleges and universities standpoint, colleges and universities are limited to no more than one grant to the same academic department, per fiscal year. And for public schools and public libraries, individual schools and libraries within the same district/system may apply independently, as long as they have their own budget and facility.”

Mr. Manfredi said in regard to the government agency standpoint, an example would be to consider the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. That’s a large department that oversees the Nevada Arts Council, the state museums, and the Indian Commission. So in this example, the Nevada Arts Council and the museums and the Indian Commission could each apply for a grant, as a government agency. What couldn’t happen is, within the Nevada Arts Council, there’s the Folklife program area, Artists Services area, and the Community Arts Development area; you couldn’t have each entity apply for a grant and be eligible. It would all have to come through the Arts Council.

Mr. Manfredi gave another example from a college and universities standpoint. A school could get one grant, through the same academic department. The individual departments within schools (i.e. you have a School of the Arts in a university system, and there are three departments; Art, Music, and Theater and Dance) can also apply. All three of those departments could apply. The public schools and public library's language is self-explanatory.

Mr. Manfredi went on to the **Border State Organization** section. The new language being proposed is:

"Non-profit organizations located in states that border Nevada may apply for a Nevada Arts Council grant, if they are incorporated in Nevada, with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. However, that application must clearly demonstrate that the majority of the proposed project, and that majority is at least 75 percent, serves Nevada communities. And all awarded Nevada Arts Council grant funds must be used to support Nevada communities."

Ms. Rappa asked if that was something that's happened, before? Where they've had a non-profit that's incorporated with Nevada 501(c)(3)?

Ms. Scott answered it's mostly the Lake Tahoe organizations, where they serve the entire Tahoe community, which is half California, half Nevada. They have always allowed border-state organizations. To her knowledge, there haven't been any border states besides California. But the new part of this is the 75 percent serving Nevada communities. Where that came from is that they had an organization come in that was based in California, and they were doing an arts education project that served schools in both Nevada and California. And because there wasn't anything like this in the guidelines, it was tough to delineate between the Nevada schools and the California schools. And with this, they'll be able to make sure that funding stays in Nevada for projects that cross over.

Mr. Manfredi then detailed the policy changes in the **General Grant Guidelines**. The new language being proposed is:

"If the awarded project is altered substantially – so, over 20 percent change in any item – from the approved application, or there are substantial financial, programmatic, or personnel changes within the organization, the grantee must submit a Grant Change Request Form to NAC. That form is included in the award packet. This form must be submitted within 30 days of the requested change, and grantees must receive Nevada Arts Council approval for the proposed or stated changes, to stay in compliance."

"Grantees may now request 100 percent of their grant award, immediately, instead of 90 percent up-front, and 10 percent with their final report. This will be for all grants, except for the Artist Fellowship Grant."

And finally, "For all project grants, some components of the project, including planning, may occur outside of the FY21 grant cycle. That cycle is July 1, 2020 through July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. However, the portion or portions of the project being paid for with Nevada Arts Council Grant funds must occur completely within the FY21 grant cycle."

Mr. Manfredi asked if there were any questions and there were.

Mr. Estipona had a question on the second bullet point, which is the, "100 percent of the grant award." In the past, has it only been 90 percent, and then, they withheld the 10 until the report was done? And, if that's the case, and they move to this number two, how does that affect number one, which is that you gave all the money out to an organization and all of a sudden they had 20 percent and change. Are there any opportunities for the Council to, if they don't like the way certain changes are happening, if they gave all the money up front, is that going to cause problems?

Mr. Manfredi said that was a great question. So the organization has gone over a few different scenarios on this in the past. The 90/10 was where they have been for a while, and that was indeed for that final report. That was the carrot that was put in place to make sure that organizations had submitted their final report. What is being proposed in this, and why it is being proposed, is because in the final report that they submit, if they haven't been given all of the funds yet, it's awkward. Groups are reporting out on final data in the final report, and they haven't received the final funding. If organizations do not submit their final report, they will be put on the out-of-compliance list and will not be available to receive future NAC grant funds. That is a big, big incentive for most of these organizations. It's similar to the way that the National Endowment for the Arts treats arts agencies. NAC has to report out that final information, NAC has to show that information. If NAC is out of compliance, then certainly there would be challenges down the road, up to being ineligible for future grants. So NAC is adopting a similar philosophy here.

Ms. Scott said to add to that point, they have had grantees return money before, for various reasons. Most recently, a Nevada Circuit Rider Grant was not able to be completed because of a communication issue between the consultant and the organization. And they returned funds to NAC, about \$2,000.

Mr. Manfredi went on to the **Artist Fellowship Grant**. The new language being proposed is:

"Artist Fellowship Grant recipients may not apply for any other NAC grants during their grant year."

There were also some small changes in the verbiage of the Review Criteria.

In the **Folk Arts Fellowship Grant**, they separated from the Artists Fellowship Grant; it now has its own guidelines and application. There was some confusion in this area before. The new language being proposed is:

"Folk Artists Fellowship Grant recipients may not apply for any other NAC grants, during their grant year."

There were also some small changes in the verbiage of the Review Criteria.

In the **Arts Learning Project Grant**, the new language being proposed is:

"FY21 Arts Learning Project grantees may not apply for the Arts Learning Express Grant in the same fiscal year."

In the **Arts Learning Express Grant**, the new language being proposed is:

"FY21 Artists Learning Express funds are divided into two, six-month grant cycles. Cycle A will be for activities that are happening from July 1 through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Applications will open on 5/1/2020. And Cycle B is for activities that occur January 1 through June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2021. And applications open for that cycle on November 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2020."

In the **Professional Development Grant**, the new language being proposed is:

"FY21 Professional Development Grant funds are divided into two, six-month grant cycles. Cycle A, activities July 1 through December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Applications will open on 5/1/2020. And Cycle B is for activities that occur between January 1 and June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2021. Applications open on November 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2020."

Throughout the course of all of the remaining grants, there are small changes in support material requirements, and those are only there to clarify or simplify some of the existing requirements.

Mr. Manfredi asked if there were any questions or concerns with any of these proposed changes.

Mr. Estipona said he had a question concerning any of the ones where they can only apply for one grant during a grant year. In many circumstances, organizations kind of work together, in collaboration. So, if Organization A

received a grant, but they're collaborating with Organization B, Organization B goes out for a grant of its own, is that considered separate? Or because of the collaboration, are you penalizing Organization A to pick one or the other?

Ms. Scott said for the two that are on this list, the Artist Fellowship Grant and the Folk Arts Fellowship Grant, those are only for individuals.

Mr. Manfredi said if he was understanding Mr. Estipona's question correctly, NAC could only fund one of those entities; they wouldn't allow two organizations to apply for funding for the same project.

Mr. Estipona replied that more organizations and individuals are starting to collaborate and he could see that this might be a potential issue. And he wants to make sure they address it now and be very clear with it.

Mr. Manfredi said in cases of collaboration, they certainly encourage that collaboration. It would just be that only one entity would be able to apply for a grant from NAC to go towards that particular project.

Mr. Manfredi said what's been really great in what they've done as a staff is, they've noted areas of confusion or problems or challenges from FY20, and cleared up those areas for FY21. The proposed changes will make things easier and clearer for the applicants.

Ms. Rappa asked about the BRX Grants, how that could potentially get confusing, because they are collaborations between two separate groups for the same project. How would that be handled?

Mr. Manfredi replied that the way NAC would manage it, is that funding would only go to one person/entity/501(c)(3), or appropriate fiscal agent.

Ms. Scott added that in the Project Grant for Artists Guidelines, it says, "Collaborations between artists must have one individual as the applying artist." And they do see that happening, with musical groups, and things of that nature.

Mr. Manfredi asked if there were more questions, and there were none.

Ms. Rappa said she would entertain a motion.

**Motion: Approve the FY21 Grant Review Guidelines & Updates**

**By: Edward Estipona**

**Second: Ryrie Valdez**

**Vote: Passed unanimously**

Mr. Manfredi then gave an overview of **Raising Threshold to 70 & Above**. In 2013, NAC discussed and approved raising the funding threshold for all competitive grants to 60 percent. With the funding threshold, applicants with scores of 60 percent or lower would not receive grant funding. Due to increased demand for grant funding, and limited available funding, Nevada Arts Council staff is proposing raising the funding threshold to 70. With this funding threshold, applicants with an average score of 69 or below would not receive grant funding. If approved, this change would go into effect in the next competitive Grant Review Panel, which is the FY20 Project Grant for Artists, Cycle B.

Mr. Schefcik asked about the funding table. Would they still be using that starting at 70? Mr. Manfredi said yes, they would still utilize the funding table.

Mr. Manfredi said they're not intending to leave those that don't meet the threshold behind. Over the past year, in particular, staff worked with them to raise their scores up. They are doing that through individual consultation, through workshops, and through professional development opportunities.

Ms. Scott said the trend has been that they run out of funding before they even get to those scores of 60.

Mr. Schefcik said he is in agreement with the change. If you were to assign a letter grade to these numbers, 60 is a D, more or less, and 70 is C, which is average. Mr. Schefcik thinks NAC should be funding at the upper level of the grant applicants, at a higher level.

Mr. Manfredi said he appreciated that analogy. That's how they've been talking about it, internally, too. Mr. Manfredi asked if there were more questions, and there were none.

Ms. Rappa said she would entertain a motion.

**Motion: Approve Raising the Award Threshold to 70 and Above**

**By: Jerry Schefcik**

**Second: Edward Estipona**

**Vote: Passed unanimously**

#### **F. Executive Director Update (Discussion Only)**

Mr. Manfredi delivered the Executive Director update. He first reported on the **NASAA Leadership Institute** meeting. He was invited to attend an earlier session on creative aging to look at the possibility of providing funding to state arts agencies. There is a pool of state arts agencies who could really help drive some strong work around creative aging. One of the most important parts was the realization that the arts can really help bring about socialization among seniors who are often marginalized in today's world. Another big topic of conversation, and one that's important for them to be talking about, was diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. There were over-arching sessions that engaged on these topics.

Another big topic was on Alaska. Alaska's State Arts Agency was eliminated by their Governor. Offices were closed and staff was let go. But through a tremendous amount of work from grass-roots campaigns and citizens, as well as NASAA and the National Endowment for the Arts, they were able to bring it back. Use this as a case study, toolkit, scenario, should this be threatened, again. Mr. Manfredi noted that Michigan is currently slated to be de-funded. Mr. Manfredi said he wasn't sure if that was similar to the situation that's happened with the National Endowment for the Arts, where the President has zeroed it out and then Congress is able to bring it back in.

Mr. Manfredi wants Members to keep the scenario in mind because it could potentially happen in other states, including Nevada. It's certainly something from the advocacy side that the Board is going to have to be aware of and keep in their pockets.

Mr. Manfredi updated Members on National Endowment for the Arts news. The U.S. Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee recommended \$157 million for both the National Endowment for the Arts and the Endowment for the Humanities for 2020. This is a \$2 million increase from the current number, which is great. However, it's \$10.5 million less than what the U.S. House approved in May, and what Americans for the Arts pushed, which was \$167.5 million.

Mr. Manfredi said he "hit the submit button" on their FY20 application for the National Endowment for the Arts grant. Their report to the NEA for 2019 grant activities and grant amounts and activities is due November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Next year, they are on a brand-new grant cycle so it's a much bigger application that will include the Agency Strategic Plan. Which is something that they'll be working on together as a Board, and agency, to make sure they move that strategic plan forward. That'll be coming in the next few months.

Mr. Manfredi said from their FY20 grant updates, all funding for FY20 has been awarded except for \$12,000 for the Folklife Grants, and those are in progress. This includes Professional Development Grants and their Arts Learning Express Grants. They distributed over \$1,048,000 in grants for FY20, which is really great.

Mr. Manfredi said he will send out information about the numerous and varied activities coming down the pike, and he highlighted just a few: Within Artist Services, their NTI exhibit "Making a Mark" is going to be in Eureka September through November at the Eureka Courthouse Gallery. October 3<sup>rd</sup> through December 12<sup>th</sup>, "Honest Horses" is at the Comstock History Center Museum in Virginia City. October 14 through December 6<sup>th</sup>, "Home Means Nevada" is at the Central Branch Library in Yerington, and December 16 through February 7<sup>th</sup>, it's at Nevada State College Gallery in Henderson.

Mr. Manfredi shared some news from the Arts Learning side. "Poetry Out Loud" is going to be celebrating 15 years this year. Registration is currently open. NAC is getting the word out to high school students and teachers about participation, and registration is open through December. If any Board Members know of any students in high school, or teachers, please tell them about "Poetry Out Loud." There's a link on the NAC website that they could forward to them. It would be a great opportunity to get more people involved in that program. The State finals will be held March 14<sup>th</sup> in Reno.

Also from Arts Learning, on October 22<sup>nd</sup> they're doing a statewide Education Stakeholder meeting. This is really big for the agency. Senator Joyce Woodhouse is helping lead this charge and bringing together a great group of participants. These are stakeholders who are involved in the state of education. This is really going to be about arts education, access to arts education, and the data collection around this activity, to highlight and show the impact that arts education has. This data is just not available right now. They want to bring everybody together to talk about things like inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. They will talk about professional development for teachers and teaching artists, and how they use Title I funds. Senator Dennis is coming, it's going to be a statewide convening, both in Las Vegas and Carson City, bringing people together.

Community Arts Development has the workshop "Road Maps: Best Grant Practices," a professional development opportunity that NAC is a part of. It's happening October 16<sup>th</sup> at the McKinley Arts and Culture Center. It's in conjunction with Nevada Humanities, Sierra Arts, Washoe County, City of Sparks, and the City of Reno. Mr. Manfredi said they are celebrating their second year of "Shaken and Stirred," a collaboration between the Arts Council and Nevada Humanities. Two entirely unrelated topics are discussed. There's going to be one held in Reno on October 16<sup>th</sup>, the topics will be "Optical Illusions" and "Illegal Dancing." On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, "Shaken and Stirred" will be held in Las Vegas, and is on "Uniform Work" and "Aesthetic Entanglement." The topics are discussed and then the audience that's assembled really tries to find the ways that they connect. It's amazing what happens there!

Mr. Manfredi announced the NAC is hosting a workshop called "IDEA", which stands for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility, through reconciliation. It's going to be held November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Las Vegas. CAD staff Michelle Patrick and Grace Davis are going to be the facilitators. The idea is to discuss some inherent and implicit biases that people have, that are already there in creative work spaces. It's going to be a roundtable type discussion, where participants will look at cultural assumptions, how they developed, and how they're sustained and reinforced, in arts and cultural planning.

Mr. Manfredi stated that the Basin Range Exchange Program (BRX) will continue for 2020, and will be held in Tonopah in April. From the FY19 program, they have about 13 grants that were put in play based on collaborative ideas. They will be tracking those, and reporting on them.

In the Folklife program, they are looking at their Friends and Neighbors initiative. At the June meeting, Rebecca talked about the “Folklife Friends and Neighbors” (Folkfan) initiative, and how it’s really about you, your family, your neighbors, and your friends. Everyone has folklife. NAC will be going out to festivals, events, and site visits, incorporating that program into their work, and revamping the NAC website a bit to include more about this initiative.

Mr. Manfredi reported that as far as grants go, they have a number of workshops set and scheduled for 2019 to educate applicants on the approved guidelines. Last year’s workshops were highly regarded and highly attended. Mr. Manfredi said he is “super excited” about this year’s events. Starting in November, they’ll be in Carson City, Reno, Fallon, Elko, Winnemucca, Las Vegas, and Pahrump. And then early December, they’re going to be doing webinars that will be recorded for on-demand access; when, and as, needed.

In July, the National Endowment for the Arts Chair Mary Anne Carter was in Las Vegas. Mr. Manfredi said they were able to connect for many visits with Congressional representatives, as well as a big meeting they had with NAC grantees in Las Vegas. Ms. Carter talked about her role, and how the National Endowment is moving forward. Through that, she offered up a grant workshop that the NEA will be involved in as well. It is scheduled right now for November 20<sup>th</sup>. That’s a big draw in Las Vegas, to have the National Endowment for the Arts provide workshops.

#### **G. Board Chair Update (Discussion Only)**

Mr. Estipona provided a status report on the Director of Tourism opening. He said the Board of Commissioners determined that they didn’t feel comfortable with the current candidates, so the job posting’s been updated, and they’ve reached out to other avenues within the state program, as well as reaching to other tourism-based type of professionals to try to go out and get more candidates to come in. Interim Director Brenda Nebesky is still the acting Director until they fill the position.

Mr. Manfredi did an update on the National Arts & Humanities Month in October. He said there are some really great opportunities; they’re going to be working on the Instagram challenge, and seeing how they can play into that. Grace Davis has agreed to be the social media connector, and poster of agency records, so to speak. This is an “Other Duties as Assigned” project for Grace, and she’s doing a great job. They’ve created a process for more consistent posting. They are asking all program areas to make sure they’re putting in content on a regular basis. There will be a much more active presence from the Nevada Arts Council. NAC is on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube channels as well.

National Arts & Humanities Month is a coast-to-coast initiative. It was launched by Americans for the Arts (AFTA) more than 30 years ago, as a National Arts Week, in honor of the National Endowment for the Arts. It was re-established by AFTA and national partners as a month-long celebration. The goals for National Arts & Humanities Month focus on arts; local, state, and national levels, encouraging individuals and organizations to participate in the arts. It allows governments and businesses to show their support of the arts, and raises public awareness about the role that arts and humanities play in communities and lives. NAC is asking the Governor for a Proclamation.

Mr. Manfredi said he and Christina Barr, the Executive Director of Nevada Humanities, are working closely on this, and their teams are working closely on this, too. That’s how “Shaken and Stirred” came about, one of the ideas that they’ve pushed out is, to host a creative conversation in different communities.



Mr. Estipona said he was glad to see the collaborative work going on, and suggested for NAC's social media plans that they have a master posting calendar to schedule postings.

Mr. Manfredi said that Grace had already established a Google calendar with a set number of NAC posts for a given week. NAC wants to make sure that program areas don't step on each other's toes, and that they are managing this communication in a much better way. Each program area is providing what they want to talk about, and Mr. Manfredi is vetting those, and providing some strategy ideas as well. Then the final step is for Grace, and only Grace, to do the postings.

#### H. Future Agenda Items (Discussion Only)

Ms. Rappa said as she was reading over the updates to the Board Handbook that they received at the June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, and had a few questions that she'd like to discuss with the whole Board. She'd like to put that on as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Mr. Manfredi said they would add that. He said they also have some statute items that are under review. There's a process that they must go through in presenting these for public comment and review. Then they will have an open meeting, similar to what they did with their grant review process, then the Board will ultimately have to vote to adopt these revisions. These are not big changes. They're currently working on scheduling these meetings.

#### I. Public Comment

None

#### J. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

Ms. Rappa thanked everyone and said she would accept a motion to adjourn.

**Motion: Adjourn the September 27<sup>th</sup> 2019 Nevada Arts Council Board Meeting**

**By: Edward Estipona**

**Second: Ryrie Valdez**

**Vote: Passed unanimously**

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Attachments on file with original minutes in NAC offices:

Attachment A:	Public Meeting Notice/Agenda
Attachment B:	Minutes from March 29, 2019
Attachment C:	Minutes from June 27, 2019
Attachment D:	FY21 Grant Guidelines Changes Overview