

# Arizona Commission on the Arts Quarterly Commission Meeting

## Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 23, 2023 | 1:00 – 4:00pm

A quarterly meeting of the Arizona Commission on the Arts was held at YWCA Southern Arizona Main Campus, 525 N Bonita Ave, Tucson AZ 85745. Chair Dawn Wallace presided.

### Board Members Present:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dawn Wallace, Chair    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chelsea Lett (Virtual)  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colleen Steinberg |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Pamela Hall, Vice Chair       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Potter          | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christina Corieri                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Megan Schmitz           | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Angelia Hill (Virtual) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Danny Sharaby (Virtual) |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Kush             | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruth Soberanes (Virtual)           |   |

### Arts Commission Staff Present:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jacky Alling, Executive Director Interim | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claudio Dicochea     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anna Needham           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alex Nelson, Deputy Director             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Elliott        | <input type="checkbox"/> Hanna Spence-Schehr               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bethanne Abramovich Smith                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anastasia Freyermuth | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elisa Garcia Radcliffe |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kesha Bruce                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Delia Ibanez                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Wilcox           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brad DeBiase                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kim McCreary-Bourin  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stacey Wong            |

### Guests:

- Patrick McWhorter, Arizona Citizens for the Arts

## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm.

### Welcome/Introductions/Open Meeting Law

Dawn Wallace welcomed everyone to the meeting. She reviewed the State's Open Meeting Laws and affirmed that public comment would be welcome at the end of the meeting. Dawn introduced herself, as well as Commissioners, both virtual and in-person. Alex Nelson introduced the Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona, the meeting's host. She introduced Adriana Gallego, AFTSA Executive Director, who welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the organization and its work in support of the sector in southern Arizona.

## A. Standing Reports

### 1. Approval of December Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Jason Kush, seconded by Michael Potter, to approve the December Meeting Minutes as presented in the board packet. The motion was unanimously approved. A note was made that the recording of the meeting started late when the commission returned from executive session, but that the record of the vote to approve the Interim Executive Director were recorded by hand.

### 2. Executive Director's Report

Interim Executive Director Jacky Alling gave the Executive Director's Report. She gave a brief introduction, as this was her first Quarterly Meeting with the Commissioners. She reviewed her goals:

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## Quarterly Commission Meeting

- supporting Commissioner transitions
- stabilization and support of Operations/Staff
- increasing resources
- strengthening key relationships, such as with legislators and grantees
- strategic planning, working with new chair and board to explore business models and collaborations
- Executive Director Search

### 3. FY2023 Year-to-Date Budget Report

Kim McCreary-Bourin reported on the FY2023 Year-to-Date Budget as presented in the board packet. Highlights included notes regarding revenue—receipt varies with some sources being monthly, quarterly or throughout the year—but is all on track; and many program expenditures take place in the fourth quarter.

Kim asked for any questions. A question was asked about reaching out to private funders—the agency does pursue private partnerships and is looking toward additional state investment.

### 4. Media Report

Steve Wilcox presented the Media Report as presented in the board packet. Highlights included grantee acknowledgement of Research and Development Grants and Jacky Alling's appointment.

Steve asked for any questions. A question was asked about pitching stories—the agency works with grantees to provide media tools and acknowledgement to be used in press releases, news, social media, and other outlets.

## B. Grants and Programs

### 1. Grantmaking Overview

Alex Nelson led a presentation on grantmaking including statewide access to the arts; strategies for listening, story gathering and research; grantmaking process and policies; and grants programs/timeline.

### 2. Community Panelist Recommendations

Community panelist recommendations were presented for review, as listed in the packet for:

- a. FY24 Arts Learning Grants
- b. FY24 Festival Grants
- c. FY24 Creative Capacity Grants

Alex asked for any questions. A question was asked about how potential panelists are sourced—the agency utilizes its extensive networks, keeps track of expressed interest, and works with partners to receive recommendations.

A motion was made by Megan Schmitz, seconded by Jason Kush, to approve the FY24 Community Panelist Recommendations as a whole with additional approval for the Chair to approve any replacement panelists, in the event someone is unable to serve. The motion was unanimously approved.

### 3. Partner Presentations

- a. UA Poetry Center/Poetry Out Loud

Anastasia Freyermuth introduced the University of Arizona Poetry Center, the statewide partner for Poetry Out Loud and gave a brief introduction to the program. Gema Ornelas and Wren Goblirsch work hybrid, in person and online to reach out to students/teachers in other counties and alternative high school programs to support participation in the program and share resources. This year's state final was held online, and next year will move back to in-person.

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## b. Southwest Folklife Alliance

Alex Nelson introduced Southwest Folklife Alliance, which is the agency's designated Folk Arts partner. Leah Maahs is the Executive Director and presented on the organization's programming and support of folk and traditional artists.

## D. Planning

### 1. General Discussion of Planning and Next Steps

Jacky Alling reported on the Executive Director Search in regards to feedback, expectations, timeline, and how to proceed. Jacky will work with commissioners on next steps. She gave a tentative timeline and asked for any questions.

A question was asked about the process—suggestions were made for more in person interaction with candidates, including staff and commissioners; reviewing the previous process and making any adjustments to either what worked/what didn't work; better communication and transparency with hiring committee/search firm; and working with commissioners throughout so all are engaged and familiar with the process.

Dawn Wallace suggested a study session, to be scheduled in the next month to hear from commissioners and staff, review the previous process, and discuss search consultant options. Jacky will contact the Commissioners to schedule.

### 2. Governance

Jacky Alling reported on the ongoing work on appointments and reappointments, related to the stability of the board, geographic representation, and quorum.

### 3. FY24/25 Budget Development Timeline

Alex Nelson reported on the FY24/25 Budget Development Timeline. As the legislative budget process may not be complete before the June Meeting, the agency has outlined a different approach to address this potential challenge. For the June Quarterly Meeting, recommendations on the FY24 Budget and FY25 Budget Request will be discussed. The Commission will hold a Supplemental Budget Meeting on August 9 when a complete and final budget FY24 budget can be approved, alongside the grant recommendations, and a draft of the agency's FY25 budget submission can be reviewed and then finalized before the required September 1 due date.

## C. Government Relations

### 1. Tribal Relations Update

The Tribal Relations update was tabled to the June Meeting.

### 2. Legislative Update

Patrick McWhorter, Arizona Citizens for the Arts CEO, gave an overview of several legislative bills in the house/senate, which AZCA is monitoring, and outlined the priority advocacy actions on state funding for the Arts Commission. Patrick shared some information about upcoming advocacy events.

He asked for any questions. A question was asked about who key legislative members are—a list is available through AZCA and can be shared with Commissioners. Commissioners asked that they be kept updated with the budget status and any ways they can be engaged.

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## E. Call to the Public

This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the board may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S.§38-431.01(H), actions taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to criticism, or rescheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.

Dawn asked for any public comment; no public comments were made.

## F. Closing

### Chair's Report

Dawn Wallace thanked all for their attendance and discussion.

### Adjournment

Dawn Wallace called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Michael Potter and seconded by Jason Kush to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 pm.