

**Minutes
Council Meeting
July 11, 2019
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
Dixon University Center
Harrisburg, PA

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Astorino, Representative Ciresi, Ms. Colón, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Lehr, Judge Morgan, Mr. Parks, Mr. Stull, Senator Ward, Mr. Warfield, Mr. West, and Ms. Zaborney.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT VIA PHONE: Mr. Alaquiva and Ms. Vilayphonh.

COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Senator Tartaglione, Senator Iovino, Representative Pickett, and Mr. Gabel.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Karl Blischke, Executive Director; Heather Doughty, Deputy Executive Director; Jamie Dunlap, Chief of Creative Catalysts & Lifelong Learning; Amy Gabriel, Chief of Finance & Administration; Norah Johnson, Director of Public Awareness & External Affairs; Laura Kline, Executive Assistant; Sarah Merritt, Director of Creative Communities; Dana Payne, Director of DEI Initiatives, Diverse Cultures & Heritage; Seth Poppy, Director of Data Systems & Creative Services; Ian Rosario, Grants Liaison; and, Matthew Serio, Director of Creative Opportunities.

GUESTS PRESENT: Rodney Akers, General Counsel; Noah Erwin, Office of Senator Iovino; Brent Schwartz, Intern with the Office of General Counsel; Susan Sherwood, Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania.

CALL TO ORDER *Jeff Parks, Chair*

Chair Parks called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

ROLL CALL *Karl Blischke, Executive Director*

Mr. Blischke called the roll. A quorum was established.

WELCOME *Jeff Parks, Chair*

Chair Parks welcomed new Council Members, Representative Joe Ciresi and Senator Pam Iovino; new PCA staff member, Laura Kline; PCA Summer Intern, Natalie Coyne and Office of General Counsel Legal Intern, Brian Schwartz.

Chair Parks introduced Susan Sherwood, Chair of Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania. Ms. Sherwood provided an update on recent activities including the Pennsylvania Arts and Culture day held at the state capital on May 1, 2019. Ms. Sherwood also informed the group that Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Ms. Sherwood concluded her comments by thanking Council for its support of Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania's upcoming statewide summit at Rock Litz on Thursday, November 7, 2019. The purpose of the summit is to provide networking opportunities that compliment PCA initiatives of using arts as an economic development tool.

Chair Parks asked Council to review the PCA's new organizational chart and the new titles for staff members. Chair Parks offered congratulations for this major step in refocusing the work of the Council and getting the staff on board with the changes that were directed in the strategic plan.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Chair Parks reminded the Council the of the PCA's Conflict of Interest Policy.

ITEM 2 ACTION: Approval of the Minutes of the March 14, 2019 Council Meeting

Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the March 14, 2019 minutes. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Lehr and seconded by Ms. Zaborney. Motion carried, none abstained or opposed.

ITEM 3 ACTION: Authorization for the Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director to Submit Applications for Which State Arts Agencies are Eligible.

Chair Parks introduced the action item and asked for a motion to approve the authorization. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Goldberg and seconded by Mr. Stuhl. Motion carried, none abstained or opposed.

ITEM 4 ACTION: Authorization for the Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director to Award Contracts and Grants to Implement the Partnerships and Initiatives as Presented in the Budget, as Approved by the Council at this Meeting.

Chair Parks introduced the action item and asked for a motion to approve the authorization. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Goldberg and seconded by Judge Morgan. Motion carried, none abstained or opposed.

ITEM 5 ACTION: Authorization for the Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director to Appoint Panelists to Serve on Panels in the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year.

Chair Parks introduced the action item and asked for a motion to approve the authorization. Motion to approve was made by Mr. West and seconded by Mr. Stuhl. Motion carried, none abstained or opposed.

ITEM 6 ACTION Recommendations for Teacher Artist Partnerships

Jamie Dunlap, Chief of Creative Catalysts & Lifelong Learning

At the request of Chair Parks, Ms. Dunlap provided context for new Council Members regarding PCA's Teacher Artist Partnership funding categories: The Teacher Artist Partnership (TAP) and the Long-Term Residency (LTR) projects.

Ms. Dunlap explained the reasons for the PCA recommendation to discontinue the TAP funding and to continue the support of LTR projects.

Ms. Dunlap stated that this change will not take effect until fiscal year 2021 because of the existing TAP for the Pittsburgh Children's Museum/Avonworth that was approved in March meeting for Fiscal Year 2019-20.

Representative Ciresi asked what other districts have participated in TAPs.

Ms. Dunlap replied with the following list of school districts that have had TAPs:

- School District of Philadelphia
- Pittsburgh Children's Museum in partnership with the Avonworth School District
- Harrisburg School District
- Bethlehem School District

Representative Ciresi asked if Philadelphia School District participates in LTR.

Ms. Dunlap confirmed that the Philadelphia School District does participate in LTR.

Judge Morgan asked for an explanation of "long term."

Ms. Dunlap explained that long term in both the TAP and LTR is a 60-day minimum. In in both cases the teaching artist is working with a group of participants over a period of six to nine months. She explained that long term projects will be supported with this recommendation but will not require the additional restrictions associated with the TAP program.

Chair Parks asked for a motion. Mr. Astorino made a motion to approve the recommendations. Ms. Goldberg seconded the motion. Motion carried, none abstained or opposed.

ITEM 7 ACTION Recommendations for Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA) Partners Funding

Matthew Serio, Director of Creative Opportunities

At the request of Chair Parks, Mr. Serio, gave a brief overview on how funding works for applicants in order to give Council an understanding of both the Partners in the Arts (PPA) and Entry Track Programs.

Mr. Serio explained that larger organizations that have ongoing arts programs with budgets of over \$200,000 apply directly to the state, first through Entry Track, and then through Arts Organizations & Arts Programs (AOAP).

Smaller organizations or individual artists that are seeking state arts funding, apply through one of our 12 regional PPA partners. Organizations first apply through Project Stream, which distributes small grants up to \$2,500. After being in project stream for two to three years, these organizations can be invited to apply through Program Stream, which is ongoing funding.

Mr. Serio then outlined the recommendations for PPA partners administrative funding found on Agenda Item 7. Mr. Serio explained that staff recommends a total of \$387,000 for partner administrative funding. Mr. Serio gave an overview of the funding formula that was used and asked the Council to reference page 10 of the Council Book to review the formula that was used to determine the administrative funding.

Representative Ciresi asked how the assessment total is determined and why an organization with a low assessment score would receive a recommendation for funding.

Mr. Serio explained that each region has a designated partner and that this year an open application process will be implemented. PCA is accepting letters of interest and is going to invite organizations to apply.

Ms. Colón asked for clarification. Mr. Blischke explained that in the past, we have had designated partners, and this year we are starting a competitive process in order to become a partner.

Chair Parks asked for a motion. Mr. Lehr made a motion to approve the recommendations. Mr. Stull seconded the motion. Motion carried, none abstained or opposed.

ITEM 8 ACTION Recommendations for Entry Track Funding

Matthew Serio, Director of Creative Opportunities

Mr. Serio reported that PCA received 30 applications for Entry Track funding this year. Entry Track is for organizations with budgets over \$200,000 that are applying directly to the state for funding. The panel met on May 30 and May 31 to review the applications.

Mr. Serio directed Council to reference pages 12 and 13 of the Council Book to see the list of panelists that reviewed the applications and a list of the 30 applicants. Of the 30 applications, 26 are being recommended for funding and four are not.

Chair Parks noted that the lower scale of assessment on this list did not get recommended for funding.

Chair Parks asked for a motion. Ms. Goldberg made a motion to approve the recommendations. Ms. Zaborney seconded the motion. Motion carried, none abstained or opposed.

ITEM 9 ACTION Recommendations for Transitions

Matthew Serio, Director of Creative Opportunities

At the request of Chair Parks, Mr. Serio, gave a brief overview the Arts Organization & Arts Program (AOAP) and the benefits for Entry Track organizations to transition to AOAP.

Mr. Serio reported that out of the 30 applications received, 10 are being recommended to transition from Entry Track to AOAP. These organizations received a score above 75 and have two or more years in the Entry Track Program. Mr. Serio asked Council to reference the organizations that are listed on page 14 of the Council Book.

Mr. Serio also asked the Council to reference page 15, which contains the full list of the organizations and the recommendations of either staying in Entry Track or transitioning to AOAP, as well as the four organizations that are not being recommended for funding.

Chair Parks asked for a motion. Judge Morgan made a motion to approve the recommendation. Mr. Stull seconded the motion. Motion carried, none abstained or opposed.

ITEM 10 ACTION Recommendations for the Preserving Diverse Cultures Division

Dana Payne, Director of DEI Initiatives, Diverse Cultures & Heritage

Ms. Payne outlined the three available grant opportunities associated with the Preserving Diverse Cultures Division: the Strategies for Success multi-year, multi-level capacity building programs; the Community Based Engagement Project Grant; and when resources allow, the grants to individuals and organizations for attendance at conferences and workshops.

Ms. Payne asked Council to reference the grid at the center of the memo. This year, there was a total of 59 applications: 42 Strategies for Success applications and 17 Community Based Engagement Project Grant applications.

Two panel meetings were held to review the applications and all 42 Strategies for Success applications were recommended for funding. Five out of the 17 Community Based Engagement Project Grants did not move further than the letter of interest process and four withdrew.

Ms. Payne explained that the Community Based Engagement Project Grants were designed as an entry into the grant process for small artist-lead groups. Some organizations reported having trouble finding fiscal conduits for the application process. This issue will be addressed this year through some community-based engagement workshops to help people understand the application process.

Ms. Payne stated that these grants will also serve as a capacity building program that will include workshops to be held throughout the program period as well as other resources to help organizations reach their capacity goals.

Representative Ciresi asked when the organizations that were awarded grants will be notified, and Ms. Payne replied that they will not be notified until after the Council meeting.

Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendations. Motion made by Representative Ciresi. Motion seconded by Goldberg. Motion carried, none abstained or opposed.

ITEM 11 ACTION Recommendations for Folk Arts Apprenticeships

Dana Payne, Director of DEI Initiatives, Diverse Cultures & Heritage

Ms. Payne provided Council with an overview of the Folk Arts Program. She explained that currently, there is a system of six infrastructure centers which serve as partnership organizations to assist in our efforts to provide coverage throughout the state. Ms. Payne referred to the map which highlights the current areas of coverage. Ms. Payne explained that the goal is to increase coverage by increasing the number of partner organizations across the state.

Ms. Payne stated that this year, the apprenticeship application process was brought in-house. A panel meeting, which consisted of representative from each of our partner organizations, was convened in Harrisburg, and 18 applications were received and reviewed. Out of the 18 applications received, 15 were recommended by the panel for funding and three were not.

Ms. Payne stated that most of the applications came from Southeastern Pennsylvania, and the goal is to increase and promote the availability of the program to other areas where there is potential for apprenticeships and master artist projects.

When asked how these numbers compared to other years, Ms. Payne explained that this year, PCA received the same number of applications as were received last year and that over the past two years, between 18-25 applications were received.

Representative Ciresi asked how we can attract applicants from rural areas of the state.

Ms. Payne replied that bringing the management of this program in-house will allow for more contact with the partnerships from rural areas, and that this will help to achieve the goal to increase the number of applicants.

Chairman Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendations. Motion made by Ms. Colón. Motion seconded by Mr. West. Motion carried, none abstained or opposed.

ITEM 11 A ACTION Recommendations for Folk and Traditional Arts Infrastructure

Dana Payne, Director of DEI Initiatives, Diverse Cultures & Heritage

Ms. Payne outlined the recommended changes for the Folk and Traditional Arts Infrastructure. Ms. Payne referred to the map on the back of the memo that outlines the current coverage and she explained that although Pennsylvania's northern tier area is lacking in coverage, next year, an open application process will be implemented with the hope of increasing coverage in this region.

Ms. Payne stated that the recommendation is for each of the current six partner centers to receive \$15,000, which is an increase in funding. Ms. Payne proceeded to give an overview of the areas where these partner organizations will focus.

Ms. Payne reported that a joint-partnership meeting of AIE and PPA will be held every other year. The goal of this meeting will be to help the partner organizations share best practices with other organizations. The hope is that these activities, as well as an increase in the budget, will attract more folk arts applicants.

Ms. Payne reported that the second part of this recommendation is for Council to approve \$15,000 in funding for up to two provisional field work projects which will help to identify organizations that can serve as a folk arts partner organization.

Ms. Payne highlighted The Walk-In Center in Schuylkill County, which is PCA's newest folk arts partnership organization. The Walk-In Center serves as an example of a cultural organization existing and serving a number of purposes. Ms. Payne stated that this organization is worth a site visit to see what they represent to that geographic area and the services they provide.

After being asked the definition of folk art, Ms. Payne replied that it is culture and traditions that are passed down from one generation to another that can be visual, dance, music, textiles and storytelling. The purpose of our support of folk arts is to sustain these traditions and preserve them.

Ms. Colón asked if the request is for a total of \$15,000 per organization or \$7,500 for each organization, and Ms. Payne replied that it is \$7,500 for each organization.

Ms. Payne offered to provide new Council members with additional information in the form of an online webinar or presentation about the various elements about these programs.

Chairman Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendations. Motion made by Ms. Goldberg. Motion seconded by Mr. Lehr. Motion carried, none abstained or opposed.

ITEM 12 ACTION Recommendation for a Revision to the Arts Marketing and Audience Building Training Initiative

Norah Johnson, Director of Public Awareness and External Affairs

Ms. Johnson provided the new Council members with background information about the current Arts Marketing and Audience Building Training Program.

Ms. Johnson stated that in 2017 and 2018, PCA saw very strong numbers in both the information sessions that were presented and in applications that were received. In 2019, PCA's goal was to provide training to a cohort that was centered in the northern tier over to the northeastern region of Pennsylvania. Over 40 organizations participated in the information sessions and a lot of feedback was received regarding capacity issues in terms of staffing and budget.

Ms. Johnson reported that although there was a lot of interest in the program, only 15 submissions were received and only eight of those 15 came from the region that was targeted. She also stated that in terms of analyzing the cost of the program, it was determined that PCA was unable to justify composing the cohort of 8 or fewer organizations. It was also determined that the organizations that need the training the most, are the ones that are small.

Ms. Johnson explained that with those factors mind, PCA is recommending a revision to how training is delivered with a proposal to have four identical opportunities around Pennsylvania that consist of two-day training sessions based around the curriculum that was used as the foundational knowledge at the boot camps in previous years.

Another proposal is to build a digital classroom which would be another avenue where people can access the training based on the same curriculum.

The goal is to provide the training to any organization around the state at no cost, and with the decreased time and the digital offering, the idea is that we could provide it to anyone regardless their budget, their location, or their size. If approved, this recommendation would not require a revision to the proposed line item and conceivably, could be offered to many more organizations.

Ms. Zaborney reported that the Susquehanna Art Museum participated in this program two cycles ago and provided positive feedback about the experience.

Ms. Colón asked if this would be the first-time digital training would be offered.

Ms. Johnson explained that it would be the first time for this particular program to be offered digitally. She went on to explain that this program will be offered through a partnership with Americans for the Arts who already has a robust digital training library. PCA will not have to build the training from scratch and would continue to work through this organization to deliver the training sessions.

Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendations. Motion made by Ms. Goldberg. Mr. Warfield seconded the motion. Motion carried, none abstained or opposed.

ITEM 15 Creative Communities Update

Sarah Merritt, Director of Creative Communities

Mr. Parks called on Sarah Merritt to present the Creative Communities Initiative Update.

Ms. Merritt provided the Council with the update of the initiative and highlighted the guidelines that were included as part of the memo on pages 33-37 of the Council Book.

Ms. Merritt reported that between March and June, a lot of time was spent promoting the program around the state. Guidelines were sent out to a number of list-serves, including the Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs, the Mayors' Association, the Department of Community and Economic Development, all of PCA's grantees, and Pennsylvania Planning Associations.

The roll-out was on May 1, 2019, letters of interest were accepted from the end of May through June 28, and 104 letters of interest were received from communities around the state. Ms. Merritt directed that Council refer to the map displayed on the screen to see the breakdown of where the letters of interest were from.

Ms. Merritt explained that from the letters that were received, 57% of those were from non-arts organizations such as Chambers of Commerce, Visitor's Bureaus, Higher Education, community foundations, and community development organizations. Ms. Merritt also reported that a number of arts organizations applied on behalf of their communities and that overall, it has been a good mix of communities as well as projects.

Merritt stated that the panel will convene on July 16 to go through the process of selecting communities for site visits. The panel will select 15 organizations for site visits and these site visits will take place from the end of July through mid-September. Each site visit will be unique to each community based on its letter of interest.

After the site visits, a report will be provided to the panel and a list of 8-10 finalists will be invited to submit a full application. Finalists will be announced at the end of September.

Chair Parks offered congratulations to Ms. Merritt and the entire team for the great response to a first-year effort from both urban and rural counties.

ITEM 13 ACTION Proposed Grants Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-20

Amy Gabriele, Chief of Finance & Administration

Ms. Gabriele provided Council with an overview of the Proposed Grants Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-20.

Ms. Gabriel referenced page 30 of the Council Book and explained that since this memo was written, the state budget was passed. PCA's Grant Budget is \$9,59,000, the same budget approved for Fiscal Year 2018-19.

Ms. Gabriel directed Council to pages 31 and 32 of the Council Book and reviewed the breakdown of the grants budget. Ms. Gabriel explained that most of the items on this spreadsheet were already discussed by other staff members in previous tabs and she proceeded to highlight items that were not previously discussed.

Ms. Gabriele asked Ms. Dunlap to provide a brief overview of the Arts in Education program.

Ms. Dunlap stated that since it was an interim year for our Arts in Education Partners and because there was no panel review, the funding recommendation is for the same amount as last year. She explained that only increase is for the Perry County Council of the Arts and Millersville University, two of our Arts in Education Partners that will be assisting the Cumberland/Dauphin/Schuylkill region for Fiscal Year 2019-20. This increase was discussed and approved at the March Council meeting.

Ms. Gabriel continued to provide more detail regarding the Fiscal Year 2019-20 budget. She explained that because of the newly updated management directive, PCA is required to openly solicit grants beginning in Fiscal Year 2020-21.

Mr. Blischke asked the Council to review line 85 and explained that this year we have a \$475,000 balance in our budget that is related to discontinuing forward funding for PPA Project Stream. Since this is a one-time balance, it presents a one-time opportunity for the Council to seek to leverage the funds with other partners and other funders. Mr. Blischke stated that one thing being explored is the possibility providing services to creative entrepreneurs and artists that are starting small businesses or expanding their small business.

Mr. Blischke also stated that another idea is support a suite of services for creative industry businesses including technical assistance, business planning, and marketing planning. PCA will revisit this with Council in October or December with a proposal to leverage the funds with a partner, which will double the impact going out the door and perhaps enter into a multi-year contract that will allow this one-time balance to accrue benefits over several years.

Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the Grants Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-20.

Mr. Stull made a motion to approve the recommendation. Ms. Goldberg seconded the motion. Motion carried, none abstained or opposed.

ITEM 14 ACTION Proposed Parameters for the AOAP and PPA Program Stream Funding Formula
Karl Blischke, Executive Director

Mr. Blischke provided Council with an overview of the recommendation for the proposed parameters for the AOAP and PPA Program Stream Funding Formula.

Mr. Blischke stated that each year, Council considers funding parameters for our ongoing funding support through AOAP and PPA Program Stream. Last year, Council kept funding level for these organizations, mainly because of PCA was in the midst of its strategic planning process and the grants budget was even. Mr. Blischke explained that the recommendation this year is to continue to hold everyone's grant even. The recommendation is that Council wait to receive the recommendations from the Committee to Review Responsive Funding prior to making shifts in the way these organizations are funded.

Part two of this recommendation is regarding the recommendation for this year's funding parameters. Blischke explained that some of the organizations that been in PPA Project Stream have applied multiple times. These organizations have ongoing programs and have done well in panel review. The recommendation is to transition 53 of these grantees to ongoing funding in PPA Program Stream. We are recommending that each of these organizations receive the minimum grant amount of \$3,000. Essentially, for everyone transitioning, that is a modest increase in their grant amount because the average grant in Project Stream is about \$1,400.

Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the Proposed Parameters for the AOAP and PPA Program Stream Funding Formula.

Mr. Lehr made a motion to approve the recommendation. Mr. Stull seconded the motion. Motion carried, none abstained or opposed.

ITEM 15 INFORMATION Staff Updates
Heather Doughty, Deputy Executive Director
Amy Gabriele, Chief of Finance & Administration

Ms. Doughty provided an update on the Governor's Awards for the Arts as well as an overview and history of the Governor's Awards for new Council members.

Ms. Doughty stated that this year's Governor's Awards for the Arts ceremony is going to be held in Pittsburgh at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center on Friday September 27, 2019. The August Wilson Center is named for a past recipient of this award, playwright August Wilson, who received this award in 1990. This is the first time that this event has been held in a venue that was named for a Governor's Award recipient.

Ms. Doughty explained that a meeting of the local planning committee was recently held and Ms. Doughty called on the three Council members who attended the planning meeting to make a short observation or comment about the event and the objectives which are being formed.

Mr. Alaquiva gave an update on the recent meeting with the local committee in Pittsburgh and explained that some of those in attendance included individuals from the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust and staff members from the August Wilson African American Cultural Center. Mr. Alaquiva stated that the purpose of the meeting was to get an overview of the event and review the local responsibilities.

Mr. West stated he would like to see a good showing for the event. He suggested having surrounding events on September 27th and as well as inviting alumni, previous Council members, and some of our partner organizations.

Mr. Astorino reported that it was a great meeting and that the energy in the room was terrific. He stated that the next meeting is scheduled for July 23 and that he is confident that Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council will be able to coordinate the local duties.

Chairman Parks thanked the Council members who are serving on the Governor's Awards Committee.

ITEM 16 DISCUSSION Report from the Committee to Review Responsive Funding

Judge Morgan, Committee Chair

Judge Morgan provided a report of the July 10, 2019 Committee to Review Responsive Funding. The committee's first meeting was held at the PCA offices. PCA staff also attended as well as representatives from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA).

Judge Morgan stated that the committee was established in March 2019 to review our largest funding allocation related to responsive funding and that the meeting provided good context to help the committee start on its work. Judge Morgan explained that the committee is charged with reviewing the work of other state arts councils with NASAA and will receive and review information from both inside and outside of the commonwealth. The committee will have people from the commonwealth provide information in future meetings. NASAA gave a national level report on activities of states. Judge Morgan stated that the goal is to issue a report with recommendations to Council by March 2020.

Mr. Blischke added that the committee meeting was a great opportunity to set the baseline of what is happening across the country, what PCA is doing. Blischke explained that the next step is to take a deeper dive into what kind of policies and guidelines can inform Council policies and alignment with the strategic plan.

ITEM 17 Chair and Council Member Reports

Jeffrey Parks, Chairman

Chair Parks introduced Rodney Akers, Deputy General Counsel in the Governor's Office of the General Counsel. In that role, he serves as General Counsel to the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

Chair Parks also introduced Ian Rosario and asked Mr. Rosario to make a brief introduction.

Chair Parks recognized the service of Anne Griffin, longtime executive assistant to State Senator Jay Costa and champion of the arts in Pennsylvania, who recently announced her upcoming retirement. Mr. Parks stated that on behalf of the arts in Pennsylvania, we are deeply appreciative and will miss our friend and colleague.

Chair Parks also stated that regional Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Panel Meetings have been scheduled in July and August and instructed Council to contact Matthew Serio if interested in attending.

Chair Parks also reported that in partnership with the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, the PCA unveiled a public art installation at the Sideling Hill Service Plaza that was created through this partnership with the PA Turnpike Commission and a resident artist who worked with the Southern Fulton Junior-Senior High School.

Senator Ward reported that she attended the unveiling on behalf of the Council and that the finished work is quite impressive. She stated that the project allowed art students to become involved with the vocational technical students and they both worked together on the project

ITEM 18 Executive Director's Report

Karl Blischke, Executive Director

Mr. Blischke provided the Council with an update on the new strategic plan that was adopted in March. PCA took the strategic plan very seriously.

Mr. Blischke provided Council with an overview of the new PCA organizational chart and explained that Jamie Dunlap will lead a team that works with our partnership infrastructure which includes Dana Payne and Matt Serio. Mr. Blischke added that the arts education infrastructure has been built out and that the folk arts infrastructure has been added and we will see great benefits from that. This restructure will provide great opportunities to work cross-sectors. Mr. Blischke reported that Matt Serio is also exploring the impact and opportunities in maker spaces.

Mr. Blischke stated that Amy Gabriele will lead a new team for our compliance, accountability and finance infrastructure and asked Ms. Gabriele to provide an overview about one of their big efforts this year – reimbursement.

Ms. Gabriele provided an overview of the new reimbursement policy and explained that this applies to AOAP Track and our Entry Track program. She stated that starting with Fiscal Year 2019-20, grants will be made on a reimbursement basis, due to the newly updated management directive adopted last July that states payments for grants shall be made on a reimbursement basis. Those grantees in AOAP and Entry Track will need to submit receipts and proof of payment of those receipts in order to be reimbursed for those expenses with the PCA grant and match. Ms. Gabriele added that Ian Rosario came from Community and Economic Development where the reimbursement process had already been implemented.

Ms. Gabriele reported that starting in January 2020, the plans are to make AOAP and Program Stream a permanent interim status. Because these organizations are not required to submit a report, those organizations will still need to be reviewed by staff in their annual interim application. This will allow for time to review reimbursements and work with our applicants.

Also starting in January, due dates will be strictly adhered to. Applicants will be informed in the fall that the due date is firm.

Mr. Blischke stated that in recognition of the changes, staff are scheduling teambuilding activities over the next six months.

Mr. Blischke also gave an update on planning and the engagement of a consultant for creative communities, an external marketing firm, and an external consultant for diversity, equity and inclusion. Mr. Blischke also stressed the importance of developing key relationships in community and economic development sector and the health sector and enhancing accountability functions.

Meeting was adjourned.