

**Minutes**  
**Special Council Meeting**  
**January 20, 2021**  
**9:00 a.m.**

Pennsylvania Council on the Arts  
Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS:** Chair Parks, Mr. Alaquiva, Mr. Astorino, Ms. Colón, Mr. Gabel (by Proxy,) Ms. Goldberg, Judge Morgan, Mr. Stull, Senator Ward, Mr. Warfield, Mr. West, Ms. Zaborney

**COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Representative Ciresi, Mr. Lehr, Representative Pickett, Ms. Vilayphonh

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT VIA SKYPE:** Karl Blischke, Executive Director; Heather Doughty, Deputy Executive Director; Jamie Dunlap, Chief of Creative Catalysts & Lifelong Learning; Amy Gabriele, 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; and, Ian Rosario, Grants Liaison.

**GUESTS PRESENT VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS:** Rodney Akers, Chief Counsel

**ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER:** Karl Blischke, Executive Director, welcomed those in attendance and informed them that the meeting was going to be recorded for the administrative purpose of minute taking. Mr. Blischke then turned the meeting over to Chair Parks.

Chair Parks called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:**

*Karl Blischke, Executive Director*

Mr. Blischke called the roll. A quorum was established

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

*Jeff Parks, Chair*

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

**ITEM 2 ACTION: Recommendation for Statewide Services – Research for Recovery and Reopening**

*Jamie Dunlap, Chief of Creative Catalysts & Lifelong Learning*

Ms. Dunlap reminded Council that at the December Council meeting, PCA staff recommended an open solicitation for providing Statewide Services to support research for reopening and recovery through a one-time, non-matching, grant in the amount of \$50,000.

Ms. Dunlap explained that PCA convened a review panel. She added that PCA staff received three proposals and the panel reviewed those proposals and made a recommendation.

Ms. Dunlap reported that the applicants were the California University of Pennsylvania, the Cultural Coalition of Allentown, and the Local Government Academy, which is in Pittsburgh.

Dunlap explained that the review panel provided their recommendation based on the criteria that is outlined in the Council Book, and based on their review and discussion, the panel recommended Local Government Academy for this one-time grant. Ms. Dunlap stated that Local Government Academy is a non-profit organization based in Pittsburgh and that they will be subcontracting with the Fourth Economy.

Ms. Dunlap explained that as outlined in the memo, the decision to choose the Local Government Academy was unanimous for a few reasons, part of it being with their data collection expertise, a strong implementation plan and how they were going to engage in diverse communities across the commonwealth.

Ms. Dunlap explained that staff recommend moving \$50,000 from the Creative Catalysts budget line to Statewide Services budget line to support this project.

Mr. Stull asked why the Fourth Economy did not apply for the grant themselves?

Ms. Dunlap explained that The Fourth Economy is a for profit firm that works with the Local Government Academy. Local Government Academy is non-profit which choose to apply for the grant and engage the Forth Economy to carry out aspect of the research project.

Chair Parks asked Mr. Blischke if he had any comments he would like to make about this initiative.

Mr. Blischke stated that this initiative goes to the heart of being able to analyze and assess the sector and how our creative sector interacts with the health and development of communities. Mr. Blischke added that PCA is looking forward to the product of this and is hopeful that this will be information that will be invaluable to us but also to other state agencies, to local governments and to all those who invest in the health of communities.

Ms. Dunlap added that Local Government Academy, via Fourth Economy, will be doing a presentation to Council when all these findings are put together into a report. This would be a culminating piece where Council would be able to hear where PCA should be going as well as next steps based on their recommendations.

Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendation as presented in the Council materials.

Judge Morgan made a motion to approve the recommendations. Ms. Goldberg seconded the motion. Motion carried, none abstained or opposed.

### **ITEM 3 ACTION: Recommendation for the Creative Communities Initiative**

*Sarah Merritt, Director of Pennsylvania Creative Communities*

Ms. Merritt stated that at the December 2020 Council Meeting, Council approved staff recommendations for adding two new communities to the Creative Communities initiative in the second phase of the PCA's 2020-2021 budget, with the following provisions:

- The two new communities will start in this Fiscal Year (2020/2021) with a grant amount of \$12,500.
- In the ensuing three fiscal year, their grant amount will be an additional \$25,000 (2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024.)
- For Fiscal Year 2024-25, the grant will be up to \$12,500, so they will make up that second half in 2024/2025.

Ms. Merritt reported that in reviewing previous top-ranking communities from the pilot initiative, PCA staff went back to the group that was not selected and spoke with several of them to learn what they have been doing since we started this initiative.

Ms. Merritt stated that two organizations that rose to the top were Indiana and Allentown. Ms. Merritt explained that these organizations both stood out because, even though they were not selected in the pilot initiative, these communities continued to act on the momentum that was built around working with their partners to develop their letter of interest.

Ms. Merritt stated that PCA staff recommends the following two communities for the Creative Communities Initiative: Cultural Coalition of Allentown and Indiana Office of Planning and Development.

Ms. Goldberg asked Sarah to provide an overview of the program.

**Ms. Merritt stated that** Creative Communities program is designed to provide multi-year funding to community-driven, arts-based projects in communities. She referenced the program goals that are outlined in the Council book, which include strengthening communities, fostering communities, connectiveness with an emphasis on diversity and inclusion in their projects, supporting future leadership and local leaders, and cultivating innovative projects that are community driven.

Ms. Merritt reported that the projects are all different and that she is excited about these two communities and what they can bring into this program.

Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendation as presented in the Council materials.

Mr. Stull made a motion to approve the recommendations. Judge Morgan seconded the motion. Motion carried, none abstained or opposed.

**ITEM 4 PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chair Parks announced that the Council has allotted time to hear public comments.

There were no requests to make comments.

**ITEM 5 ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:24 am