

**Minutes
Council Meeting
July 8, 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. Gabel, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Lehr, Judge Morgan, Mr. Stull, Ms. Vilayphonh, Mr. Warfield, Mr. West

COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Mr. Astorino, Representative Ciresi, Natalee Colon, Representative Labs, Ms. Zaborney

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; and, Ian Rosario, Grants Liaison.

GUESTS PRESENT VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS: Rodney Akers, Chief Counsel; Nicole Marrone, Extern, General Counsel's Office, Pam Snyder, Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania; Susan Sherwood, Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania.

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

ROLL CALL:

Karl Blischke, Executive Director

Mr. Blischke called the roll. A quorum was established

Chair Parks welcomed Pam Snyder Eters, Executive Director of Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania (Citizens) and asked her to provide Council with a brief update on Citizens' activities.

Ms. Snyder Eters reported that Citizens has been busy over the last couple of weeks and stated that they are still working through their Statewide Services Grant. She mentioned PCA's recent receipt of the report from Fourth Economy and stated that Citizens partnered with them on this grant.

Ms. Snyder Eters explained that Citizens expanded on some findings from the Fourth Economy report and hosted an additional run of webinars with three guest speakers which included Shamika Sawyer, from the Schwartz Project in Philadelphia, which focused on ground swell organizations and their role in communities and some of the struggles that they face as smaller organizations.

Snyder Eters added Kelly Gibson from the Cultural Alliance of York County also participated in the webinar and spoke about "Building the Table" rather than simply taking a seat at it. Ms. Snyder Eters reported that the webinar also provided information on how to speak to the legislators as well as to local and county officials.

Ms. Snyder Eters reported that webinar's third speaker was Andrew Simonett, who is with Artist U and focuses on building artist resources and opportunities. Per Snyder Eters, Simonett's focus was on building networks of artists that can provide support for each other in communities, art as business, and how creative entrepreneurs can identify as businesses and contributors to the economy.

Ms. Snyder Eppers also reported that Citizens is working on a new project on Facebook (Facebook.com/cfapa). Ms. Snyder Eppers stated that she is doing a series of road trips, both personally and professionally, to meet people that she is working with across the commonwealth. Snyder Eppers explained that these road trips are two-hour trips to share with people what they could do on a day trip with their family. She explained that these will include a stop at some of the arts highlights around their communities and across their region. At each location, Snyder Eppers stops and interviews artists or art supporters.

Susan Goldberg asked if Ms. Snyder Eppers found any organizations that are no longer in existence due to the pandemic.

Ms. Snyder Eppers found that a lot of the organizations have made many pivots to remain open and gave the example of the Huntingdon Council on the Arts. Snyder Eppers explained that this is a significant organization that serves a lot of smaller groups and they had to leave their headquarters in downtown Huntingdon because they could no longer afford the rent as a result of the pandemic. Snyder Eppers stated that they are now sharing space in the playhouse and added that she thinks that a lot of other organizations have made similar pivots, or they have moved to part time or completely volunteer staff in order to remain open.

Ms. Goldberg asked if Ms. Snyder Eppers found that in some cases, organizations may have merged or shared facilities or staff. Ms. Snyder Eppers responded that she has seen this occur and she has seen that organizations have looked to each other to partner. She added that if anything good does come out of this, the conversations between organizations has picked up and organizations are starting to share some of those resources.

ITEM 2: REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chair Parks asked if the PCA received any requests for public comments. There was no request for public comments.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Jeff Parks, Chair

Chair Parks reminded the Council of the PCA's conflict of interest policy.

ITEM 3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 11, 2021, Council Meeting:

Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the March 11, 2021, Council Meeting Minutes. Mr. Stull stated that there were two changes that need to be made in the minutes: the correct spelling of Ms. Snyder Eppers' name and to make the correction that a map referenced in Agenda Item 3 is actually on page 55. Chair Parks made note of those corrections. Ms. Goldberg made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. West seconded the motion. Motion carried, none abstained or opposed.

May 6, 2021, Special Council Meeting:

Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the May 6, 2021, Council Meeting Minutes. Ms. Goldberg made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Stull seconded the motion. Motion carried, none abstained or opposed.

ITEM 4 ACTION: Authorization for the Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director to Submit Applications for which State Arts Agencies are Eligible

Karl Blischke, Executive Director

Mr. Blischke stated that this recommendation gives authorization for PCA to apply for funds. Blischke explained that this typically relates to PCA's annual application to the National Endowment for the Arts and there can be other opportunities for the PCA. Mr. Blischke stated that last year, the PCA applied for a grant from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies and received a grant for \$60,000. Blischke stated that the PCA also has an application pending with the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Mr. Blischke reported that at this time, he is not aware of any other opportunities for this current fiscal year and if any should come up, he will inform Council.

Chair Parks asked the Council for any additional questions.

Ms. Goldberg asked if organizations who had previously received PPP money and received forgiveness, would be able to apply for this grant. Mr. Blischke explained that this recommendation is not about PCA grantees, it is about the PCA itself applying for some funding stream like the federal government.

Chair Parks asked for any other addition questions. Hearing none, Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.

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

ITEM 5 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

Karl Blischke, Executive Director

Mr. Blischke reported that this is another straightforward administrative item that allows PCA staff to enter into grant award agreements with grantees based on the actions that Council authorizes today.

Chair Parks added that this recommendation is basically allowing the organizations to make applications with the PCA without calling a Council meeting every time.

Chair Parks asked the Council for any additional questions. Hearing none, Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.

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

ITEM 6 ACTION: Authorization for the Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director to Appoint Panelists to Serve on Panels for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year

Karl Blischke, Executive Director

Mr. Blischke reported that this action item will help PCA staff do its work administratively. Blischke explained that for many of the PCA's programs, organizations apply to the PCA, and panels are convened to help present assessments to staff to consider and ultimately that helps PCA staff present recommendations for Council. Blischke explained that this authorizes PCA staff to convene those panels and to appoint people in the commonwealth and other places to serve on those panels.

Chair Parks asked the Council for any additional questions. Hearing none, Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.

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

ITEM 7 ACTION: Recommendation for American Rescue Plan Application Guidelines

Karl Blischke, Executive Director

Mr. Blischke reported that through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2020-2021, the National Endowment for the Arts received \$135 million. Blischke stated that as part of that package 40% of what the NEA receives is required to go to the various state arts agencies and jurisdictions and regional arts organizations across the country. Blischke stated that through this act, PCA will be receiving \$936,200 to support recovery and arts organizations and programs affected by the pandemic. Blischke explained that this is very similar to what happened through the CARES Act.

Mr. Blischke stated that PCA staff is recommending guidelines that will allow PCA staff to take in applications and distribute the American Rescue Plan funds. Blischke added that PCA staff is recommending that eligible applicants would be the organizations that regularly apply to PCA for ongoing support and would include the current year (2021-2022) grantees in the Arts Organizations and Arts Programs (AOAP), Entry Track, and the Preserving Diverse Cultures at the intermediate and advanced levels.

Mr. Blischke stated that the PCA staff recommends that those programs would be eligible for anyone who is an awardee and added that the NEA has guidelines on the use of funds and PCA will be following those guidelines. Blischke explained that this is not project support dollars but relief to support operations that includes things like salaries, fees to artists and contractors, and facility costs as eligible uses.

Blischke stated that the plan is to have a straightforward and simple application process and added that relationships with grantees are established and ongoing and that the level of effort should be commensurate with the grant amount. Blischke explained that PCA staff will not be asking for request amounts and stated that applications will be taken and based on the number of applications received and that is what will determine what the grant amounts will be.

Mr. Blischke anticipates that grant amounts will be between \$2,700 and \$3,500 per awardee.

Mr. Blischke addressed Ms. Goldberg's earlier question about grantees who may have received PPP loans. Mr. Blischke stated that this may apply in this situation and explained that PCA will not exclude applicants based on whether they may have received PPP funds or whether they were successful in working with their local municipality to get CARES Act funds or if they applied to the NEA. Blischke explained that there are a lot of moving parts and that there are continuing support programs out there. Blischke stated that instead of slowing this process down and trying to perfectly calibrate levels of support based on a lot of uncertainty, PCA staff will just keep this simple and let everybody participate should they want to.

Ms. Goldberg stated that she heard that if organizations applied for PPP forgiveness, then they could not apply for this particular grant, that is why she asked and wasn't sure if Mr. Blischke heard anything.

Mr. Blischke responded he has not seen that but would double check the NEA to be certain.

Chair Parks asked the Council for any additional questions. Hearing none, Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.

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

ITEM 8 ACTION: Recommendation for Preserving Diverse Cultures Division

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

Ms. Payne reported that the Preserving Diverse Cultures Division received 65 applications for funding from both programs offered by the Preserving Diverse Cultures Division, which consists of the Strategies for Success capacity building program and the community-based engagement project grant. Ms. Payne explained that out of the 65 applications received, 55 were recommended for funding. Ms. Payne directed

Council members to the Council Book memo which contains the breakdown per program with the recommendations.

Ms. Payne stated that 34 of the applications received for Strategies for Success were recommended for funding at the different levels: basic, intermediate, and advanced and explained that 21 of the 29 applications submitted for the community-based engagement project grants were recommended for funding. Ms. Payne stated that PCA staff is recommending that Council approve funding in the amount of \$503,000, representing \$442,500, to support 34 Strategies for Success applicant organizations and \$60,500 to support 21 community-based engagement projects.

Ms. Payne reported that the second recommendation is to continue with the flexibility that PCA extended to its grantees last year to provide grantees with the flexibility to reallocate the use of Fiscal Year 2021-2022 grant award funds towards identified general operating costs and/or technology enhancement expenses.

Ms. Goldberg asked if there are any repeat applicants.

Ms. Payne stated that yes, in Strategies for Success, there are repeaters in that an applicant can receive funding at the basic level for four years, at the intermediate level for four years and at the advanced level for three years.

Ms. Payne then stated that with the community-based project grants, applicants can apply for up to four years. Ms. Payne added that some of the conditions change for returning applicants for both grants.

Ms. Goldberg replied that she imagines that some are re-applying if they had not received anything in the past and that it is possible that they have seen what their issues are and tried to improve and then have come back and applied again.

Ms. Payne agreed that some to re-apply.

Ms. Goldberg stated that she is looking at the numbers that have applied in 2021 and stated that it seems as if it is a steady course in how many organizations apply and how many are approved.

Ms. Payne stated that with Strategies for Success, there was a slight decrease and explained that last year, there were 42 organizations participating in the program and this year it is 34. She added that sometimes organizations take a break and sometimes there are major changes in staffing and sometimes organizations have received what they needed from the PCA and have moved up.

Chair Parks asked the Council for any additional questions. Hearing none, Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.

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

ITEM 9 ACTION: Recommendation for Funding Parameters for Arts Organizations and Arts Programs

Karl Blischke, Executive Director

Mr. Blischke explained that this recommendation is for setting the parameters for the PCA's largest general operating support category which is Arts Organizations and Arts Programs (AOAP.)

Mr. Blischke reminded everyone that last year, Council approved a new funding strategy for AOAP and that was to better serve all the communities of Pennsylvania more equitably, which was a major shift and a transformative new funding strategy that already has made a big difference in the PCA's ability to serve the Commonwealth.

Mr. Blischke stated that this recommendation is to continue that funding strategy that Council adopted last year. The strategy uses two funding tiers: one tier is for non-rural and non-BIPOC grantees which is a \$13,000 level, the same as last year. Blischke stated that the second tier is for BIPOC communities and rural communities and that is recommended at \$26,000, which is the same as last year.

Blischke reported that in addition to that last year, Council employed some waivers of standard grant parameters related to the pandemic, which increased the flexibility of the grantees to address their needs and lowered the cost of grantees participating in the program. Blischke recommended that PCA continues to allow that flexibility, at least until the end of Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Blischke added that these can always be evaluated by Council on an annual basis.

Blischke stated that the recommendation for Council is to waive the required match for AOAP and that the truth is that grantees have a much larger budget than the PCA's grant amount, so essentially, PCA's grant is only a piece of their funding matrix.

Blischke stated that PCA staff would also like to continue to allow grantees to have flexibility for additional issues that may arise, so the recommendation is to allow grantees to use funds for capital expenditures that are directly related to their arts-related operations and missions.

Mr. Blischke reported that finally, to efficiently process AOAP and to potentially re-deploy money toward the end of the fiscal year, PCA staff is recommending that grantees must sign their agreements within 45 days of receipt, otherwise, forfeit the award. Blischke explained that this is to allow PCA staff to identify organizations that may be having difficulties and to be able to administratively deal with any balance of funds and bring recommendations back to Council.

Mr. Blischke highlighted one unique exception with one PPA grantee listed on page 44 of the Council Book, the United Way of Clarion County. Blischke stated that they have been receiving ongoing support through Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts and that subsequent to their application for this year's funding, they applied for and became the regional PPA partner. Blischke explained that the issue now is that PCA does not want a partner giving a grant to themselves, so PCA staff is recommending that PCA make a direct grant to the United Way. Mr. Blischke added that PCA staff further recommends that they receive the same amount that they would have received in PPA had they not become PPA partner.

Judge Morgan stated that the United Way normally provide grants to organizations within the community for various charities and added that PCA grants are normally for organizations providing arts in the form of music, theater, etc. Judge Morgan asked if the United Way does anything in the Arts or is this grant just to give them money to administer the program they will be handling from now on as a PPA partner.

Mr. Blischke responded that separately, and before United Way of Clarion County became a PPA partner, they administered an arts festival, which is a discreet annual event and they have been receiving PPA funds specifically to support that arts festival. Blischke added that separately, with PPA's contract with them, yes, PCA provides administrative funds for them, specifically for them to re-grant Council's funds.

Blischke stated that PCA will have two different contracts with the United way of Clarion County. One for their annual arts festival and the other for being a PPA partner.

Chair Parks added that this action will cement the dramatic actions that Council instituted last year in terms of how funds are allocated for annual operating for organizations and for programs. Chair Parks stated that he is very curious to hear if any Council member has received any kind of positive or negative feedback about this dramatic change that we did or whether it has not been an issue.

Mr. Blischke stated that PCA staff were overall heartened by people's response, in particular from those that were seeing a reduction in their grant amount. Mr. Blischke added that he thinks it was because of their ability to see the big picture and to see the cultural sector beyond their own organization. Blischke

stated that there were some grantees that said they appreciate this strategy, but I would like it better if they were not receiving decreases. Blischke stated that overall, given the nature of this strategy, PCA staff was very heartened by what was heard.

Chair Parks asked the Council for any additional questions. Hearing none, Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.

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

ITEM 10 ACTION: Recommendation for Entry Track

Jamie Dunlap, Chief of Creative Catalysts & Lifelong Learning

Ms. Dunlap directed Council to the Entry Track memo in the Council Book and explained it contains information about applications received in the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Ms. Dunlap reminded Council that Entry Track is PCA's point of entry to PCA funding for applicants that have ongoing arts programs and an average annual revenue that is greater than \$200,000.

Ms. Dunlap reported that periodically, applicants transition from Entry Track into Arts Organization Arts Program (AOAP) arts funding category after they have established a successful history in the Entry Track Program.

Ms. Dunlap stated that for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the PCA received 39 Entry Track applications and convened a panel on May 24 to review those applications. Ms. Dunlap reported that from the panel review, the recommendation is to award grants to 30 of 39 applications, which totals \$150,000.

Ms. Dunlap explained that applicants with assessment totals greater than 60 are recommended for \$5,000 grant awards. Dunlap added that applicants whose panel assessment totals were 60 or less were not recommended for a grant award.

Dunlap stated that in addition to the grant amounts, there is a recommendation to move 10 of the Entry Track applicants into AOAP, which would be effective next fiscal year.

Ms. Dunlap stated that a list of all the applicants is located after the memo in the Council book. She explained that the applications that are in orange highlighted rows are recommended to transition to AOAP effective Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and all the rows that are highlighted in grey at the bottom are the ones that are not recommended for funding.

Ms. Dunlap reported, that as a point of context, when looking at the list of Entry Track organizations, some are listed as "missed AOAP." Ms. Dunlap explained that something that PCA implemented and is standing firm on is that if an organization misses the AOAP deadline, in order for them to get back into our funding stream, they need to apply in Entry Track, the point of entry program for larger (over \$200,000) fiscal size organizations. Ms. Dunlap stated that there were a few organizations that missed the deadline and added that since the Entry Track deadline is one month after the AOAP deadline, there is some room to be able to apply. Ms. Dunlap explained that the few applicants that missed the AOAP deadline and applied to Entry Track were all recommended to move back into the AOAP program for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Ms. Goldberg asked a question about Opera Philadelphia who was not approved and asked if there was a specific reason why.

Ms. Dunlap stated that they missed the deadline and added that there were several established organizations that were also on the list. Ms. Gabriele stated that she would speak about this later during the meeting when she presents the full budget report. Gabriele reported that there were AOAP grantees that missed the deadline in January.

Chair Parks asked the Council for any additional questions. Hearing none, Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.

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

ITEM 11 ACTION: Recommendations for Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA) Partners Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Administrative Funding and Program Stream Funding

Sarah Merritt, Director of Pennsylvania Creative Communities

Chair Parks stated that he is aware of the following conflict of interest: Council Member Zaborney for the Foundation for Enhancing Communities. Chair Parks reported that Council member Zaborney is not present at the Council meeting.

Ms. Merritt reported that PCA staff is requesting approval for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 administrative funding for the 14 regional PPA partners that manage PCA's PPA Program across the state, in the amount of \$638,907. Ms. Merritt added that this administrative funding is for the partners' administration of Program Stream grants and the Creative Entrepreneurs Accelerator Grant.

Ms. Merritt stated that this regional administrative funding is based on three factors: there is a base amount, there is a funding per county for each region; and per capita funding. Ms. Merritt reported that the base funding for this year is \$10,000 as seen on the chart in the Council memo. Ms. Merritt added that the per county funding is \$2,500 and that per capita is .025 for each region.

Ms. Merritt reported that additionally, PCA staff is recommending that there be a minimum amount of administrative funding of \$40,000 and a maximum amount of \$80,000.

Ms. Merritt directed Council to the chart in the Council Book that shows the regions and the counties they serve and what the administrative amounts for each would be for each region. Ms. Merritt stated that additionally, PCA staff is recommending the Program Stream funding formula for the regional amounts of funding for Program Stream for the partners to give Program Stream Grants. Merritt reported that last year (Fiscal Year 2020-2021,) Program Stream grantees received a flat amount of \$2,000, and this year, PCA staff is recommending that the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Program Stream amount be \$3,000 per grant award.

Ms. Merritt stated that each region's total amount for the partners to administer program stream grants in their regions is listed in the Council memo.

Chair Parks asked the Council for any additional questions. Hearing none, Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendation with the exception of the conflict of interest and asked to let the record show that Council Member Zaborney was not present at this meeting to participate in the discussion or vote.

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

ITEM 12 ACTION: Recommendation for Arts in Education Partnership and Artist Residencies

Jamie Dunlap, Chief of Creative Catalysts & Lifelong Learning

Chair Parks announced that he recognizes the following conflicts of interests, himself for ArtsQuest and Council Member Zaborney for Indiana University of Pennsylvania – ArtsPath.

Ms. Dunlap reported that for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, PCA staff is recommending funding for the AIE Division, which includes the partnership, totaling \$1,653,576. Ms. Dunlap explained that this is for AIE

partnerships, AIE partnership residencies and the long-term residencies which Council reviewed and approved contingent upon the state budget and PPA budget back at the March meeting.

Dunlap stated that for Arts in Education partners, PCA staff recommends using its standard AIE funding formula which is very similar to the PPA partner funding formula reviewed by Sarah Merritt. Ms. Dunlap explained that PCA staff considers factors which include the funding by partner, how many counties they are serving in their region, the population and then a base amount. She added that something she wanted to note to those Council members who are new, is that the Arts in Education partners' residency funds must be matched. Dunlap explained that it is a one-to-one match and that the partnership portion of the administrative portion of their grant is not matched. Ms. Dunlap explained that while supporting and managing residencies is certainly the primary role and much of what the Arts in Education partners do, in addition to that, they are also must recruit, train and place teaching artists and to provide professional development with a focus on arts learning or lifelong learning through the arts.

Ms. Dunlap reported that for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, PCA staff recommends \$580,288 for residency support and \$953,288 for partnership administration, keeping in mind the residency support does have a one-to-one match and that the administrative portion of these grants are not matched.

Dunlap stated that in addition to these pieces of funding for the AIE partners, PCA receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts to administer the Poetry Out Loud (POL) program. Ms. Dunlap added that in addition to the residency support, PCA staff is recommending that \$1,500 be provided to each partner organization to manage POL at a regional level.

Ms. Dunlap referred to the grants table in the Council Book and stated that it was broken down into residency, administrative and POL with a total grant amount. Ms. Dunlap stated that in addition to these funding recommendations for AIE partners, that she wanted to present recommendations for adjustments to the AIE partnership residency requirements. Dunlap explained that PCA staff took several weeks to talk with the Arts in Education partners about changes that might be necessary for the residency portion of this program to ensure success, some of which was actually a learning experience through the last year with the pandemic. Dunlap stated that ultimately, the goals of the policy changes are to be responsive and flexible to the customers, host sites, schools or senior centers, veteran's homes, community centers that are hosting these residencies as well as to the teaching artists.

Ms. Dunlap stated that PCA is also asking for approval of the four items listed in the Council Book: core groups will have a total of no more than 100 participant. Ms. Dunlap stated that in italics she wrote, previously, residency projects would have no more than 3 core groups. Ms. Dunlap stated that sometimes, three core groups might be 3 classes of 20 students. She explained that there may be two other fourth grade classes and that because of PCA's previous policy of having 3 core groups, one or two of those classes at that grade level would miss out on the opportunity and that does not make sense for schools.

Ms. Dunlap stated that PCA staff is also recommending that PCA residency funding can be used for supplies and materials as well. Prior to this, the host site had to support all costs involved with materials and supplies.

Dunlap also stated that PCA funds can be used for residency projects of 5 or more days in length. Previously, it was 10 days.

Dunlap stated that by providing a five-day threshold, it opens up residency opportunities to different kinds of community host sites.

Ms. Dunlap stated that finally, the last recommendation relates to teaching artists and explained that PCA funds provide a daily teaching rate of \$200 to \$350 dollars. Previously, the rate was \$200 for community

based and \$250 for school based. Dunlap explained that by offering a scale of \$200 to \$350, it provides the partners with more flexibility because there are different elements at each of the host sites.

Chair Parks asked the Council for any additional questions. Hearing none, Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.

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

Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendations as presented except for the conflict of interest. Chair Parks asked to let the record show that he did not make a motion, second a motion, participate in any discussion or vote in the recommendation with which he has a conflict of interest.

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

Chair Parks turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Gabel in order to address the conflict of interest for the purpose of the next motion.

Vice Chair Gabel asked for a motion to approve the recommendations for these grants with which the council members Parks and Zaborney have a conflict of interest. Vice Chair Gabel asked to let the record show that council members Parks and Zaborney did not make this motion, second this motion, participate in any discussion of this motion or the vote of this motion.

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

Vice Chair Gabel asked to let the record show that he returned the meeting to Chair Parks.

ITEM 13 ACTION: Recommendation for Folk & Traditional Arts Infrastructure Program and Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeships

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

Ms. Payne stated that there are two areas within the Folk and Traditional Arts infrastructure program that she is recommending that Council approve for funding.

Payne stated that the first is for the partner organizations. PCA currently has 8 partner organizations which includes organizations representing 8 out of the 14 regions that have been established across the state. Payne explained that she put out an open call for partnership organizations last Fall and received one letter of interest for an additional partnership from the northern tier and this organization ended up withdrawing their application because they weren't sure about their finances.

Ms. Payne reported that PCA has 8 current partner organizations and added that last year the Council approved partnership status for the current 8 partner organizations. Payne stated that partner organizations retain that status for five years. Payne explained that these organizations are required to submit an interim application every year along with a final report.

Ms. Payne stated that the request for this year's funding for PCA's 8 current partner organizations is the annual grant of \$15,000 per organization in addition to \$1,000 per organization for travel and meetings.

Ms. Payne reported that the American Folklore Society will have its national convening in Harrisburg in October. Payne added that there are 3 members representing partner organizations that are involved in conference sessions and Ms. Payne hopes that all PCA's current partner organizations will be able to travel to Harrisburg for this national convening.

Ms. Payne stated that the total requested for the Folk and Traditional partnership for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 is \$128,000.

Ms. Payne then outlined the second part of the recommendation in this action item which is the apprenticeships. She directed Council to the memo which describes the panel review process and what the internal recommendation is for Council to consider. Payne stated that the memo maps out the scoring system, contains description of the criteria as well as the grid that is used during the panel process, the descriptors, and the total scores.

Ms. Payne reported that the panel convened virtually, and the panel reviewed and scored all of the applications that were submitted.

Ms. Payne explained that the issue this year was that sometimes at the end of the panel session, panelists are asked what the cutoff score should be. Payne stated that the panel recommended that the cutoff score to be 79, not including assessments of 70 and 79 which is between "good" and "very good." Ms. Payne stated that this process was reviewed internally and that is why PCA is presenting two different recommendations in the grid in the Council Book. Ms. Payne stated that she is asking Council to consider the staff recommendation for the apprenticeship grant totaling \$63,000.

Ms. Goldberg stated that she is curious why the panel recommended such a high number for a cutoff and asked if they had any reasoning for this. She stated that she thought that was the highest she had ever heard.

Ms. Payne stated that they did not give a specific reason for the high cutoff and explained that it just came about as part of the normal panel process and that her role is to facilitate the panel, not provide opinions.

Ms. Payne stated that her recommendation for the apprenticeships is to be funded per staff recommendations which is a total of \$63,000 as seen on the grid with the council memo. Ms. Payne added that there is an additional \$12,000 that is for the apprenticeship grant administration fee. Payne reported that Community Partnerships RC&D helps to distribute those funds to the grantees and that involves grant award agreements and getting reports back and forth to all of apprenticeship fellowship project grantees.

Payne restated the recommendations:

First is recommendation for funding in the amount of \$183,000 that represents \$120,000 to support the 8 current Folk & Traditional Art Partner Organizations. Payne explained that \$8,000 represents \$1,000 to go to each organization for travel and meeting expenses for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

- \$12,000 for Community Partnerships RC&D for the administration fee to help distribute those funds.
- \$63,000 for the Apprenticeship Grants
- To provide partnership organizations with flexibility to allocate the use of funds for the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 program period to adjust for either related operation expenses or technology enhancement expenses.

Chair Parks asked the Council for any additional questions. Hearing none, Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.

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

ITEM 14 ACTION: Recommendation for Statewide Services Request for Proposals
Jamie Dunlap, Chief of Creative Catalysts & Lifelong Learning

Ms. Dunlap reported that communities are trying to recover from the pandemic and position themselves as attractive places for people to not only visit, but also to live and work. Because of this, Ms. Dunlap stated that PCA thinks this is the time to create an opportunity to leverage the existing creative sector or possibly new creative sector assets and workers as key components of the redevelopment and reopening of these vibrant communities across the state.

Ms. Dunlap stated that the PCA recognizes that the creative sector and its workers build creative identity as part of the pathway to recovery and increased opportunity within this changing economic environment following Covid. Dunlap explained that the PCA has developed a request for proposals which represent cross sector collaboration that will enhance communities' capacity to retain and track creative sector workers.

Ms. Dunlap stated that this grant would be a non-matching grant amount up to \$40,000. Dunlap added that PCA staff anticipates that PCA may receive several applications from across the commonwealth and that the hope is that recommendations will be presented to Council at the October meeting.

Dunlap stated that following the memo are the corresponding guidelines. She explained that it is a one-page set of guidelines and are very similar to the other statewide services opportunities that have been developed over the last year.

Ms. Dunlap reported that the due date for this RFP is September 3, 2021, and that the intention is to market this opportunity shortly after Council approval so that organizations have approximately one month to put together those proposals together.

Dunlap directed Council to the description for Statewide Services and stated that PCA will accept nonmatching request amounts up to \$40,000 and that up to 25% of that award can go to administrative costs that are associated with the project, which is a standard in PCA applications for statewide services.

Ms. Dunlap also noted that proposed projects may extend beyond one year if necessary. Dunlap stated that many of PCA's grant contracts are one year, but in this case, for the development and implementation of these cross-sector collaborations, if contracts need to go beyond a year to ensure success, this will allow for that flexibility. Dunlap added that what PCA staff will be looking at is collaborative efforts among two or more entities. As an example, Dunlap offered a workshop development organization working with an economic or community development organization or with a destination marketing organization. She added that PCA staff will also be looking at raising the visibility of the creative sector's contributions to these local economies and community vitality and then finally the enhanced local capacity to attract and to retain this diverse creative workforce.

Dunlap stated that the guidelines outline the eligibility and review criteria and added that the submission process will be very similar to what PCA has done in the past and that she will be receiving the proposals on behalf of the PCA and that any organization that has questions regarding the proposals may reach out to her at the PCA.

Vice Chair Gabel asked Ms. Dunlap to give an example of a model program that Ms. Dunlap may have seen in other states so Council can clearly understand what this grant would entail and what kind of artists other communities may have attracted.

Ms. Dunlap stated that it would be a creation of a cross sector, cross collaborative group that provides a suite of services to creative sector workers and then shares best practices with other communities.

Mr. Blischke stated that there have been examples of communities that have tried a recruitment strategy and spoke of a community in Kentucky that once had an artist location program.

Ms. Merritt added that another example could be the Oil City Artist Relocation Program, which is a partnership with their Main Street Program, the Oil Region Alliance, the city, and the arts council in that community. She added that it has been around for about 8 years now.

Chair Parks asked the Council for any additional questions. Hearing none, Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.

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

ITEM 15 ACTION: Recommendation for Creative Catalyst Projects

Jamie Dunlap, Chief of Creative Catalysts & Lifelong Learning

Ms. Dunlap stated that the Creative Catalyst program is relatively new and that its intention is to provide a one-time grant opportunity that is awarded to an applicant to support a project, and event, research, development training opportunity that will have the ripple effect across other communities in Pennsylvania which will hopefully result in a statewide reach. Dunlap explained that it also aligns with at least one of PCA's goal areas as well as its overarching values of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Ms. Dunlap reviewed a set of recommendations for the creative catalyst grants for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Dunlap stated that the Lehigh Valley Arts Council is the first organization listed on the Council memo. Dunlap explained that she was going to put that one to the side because we are waiting for some additional information from the applicant so that recommendation will be presented at a future Council meeting.

Dunlap reported that Drexel University Writer's Room is applying for an event or events that will be a part of the Design Philadelphia Festival that will be held in October of 2021. Dunlap explained that the Second Story Collective is a collaborative project of Drexel University's Writer's Room, and they plan to host a two-day public event that is part of the larger festival. The first day will be in person and based in Philadelphia and will have elements that focus on creative placemaking, creative place keeping and addressing rapidly changing communities. Dunlap added that this will be promoted broadly across the entire country and across the state.

Ms. Dunlap stated that the second day of the program is going to be hybrid and will offer online components that will be shared, so that if people are unable to get to the City of Philadelphia, there will be some online opportunities as well.

Dunlap stated that Drexel University Writers' Room is requesting \$14,000 and PCA is recommending \$10,000, primarily because PCA's standard has been that a statewide project will be supported at around \$5,000 and for a mid-Atlantic regional or national event, it is typically \$10,000.

Ms. Dunlap reported that the second recommendation is for the Fiber Arts Guild of Pittsburgh. This organization is going to be hosting the Fiber Arts International in 2022. Dunlap explained that this will not be happening until next summer but because of PCA's fiscal year process and contract year, they could apply for this event now.

Dunlap stated that this international festival is world renowned and is a benchmark for the fiber arts world. Ms. Dunlap explained that the program would feature a diverse group of artists from all around the world to the Pittsburgh community and added that there will be different activities over the course of this three-month program. Ms. Dunlap added that some of the things that were to be included would be a forum, an artist residency which would include work with a Pittsburgh artist in schools, workshops, lectures, and exhibits. Ms. Dunlap stated that they would like to request funding to support live streaming of some of

the components of this international festival as well as the recording of the forum and some video documentation of the exhibits that were mentioned earlier that will be part of this three-month event.

Dunlap explained that the Fiber Arts Guild is requesting \$10,000 and PCA is recommending \$10,000 for this event.

Chair Parks asked the Council for any additional questions. Hearing none, Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.

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

ITEM 16 ACTION: Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Grants Budget

Amy Gabriele, Chief of Finance & Administration

Ms. Gabriele reported that this is the action item to sum everything Council acted on today and on a few other additional items.

Gabriele stated that the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget is shown in the Council Book as a reference and explained that PCA's budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 is \$9.59 million for the state appropriation which has been approved by the legislators since the Council Book was distributed.

Ms. Gabriele highlighted a couple of notes. She stated that 17 Arts Organizations and Arts Programs (AOAP) did not apply or missed the deadlines for applying for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 funding. Gabriele explained that two of the 17 applied and are recommended for funding in the Entry Track Program for FY 2021-2022.

Ms. Gabriele reported that the budgeted amount for the Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program of \$367,000 will be allocated and acted on by Council during a future Council meeting, so this item on the Council memo is just a holding place but Council will act on the specific allocations for the 14 PPA partners during a future meeting.

Ms. Gabriele stated a balance of \$33,000 remains from the FY 2019-2020 budget and explained that this is notable because at one point during this fiscal year, almost half of the PCA budget was frozen during the pandemic and added that most of this was released, but not all of it. Gabriele stated that PCA received special approval from the Governor's Budget Office to have \$1 million released from budgetary reserve and explained that this was allocated to the Pennsylvania Creative Business Loan Fund and the Resiliency Through the Arts for Critical Healthcare Workers initiative. Ms. Gabriele added that both programs were developed, approved, and implemented to specifically improve the recovery through the pandemic.

Ms. Gabriele reported that another balance of \$73,000 remains from the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 grants budget.

Gabriele explained that PCA has already requested a waiver from the Governor's Budget Office for both of these sums to use these balances in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget.

Chair Parks asked if those numbers are reflected in what was presented in the Council Book. Ms. Gabriele responded that the \$73,000 balance of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget is reflected in the Council meeting materials, but Fiscal Year 2019-2020 is not.

Chair Parks asked the Council for any additional questions. Hearing none, Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.

Chair Parks asked if Creative Communities would be brought before Council at a future meeting and Ms. Gabriele replied that it would.

Judge Morgan asked for clarification about requesting a waiver from the budget office and whether or not it could be pretty much counted on being approved. Ms. Gabriele responded that from past experience, yes, but explained that there is always a chance they might say no. Ms. Gabriele added that PCA has had success in the past in getting the waivers, not only in the grants budget but in the administrative budget.

Chair Parks asked the Council for any additional questions. Hearing none, Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.

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

ITEM 17: Chair's Report

Jeffrey Parks, Chair

Chair Parks stated that we are evaluating the benefits and convenience of online meetings with the possibility of meeting in person, perhaps once a year. Parks explained that an in-person meeting provides the opportunity for Council to interact in a more in-depth way and to visit communities and connect with stakeholders. Parks stated that plans are being made for an in-person meeting for regularly scheduled Council meeting on October 7, 2021, and asked Council to look for more details in the coming weeks. Chair Parks explained that this will be a one overnight meeting with the location hopefully convenient to many council members. Parks stated that more information will be provided soon and that it will be subject to what is going on in the country with the covid variant.

Chair Parks stated that he is pleased to highlight a project serving the youth of Aliquippa that Emmai Alaquiva was a part of. Park explained that The Pennsylvania Humanities Council, B.F. Jones Memorial Library and Ya Momz House, Emmai's digital multimedia agency, teamed up to give children an eight-week crash course in environmental justice reporting and video production. Parks stated that the program wrapped up in late June with a screening of the anti-littering public service announcement video they put together at B.F. Jones on June 23 and added that this project had a nice feature in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Parks stated that the only comment he would like to add is that he hopes everybody is able to get back into seeing in person arts exhibits, arts performances, and movies.

ITEM 18: Executive Director's Report

Karl Blischke, Executive Director

Mr. Blischke stated that PCA is always happy to have its Chief Counsel, Rodney Akers, attend Council meetings. Blischke added that he is also pleased to announce that Nicole Marrone, who is a summer extern working with Rodney Akers this summer is also attending today's Council meeting. Blischke welcomed Ms. Marrone to the meeting.

Mr. Blischke reported that Council may be aware that PCA engaged on a research project looking at the impact that the pandemic had on the creative sector as well as looking at some potential strategies for both short term and long-term recovery. Blischke stated that PCA presented report recommendations to some Council members, other state agencies and statewide service organizations. Blischke explained that a wider public distribution of the report will occur and stated that he would invite Council members. Blischke added that he will send Council a copy of the report to review prior to the public release.

Mr. Blischke reported that the state is changing its posture in terms of in person work and teleworking in parts of the state. Blischke explained that state employees are in various stages of in person work or hybrid work or teleworking/remote working. Blischke stated PCA staff is all working remotely but in the

coming weeks and months will be transitioning into full time teleworking. Blischke stated as this gets ironed out, we will report back to Council.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.