

**Minutes
Council Meeting
July 13, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

**Virtual Meeting
via Microsoft TEAMS**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS: Chair Parks, Mr. Alaquiva, Mr. Astorino, Senator Bartolotta, Representative Ciresi, Mr. Gabel, Ms. Goldberg, Representative Labs, Judge Morgan, Mr. Stull, Ms. Vilayphonh, Mr. Warfield

COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Ms. Gunderson, Ms. Zaborney

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Karl Blischke, Executive Director; Heather Doughty, Deputy Executive Director; Christopher Duerr, Administrative Officer; 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; Amanda Lovell, Director of Access to the Creative Sector; 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; Kayla Donaher, Intern; Eric Schrock, Intern

GUESTS PRESENT: Amber Sizemore, Chief Counsel

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.

Chair Parks welcomed those in attendance and introduced new PCA Chief Counsel, Amber Sizemore

ROLL CALL:

Karl Blischke, Executive Director

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

ITEM 2: REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chair Parks asked if the PCA received any requests for public comments. There were no requests for public comment.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Jeff Parks, Chair

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

ITEM 3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the March 9, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes.

Senator Bartolotta made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Goldberg seconded the motion. Motion carried, none abstained or opposed.

Mr. Blischke introduced PCA's summer interns, Kayla Donaher and Eric Schrock. Blischke stated that PCA is pleased to have them this summer and added that they are working on programs with Jamie Dunlap, Dana Payne, and Sarah Merritt.

Mr. Blischke explained that since the state budget has not passed, that today's action items will be discussed and acted on, pending the appropriations bill becoming law. Mr. Blischke added that at such time as the budget is finalized, that PCA will be able to carry out the action items that have been approved today.

Mr. Blischke added that in some cases, PCA staff will make recommendations pending, not only the passage of the budget, but also PCA's approval to use waiver funds. Blischke added that PCA has a small balance of funds from previous fiscal years that relates to limited cases in which a grantee does not fully carry out a project or has not fully redeemed a grant. Blischke reported that PCA staff is submitting a request to the Budget Secretary to be able to carry those funds forward. Blischke explained that he wanted to make the Council aware of the current budget situation and that there is a way to move forward once the budget is passed. Blischke also added that, if necessary, a special Council meeting could be scheduled to take care of any outstanding business.

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

Karl Blischke, Executive Director

Chair Parks asked Council if they have any questions for what was just explained by Mr. Blischke. 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 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

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

Mr. Warfield made a motion to approve the recommendations. Mr. Stull 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 2023-2024 Fiscal Year

Karl Blischke, Executive Director

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

Vice Chair Gabel made a motion to approve the recommendations. Judge Morgan seconded the motion. Motion carried, none abstained or opposed.

ITEM 7 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 47 applications for funding this year from the Strategies for Success and Community Based Engagement programs. Payne stated that 46 of those applications are recommended for funding.

Ms. Payne reported that the memo in the Council book outlines the counties where these applications are from for both programs, and also provided a review of the advisory panel process and made note of any achievements or panel comments related to innovation in the field. Ms. Payne reported that PCA staff is requesting action on two recommendations. She stated that the first recommendation is to increase the grant awards for each level of the Strategies for Success program, which is a multi-year, multi-level capacity building program. Ms. Payne explained that there are three levels, which are based upon organizational readiness: basic, intermediate, and advanced.

Ms. Payne stated that the basic and intermediate level grant awards were last increased in 2014, and the grant award for the advanced level was last increased in 1998. Ms. Payne stated that she provided information about inflation rates in the Council memo for reference. She explained that the increases that are being requested would help already under resourced art organizations that continue to provide services to their communities.

Ms. Payne reported that the basic level grant award amount is \$7,000 and PCA staff is requesting an increase to \$10,000. She stated that the intermediate level grant award is currently \$12,500 and that PCA staff is requesting that that grant award for that level be increased to \$15,000, and the grant award for the advanced level, which is currently \$20,000 be increased to \$25,000.

Ms. Payne stated that the second recommendation is that the Council approve funding in the amount of \$588,900, which represents \$550,000 to support the Strategies for Success organizations and \$38,900 to support the Community Based Engagement Project Grants.

Vice Chair Gabel asked Ms. Payne to share a story of one of the programs that she thinks is doing a stellar job.

Ms. Payne stated that Olney Cultural Lab in Philadelphia was at the basic level when they started with the Council on the Arts and explained that this organization has increased their capacity and programming significantly.

Ms. Payne also highlighted Barrio Alegria in Reading, which is a community-based engagement project grantee. Ms. Payne explained that this organization sponsored a dance project focused on human trafficking which was recently presented at the Smithsonian.

Ms. Goldberg asked about the lack of participation in this program from organizations in Pittsburgh.

Ms. Payne replied that many arts organizations in Pittsburgh are satisfied with the support that they are receiving from organizations such as Heinz and the Pittsburgh Foundation as well as from other funding entities in that area. Ms. Payne also stated another reason may be that at times the PCA grant process can be tedious.

Judge Morgan stated that he had a similar question and asked if the agencies on the western side of the state just aren't hearing about the grant programs. He stated that perhaps it is a matter that the word is spreading in Philadelphia and would like to see how PCA can get that word spread in the western half of the state. He suggested hosting some type of event to bring awareness to these programs.

Ms. Payne stated that many organizations in that part of the state receive funding from the foundation community in Pittsburgh.

Ms. Payne also stated that the situation in Philadelphia is unique because it also has a robust funding community, but there's much more competition.

Ms. Payne agreed that hosting informational events may help but also explained that she has shared exchange lists with some of the program directors at Heinz and Pittsburgh Foundation. She said she would be willing to discuss any suggestions from Council members offline.

Chair Parks added that there are other cities across the state including Allentown, Hazelton and Lancaster with robust minority communities that also have low participation in PCA programs. Parks stated that a possible explanation is that Philadelphia has a much more robust arts infrastructure that communicates these opportunities better to the organizations within the City of Philadelphia.

Parks also stated that there are areas in the eastern part of the state that are not accessing this program and that presents a larger challenge to the PCA. Parks added that perhaps PCA's regional partners in those areas need to be more aware of these programs so that they can communicate information to those organizations.

Chair Parks thanked Ms. Payne for providing information about when the grant levels were last raised for these particular grants, which are as important as any other grants that PCA provides. Parks explained that in 2007, the budget for grants for the arts in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was \$15 million and was reduced during the financial crisis of 2007 and 2008 to its current level of \$9.5 million and has not been raised since 2008. Chair Parks added that the arts and creative industries have become far more important to both community and economic development in the Commonwealth. Chair Parks also stated that the Commonwealth needs to do more in terms of the arts and creative industries and added that PCA is serving more than twice as many grantees than were served in 2008, with a 33% loss of funding, without trying to keep up with inflation.

Chair Parks stated that the Legislature and the Governor's office proposed a \$1 million increase for the PCA this year. Parks added that the PCA is hoping that the legislature continues to consider increased funding.

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

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

ITEM 8: Recommendation for Funding Parameters for Art Organizations and Arts Programs (AOAP)

Ian Rosario, Director of AOAP and Grants Liaison

Mr. Rosario provided the Council with an explanation of PCA's Arts Organization and Arts Program (AOAP) and explained that AOAP applicants apply for general operating support. Mr. Rosario reminded the Council of its implementation of a new funding strategy in 2020 which began to address historical, historical inequities facing the BIPOC and the rural communities.

Mr. Rosario stated that PCA continues to fund the rural and BIPOC grantees at \$26,000 amount and the non-rural and non BIPOC grantees will continue to receive \$13,000.

Mr. Rosario provided Council with some of the criteria for PCA's AOAP grant program as well as PCA's Entry to AOAP program. He also explained the panel review process stated that the application processed has become streamlined.

Chair Parks stated that the AOAP program is PCA's most historic program in terms of really supporting existing organizations or new organizations that are coming up and it gives them the most valued grant.

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 recommendation. Mr. Warfield seconded the motion. Motion carried, none opposed.

ITEM 9 Recommendations for Entry to AOAP Funding

Jamie Dunlap, Chief of Creative Catalysts & Lifelong Learning

Ian Rosario, Director of AOAP and Grants Liaison

Chair Parks stated that he is aware of the following conflict of interest: Vice Chair Gabel for the Gettysburg Community Theater.

Mr. Blischke provided the recommendations in this memo. Mr. Blischke stated that Mr. Rosario gave an overview of the purpose of the entry track, which is to qualify for ongoing support through AOAP, and explained that qualification is based on PCA's review criteria. Blischke stated that the review criteria address the value that applicants are providing to their community and is looking at inclusivity, their DEI value, their stewardship value and how well they can manage their own programming and resources.

Mr. Blischke reported that PCA had a number of applications and held two panel sessions. Blischke stated that the results of those panels are outlined in the Council book. Staff recommend that organizations that have had a consistent funding history with the PCA and scored well in this panel process receive a \$5,000 grant this year.

Blischke explained that in order to transition to AOAP next year, those organizations that scored well, but have not had a previous history of grant making with the PCA, will have to establish an additional year of very good review before a transition to AOAP.

Mr. Blischke stated that organizations that did not score well will not be recommended for a grant this year, but they are welcome to get panel review comments from PCA and will be permitted to apply again next year.

Blischke directed Council to pages 33-34 of the Council book to see the recommendations.

Chair Parks explained that there will be two motions on this recommendation because of the conflict of interest. Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendations as presented, except for the conflict of interest. Parks asked to let the record show that Council Member Gabel did not make a motion, second, a motion, participate in any discussion or vote on the recommendation with which the Council member has a conflict of interest.

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

Chair Parks then asked for a motion to approve the recommendation for the grant with which Council Member Gabel has a conflict of interest. Parks asked to let the record show that Council Member Gable did not make this motion, second this motion, participate in any discussion on this motion or vote on this motion.

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

ITEM 10: Recommendations for Funding Parameters for Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Partnership and Regranting Programs

Amanda Lovell, Director of Access to the Creative Sector

Ms. Lovell stated that some of the keywords for this past year include transition, pivots, alignment, engagement, creative economy, and community. She explained that in addition to these addressing these big picture items, staff has been working together with all of PCA partnerships throughout the state on a couple key goals.

Ms. Lovell stated that she is trying to instill pride, excitement, and ownership with PCA's partnerships. She is working on empowering PCA partners to feel connected to the programs that they are presenting and regranting to communities throughout the state. Lovell stated that she is also working on creating a more collaborative environment within PCA's PA partnerships, which can be a little bit siloed right throughout the state and all the different regions. Lovell indicated that she is working with Ms. Dunlap and Ms. Payne and the partnerships that they run to get collaborative idea sharing happening on a regional level within all three of our partnerships.

Ms. Lovell stated that she is also working on relationship building within the communities that PCA's PA partners serve and working on spending a little less time on the administrative, taxing end and more time on face-to-face building of relationships throughout some counties that may not always get as much attention.

Ms. Lovell also provided an update on PCA's Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator program, which is a forward-thinking program that aligns with the creative economy. Ms. Lovell explained that this program works with for profits and creative entrepreneurs and grants them funds coinciding with business planning tools and resources through Small Business Development Centers and other referral partners throughout the state.

Ms. Lovell stated that this has been a very successful program, which the PCA has funded through the year 2022. Lovell added that in the first two grant cycles, 385 grantees have been able to take advantage of the grant, and in the current cycle, PCA anticipates an additional 300 will be able to take advantage of the program.

Ms. Lovell explained that in the CEA program's first form, applicants would have an opportunity to apply for a grant ranging from \$500 to \$2,000. Lovell stated that upon reviewing the data, PCA staff is recommending a standard \$2,000 grant amount, which will create a simplified process and reduce confusion.

Ms. Lovell provided an overview of the funding formulas in the memo. She stated that PCA staff is hitting targets below where we should be in terms of administrative funds for the Philadelphia Partnership and that this is one of the biggest changes that can be seen on the allotments section on the memo.

Ms. Lovell also stated that PCA's Creative Sector Flex Fund just launched on June 1st, and the applications are starting to come in. Lovell explained that PCA partners will start having panel reviews and that this is the first time that we will be paying panelists.

Ms. Goldberg asked for some clarification on the application process for the Flex Fund and the CEAP program.

Ms. Lovell explained that in reviewing past programs, PCA staff essentially retired the Project Stream, Entry to Program stream and Program Stream and created the Creative Sector Flex Fund. She stated that PCA staff has heard that applicants needed more money, so the grant amount was increased to \$5,000 and the grant recipients will receive a flat \$5,000 if they are recommended during the panel review process. Lovell also stated that this new program removed the barriers of how those funds can be used, making it more flexible.

Ms. Lovell stated that the applicants will still go through a panel process, but instead of the process coming back to the PCA, it is about transferring ownership of the partnership to our partners because they are more in touch with their communities. She added that the panelists will be given criteria and training. Ms. Lovell explained that this removes PCA as the middle person in the panel review process. The goal is to make the process much quicker.

Ms. Lovell stated that because the application process for this program just opened on June 1, 2023, that she did not have an exact number of applicants to share at this time.

Ms. Goldberg also asked for some clarification about the CEAP program and some of its participants.

Ms. Lovell stated that PCA staff see applications from entrepreneurs in the fields of design, web design, graphic design, fashion design, marketing, and branding. There have also been applicants for more traditional arts such as ceramics, textile arts, literature, and poetry.

Lovell explained that CEAP covers a much larger umbrella of what individuals typically think of in terms of the art field and the art industry. She added that she has received a lot of good feedback and that she has stories on many of them, which she will share with the Council.

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 recommendation. Ms. Goldberg seconded the motion. Motion carried, none opposed.

ITEM 11: Recommendation for Eligibility Revision for AOAP, Entry and Creative Sector Flex Fund

Ian Rosario, Director of AOAP and Grants Liaison

Ms. Gabriele provided this recommendation to Council. Gabriele explained that this recommendation is for an additional eligibility requirement for AOAP, Entry, and Creative Sector Flex Fund. Gabriele explained that PCA staff already added that the K-12 public, private and parochial schools including all charter schools are not eligible in these general operating support categories. She stated that PCA staff is recommending the additional restriction for affiliated booster organizations associated with any program or project.

Chair Parks asked what precipitated this addition.

Ms. Gabriele stated that PCA has received some interest from PTOs and band boosters, theater boosters, and similar types of organizations. Gabriele added that with PCA's budget, those organizations cannot be supported. She added that there are 500 public school districts alone in the Commonwealth and most of the time the items that the booster organizations are applying for are fundraisers like school musicals, which are big fundraisers.

Mr. Blischke explained that the way that PCA works with K-12 education is through the Arts and Education program and that PCA grant funds should not be provided out of PCA general operating support funds.

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 recommendation. Mr. Warfield seconded the motion. Motion carried, none opposed.

ITEM 12: Recommendations for the Arts in Education (AIE) Division Funding for 2023-2024 Budget

Jamie Dunlap, Chief of Creative Catalysts & Lifelong Learning

Chair Parks stated that he is aware of the following conflict of interest: Chair Parks for ArtsQuest and Ms. Zaborney for Indiana University.

Ms. Dunlap reported that this is the recommendation for our Fiscal Year 23-24 funding for our Arts and Education division, specifically PCA's Arts and Education partnership. Dunlap stated that unlike the other memos that have been presented today, there's nothing new about the formula that she is presenting today or about the approach to the work through the arts and education partners.

Dunlap explained that the total recommendation is for \$1,533,576, which is broken out with \$580,288.00 for residency support and \$953,288 for partnership administration. For those that are new to Council, Dunlap provided an overview of PCA's Arts and Education Partners, which supports 14 organizations across the state that manage our arts and education programming.

Dunlap reported that at a regional level, the arts and education partners receive administrative funding from PCA to manage the work, to advocate for arts and education in the regions that they serve, and to place, train, and evaluate, professional teaching artists.

Dunlap stated that PCA is able to serve all 67 counties across the Commonwealth through its arts and education partners. Ms. Dunlap reported that in Fiscal Year 21-22, the partners supported 289 residencies with almost 15,000 core group participants.

Dunlap explained that a residency is a series of residency days, usually 10 to 20 days, where a professional teaching artist works in a school or community setting. Examples of the settings are veterans homes, correctional institutions, schools, after school programs, healthcare facilities and senior centers.

Ms. Dunlap stated that PCA staff recommends flat funding for Fiscal Year 23-24, a total of \$1,533,576. She directed Council to review the AIE budget formula in the Council memo and stated that it is the same as the previous few years.

Chair Parks asked for a motion to approve the recommendations as presented, except for the conflicts of interest. Parks asked to let the record show that Council members Parks and Zaborney, who was not in attendance today, but for whom he has the proxy, did not make a motion, second, a motion participate in any discussion.

Senator Bartolotta made a motion to approve the recommendation. Mr. Astorino seconded the motion. Motion carried, none opposed.

On the motion with the conflicts of interest. Chair Parks asked to let the record show that he turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Gable for the purpose of the next motion.

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

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

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

ITEM 13: Recommendations Folk & Traditional Arts Program

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

Ms. Payne reported that PCA's Folk and Traditional Arts program has two grant offerings. One is the Apprenticeships in Traditional Arts and the other is the Folk Arts Partnership. Ms. Payne stated that there is an error on page one of this Council memo because she has 10 Folk Art Partnership organizations that cover 45 of our 67 counties, and in the memo, it just shows 8 partners and 40 counties represented.

Ms. Payne stated that the first page of the Council memo outlines the details of those grant programs and their purpose. Ms. Payne explained that this year PCA staff did not receive any applications or letters of interest for the remaining four partnership regions. Payne stated

that PCA did receive interest after the submission deadline from one organization who is interested in serving as a partner in one of the unserved regions.

Ms. Payne stated that currently, PCA has ten partnership organizations and that PCA staff recommends that those 10 partnership organizations receive the same funding amount that they have received last fiscal year, which is \$16,000 per organization plus \$1,000 each for required partnership meeting.

Ms. Payne stated that for the apprenticeships, PCA received 36 applications and added that this is the largest number of applications that has been received. Ms. Payne explained that 30 of those applications were recommended for funding and added that Community Partnerships RC&D helps to administer those grant awards. Ms. Payne stated that she provided an outline of the panel review in the Council book as well as a list of the counties represented by those applications.

Ms. Payne stated that PCA's recommendation is funding in the amount of \$278,417, which represents \$160,000 for the folk-art partners and \$118,417 in support of the 30 approved and recommended apprenticeship projects.

Ms. Payne reported that the second recommendation is funding in the amount of \$12,000 for Community Partnerships RC&D to help administer the grant awards.

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

Mr. Warfield made a motion to approve the recommendation. Judge Morgan seconded the motion. Motion carried, none opposed.

ITEM 14: Recommendations for Creative Communities Initiative

Sarah Merritt, Director of Pennsylvania Creative Communities

Ms. Merritt provided an overview of the Creative Communities program and explained that this is a multi-year grant program and added that a community is in the program for four years, receiving up to \$25,000 a year each year. She stated that these projects are arts based, community and economic development projects, which are place based, community driven, and have the support of the local government.

Ms. Merritt stated that PCA staff is recommending the approval of continued funding for the for the current 10 communities that are in the program. Ms. Merritt directed Council to the list of the communities in the Council Book and noted that the top 4 communities on that list (Sharon, Lancaster, Meadville, and a neighborhood in Philadelphia) are the four pilot communities and are coming into their final year in the program.

Merritt added that Council will hear more about those projects as they evolve into the next phase because there will be some dedication ceremonies in the near future. Ms. Merritt also reported that the PCA engaged an evaluation team to work with those four communities and evaluate them through the four years of participation in Creative Communities.

Besides the four original communities listed in the Council memo, Ms. Merritt reported that PCA staff recommends another four communities for the program. Merritt stated that information about these communities and their projects are listed on pages 57-58 of the council book.

Ms. Merritt also directed Council to the memo in the council book to see the list of Creative Communities Cultivation Grants, which are the one-time grants that council awarded to communities to advance an element of their projects, whether planning, creative asset mapping, or the implementation of an element or component of their project. Merritt stated that PCA staff would like to bring these four communities into the multi-year program: The Butler Rotary Foundation, Three Dots Downtown, The Multicultural Rural Arts District and Residency Program, and Dickson City Borough.

Ms. Goldberg asked for clarification about the amounts of the various grants.

Ms. Merritt provided an overview of the cultivation grants and then the amount they will receive as they move forward in the program, which will be \$25,000 a year after that.

Susan Goldberg also asked if the CCI communities automatically move into the \$25,000 level or if they need to go through another review process.

Ms. Merritt stated that once they come into the program, they are in the program and stated that the communities are evaluated throughout their projects. Merritt added that they have to report quarterly to her and that she frequently visits these communities.

Ms. Goldberg then asked about the plans for the communities after they have gone through the four years. She asked if they reapply or is there another level that PCA is looking at.

Ms. Merritt said that she and Mr. Blischke have talked about this and are currently discussing options.

Ms. Merritt added that one of the components of this program is working with these communities to ensure that their projects are sustainable and that they are not just relying on PCA funding to support these projects. Merritt stated that these communities have been successful at bringing in other funding into their projects and have also been successful in capturing that that other funding. Merritt stated that she doesn't think PCA wants to fund them in perpetuity but wants to be able to help them find other funding sources once their four years have ended.

Ms. Merritt stated that as the year moves forward, she will have more presentations and discussions about this topic. She added that this program is certainly PCA's most in demand program for grants right now and stated that she put a map in the Council book that provides an overview of the existing communities. Merritt stated that she wanted to point out that PCA staff is very mindful of this being a geographically equitable program. She stated that she realizes that there are places in the state where PCA has not received inquiries or letters of interest.

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 recommendation. Ms. Goldberg seconded the motion. Motion carried, none opposed.

ITEM 15: Recommendations for Creative Catalysts

Jamie Dunlap, Chief of Creative Catalysts & Lifelong Learning

Ms. Dunlap stated that as Mr. Blischke mentioned at the beginning of the Council meeting today, there will be some Creative Catalyst Grant recommendations today that are pending the state's approval to use waiver funds.

Dunlap stated that with the loss of the Governor's proposed \$1,000,000 increase, this limited PCA's ability to be able to support these new strategic initiatives and events such as proposals that are received through Creative Catalysts. Ms. Dunlap explained that PCA might be able to move forward on some projects with waiver funds.

Ms. Dunlap provided the following PCA staff recommendations for Creative Catalyst support, pending the passing of the budget:

Applicant: Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers Inc. **Proposal:** PA Watershed Conference

Ms. Dunlap stated that the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) is weaving a 'connecting and engaging community through art' theme into the Statewide Watershed Conference Program taking place on October 29-30, 2023, in Altoona, PA. To bring this theme to life, they are inviting artists from across the Commonwealth to the conference to share their stories, perspectives, creative accomplishments, and ideas for furthering awareness, understanding, advocacy, and stewardship of our water resources.

Dunlap explained that POWR will invite local and regional artists to attend and display their work at the conference to encourage more conversations and networking between watershed organization attendees and the members of the creative sector.

Ms. Dunlap stated that the organization has made a request for \$3,625 and the PCA staff recommendation is \$3,625.

Applicant: Centre Film Festival **Proposal:** 2023 Centre Film Festival

Ms. Dunlap reported that the Centre Film Festival, which has been running since 2019, is organized around celebrating individuals and communities who have not always been adequately or accurately represented in mainstream media and film.

Dunlap explained that in 2023, the festival will work in collaboration with the Film Commission of Central Pennsylvania for the first time to determine how to address the growing need of building a more viable and sustainable film industry in the "T-zone" of our state, above and between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

Ms. Dunlap stated that Creative Catalyst grant funding would support a new two-pronged multigenerational Centre Film Festival initiative with the Film Commission of Central PA and their FACTS PA initiative which stands for film, arts, culture, and tourism. The goal is to encourage and enable talent to remain in central PA and bring economic regrowth through filmmaking.

Dunlap stated that this organization has made a request for \$10,000, and the PCA staff recommendation is \$10,000.

Applicant: South Asian American Digital Archive Nfp DbA Saada **Proposal:** First Days Project

Ms. Dunlap stated that SAADA plans to create a traveling First Days archive and recording booth to collect and document oral histories with South Asian American immigrants and refugees about their first days in the United States. The traveling booth will consist of a tabletop truss structure, recording equipment, and electronic displays for sharing and interacting with the stories. SAADA's programs team will bring the booth and conduct interviews at five Asian American community events in Pennsylvania: three in greater Philadelphia and one each in Pittsburgh and Harrisburg through fall and winter.

Dunlap explained that for each event, the team will present on the importance of preserving and sharing these stories, introduce the First Days project, and demonstrate how participants can conduct and record oral history interviews with family and community members. The team will conduct oral history interviews with community members about their first days in the United States. Participants will also be able to browse the archive, listen to others' First Days stories, and connect with each other.

Dunlap stated that this organization has made a request for \$10,000 and the PCA staff recommendation is \$10,000.

Ms. Goldberg asked about asked the Centre Film Festival and if there is a relation to Rock Lititz?

Ms. Dunlap stated that based on the conversations she has had, the Centre Film Festival is hoping to bring a lot of stakeholders to the table, and that they are certainly aware of Rock Lititz because Rock Lititz is a rock star as far as how they're putting together their career training programs. Dunlap stated that she has talked to them about bringing arts and education partners to the conversation.

Senator Bartolotta stated that she is on the Pittsburgh Film Office Board, but that her term will be expiring in October. She stated that she started the first ever film industry caucus in the Senate of Pennsylvania and they are making one in the House. Senator Bartolotta stated that she has met with the organization and stated that she is glad to see that they're looking to do some small steps moving forward, but there won't be any big films and things going into their area until we can raise the film tax credit level.

Senator Bartolotta indicated that she did suggest that they start with educating people in the film industry because the film industry can only go someplace where they've got a large pool of trained crew members.

Ms. Dunlap stated that PCA staff has been having conversations with the Pittsburgh Film office as well as with the Philadelphia Film Office about some of the work that's happening in the workforce development and career readiness space in film.

Mr. Alaquiva asked a question about the lack of minority, women owned and disability participation in this area because a lot of times it's very difficult to sort of penetrate certain areas. Mr. Alaquiva offered assistance in this area.

Ms. Dunlap stated that with the development of this new Central Pennsylvania Film Commission that they are keeping that in mind. Dunlap also stated that in her conversations with Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Erie, she told them that if there's a way PCA staff can help

to support, encourage and to help achieve that diversity in those conversations and in these stakeholder convenings, that PCA will absolutely do that.

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 recommendation. Stull seconded the motion. Motion carried, none opposed.

ITEM 16 ACTION: Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Grants Budget

Amy Gabriele, Chief of Finance & Administration

Ms. Gabriele presented the PCA's Fiscal Year 23-24 grants budget proposal. Gabriele stated that the budget line items relate to programs and recommendations addressed and acted on in other sections of the Council book. She explained that the Fiscal Year 22-23 budget is shown for reference and added that the budget includes a column for the Governor's proposed \$10.59 million state appropriation. The budget also includes a column for a \$9.59 million budget. Ms. Gabriele stated that this is the version that both chambers are currently working with as of today.

Ms. Gabriele stated that PCA staff is asking for action on the \$9.59 million column.

Ms. Gabriele noted that statewide Creative Catalysts and Statewide Services line items will be specific grants acted on by the Council at future meetings as applications are submitted and funds become available through waiver funds, if approved by the Budget Office.

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

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

ITEM 17 INFORMATION: Arts Organization Confidence Survey Results

Seth Poppy, Director of Data Systems & Creative Services, & Ian Rosario, Director of AOAP and Grants Liaison

Mr. Poppy presented a slide deck outlining the 2023 AOAP Confidence Survey Results.

Mr. Poppy reminded Council that last year he presented the first iteration of this survey and that this is now the second year that these questions have been asked.

Poppy stated that the responses were collected from everyone applying to PCA's AOAP and Entry programs. The survey received 367 responses and those are all the larger arts organizations, those with a budget over 200,000 that apply to the PCA. The survey asked multiple choice questions in three categories.

Mr. Poppy provided an overview of the questions asked and the survey results.

Vice Chair Gabel made some comments at the end of this presentation regarding how the power of the arts is able to engage with the community rather than just being part of it.

ITEM 18: Chair's Report

Chair Parks reported that on August 17th, the PCA is hosting the Allentown Creative Economy Celebration Event that will feature PCA programs and investment in the area,

including Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator, Creative Communities Initiative, Creative Business Loan Program, and Creative Sector Flex Fund. Parks stated that local and state elected officials are invited to make remarks, along with representatives from our regional partners and program participants. He added that local media will also be invited and indicated that PCA staff will send more details.

Chair Parks reported that in June, the PCA hosted its statewide partnership meetings for Arts in Education, Folk and Traditional Arts and Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts. Parks stated that Arts in Education and Folk Art partners met in Harrisburg, and among other partner business items, had the opportunity to meet with representatives of multiple state departments to network and share goal areas that intersect.

Chair Parks stated that he was able to attend the PPA partnership meeting in Pittsburgh, with Karl Blischke and visited Bridgeway Capital's Creative Business Accelerator facility in Homewood and the Warhol Museum's new Pop District and creative workforce development program.

ITEM 19: Executive Director's Report

Mr. Blischke stated that because of the length of the meeting, he would keep his comments brief.

Blischke reviewed ongoing initiatives and PCA staff projects.

Mr. Blischke thanked all in attendance and stated that PCA will be sure to keep Council members apprised of the state budget.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM