

Minutes
Special Council Meeting
June 22, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
Skype Conference Call

Karl Blischke, Executive Director, welcomed those in attendance. Mr. Blischke informed those on the call that the special meeting was going to be recorded for the purpose of aiding and producing the meeting minutes only and asked attendees to not participate in the meeting if they do not agree to being recorded for administrative purposes. Mr. Blischke then turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Gabel.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT VIA SKYPE: Vice Chair Gabel, Mr. Astorino (via Proxy), Ms. Colón, Ms. Goldberg, Senator Iovino, Mr. Lehr, Judge Morgan (via Proxy), Mr. Stull, Ms. Vilayphonh (via proxy), Senator Ward, Mr. Warfield, Ms. Zaborney.

COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Mr. Alaquiva, Representative Ciresi, Chair Parks, Representative Pickett, Mr. West

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

GUESTS PRESENT VIA SKYPE: Jenny Hershour, Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania

CALL TO ORDER:

Jeffrey Gabel, Vice Chair

Vice Chair Gabel announced that because Chair Parks is unavailable, he has agreed to host and chair the meeting. Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and went over some guidelines regarding the format of the meeting and asked Mr. Blischke to call the roll.

ROLL CALL:

Karl Blischke, Executive Director

Mr. Blischke called the roll. A quorum was established

WELCOME

Jeffrey Gabel, Vice Chair

Vice Chair Gabel thanked the Council for participating in this special meeting.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Jeffrey Gabel, Vice Chair

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

ITEM 1 ACTION: Recommendation for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Grants

Karl Blischke, Executive Director

Mr. Blischke reported that through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act, the PCA received federal funds via the National Endowment for the Arts to support Pennsylvania arts organizations and programs affected by spread of the coronavirus and Covid-19.

Mr. Blischke stated that Council held a Special Council Meeting in May to approve guidelines for the distribution of these federal funds. Mr. Blischke explained that Council acted to provide one-time grant support to all PCA's current year (fiscal year 2019/2020) Arts Organizations and Arts Program awardees. Mr. Blischke stated that he is pleased to report that PCA has received 273 eligible applications for these federal funds.

Mr. Blischke stated that the request is to ask Council to apply the formula and parameters for funding that were approved during its May meeting. Blischke explained that the formula and parameters were very simple: the numbers of eligible applications and the available amount determine the grant amount with all grantees receiving the same grant amount.

Mr. Blischke reported that based on that formula, the eligible applicants will receive \$1,930 each.

Mr. Blischke stated that for this recommendation, PCA also wants to recommend that all awardees be required to sign their grant award agreement within 60 days of receipt from the PCA. Mr. Blischke explained that this is because our goal is to process these award agreements and the payments related to them as soon as possible and to identify if there are any awardees that are not able to accept the awards. Mr. Blischke added that PCA wants to do this efficiently and quickly as possible and stated that PCA will work with all eligible applicants to get their grant award agreements executed.

Mr. Blischke explained that if there are some awardees that are not able to accept their award for whatever reason, this will be brought forward at a subsequent Council meeting to discuss the options for the distribution of any unused funds.

Mr. Blischke stated that a list of all eligible applicants who will receive funding follows the memo in the Council book.

Vice Chair Gable thanked Mr. Blischke for the recommendation and wished that the amount would be more than the \$1,930 but added that during these times, any amount is welcome by every organization.

Vice Chair asked the Council for any questions

Hearing none, Vice Chair Gabel stated that Mr. Blischke presented a very clear proposal and asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.

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

ITEM 2 INFORMATION: Public Comments

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

There were no other requests to make comments.

Vice Chair Gabel thanked everybody for attending.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:19 a.m.