

Kentucky Arts Council  
Board Meeting  
Mt. Sterling  
September 16, 2011

**Members Present:** Todd Lowe, Everett McCorvey, Sonya Baker, Wilma Brown, Paul Fourshee, Henrietta Venable Kemp, Josephine Richardson, Andee Rudloff, Randall Vaughn, Jayne Moore Waldrop

**Members Absent:** Zev Buffman, John Hockensmith, Ron Johnson, Nick Kouns, Carla Bass Miller, Roanne Victor

**Others Present:** Lori Meadows, Chris Cathers, Suzanne Gray, Melissa Nesselrode, Sallie Showalter, Dan Strauss

**Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet:** Deputy Secretary Lindy Casebier

**Guests:** Cay Lane, executive director, and Becky Priest, education director, Montgomery County Council for the Arts

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME:**

Chairman Todd Lowe welcomed all in attendance. Todd introduced Cay Lane who provided an overview of the Gateway Arts Center.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

With 10 board members in attendance, Todd declared a quorum to be present.

*A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jayne Moore Waldrop, seconded by Wilma Brown. The motion passed without objection.*

**COMMENTS BY BOARD CHAIRMAN:**

Todd thanked the board for their work on the current committees. Todd congratulated the Kentucky Arts Council staff for their hard work on the new website. Lori informed the board that the staff involved was Sallie Showalter, Sandie Lawrence, Deborah Catlett and Melissa Nesselrode. Todd noted that many compliments have been coming in throughout the state on the newly designed website and encouraged the board to visit if they haven't yet.

Todd informed the board that Bill Monroe's 100th birthday made the [Washington Post](#) and encouraged the board to read the article. Lindy informed the board that the Boston Globe may also be working on an article about Monroe's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**REPORT BY TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET:**

Todd asked Deputy Secretary Lindy Casebier to give a cabinet update. Lindy informed the board that a proclamation was issued by the Governor for Arts in Education Week.

Lindy thanked Lori and the Kentucky Arts Council staff for their work in putting together an exhibit at Jenny Wiley State Park in preparation for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) convention.

Lindy informed the board that Lori and he are currently working with the Governor's Mansion on an emerging artist exhibit to be displayed from January to April.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Members were asked to review their abstentions and note if there were any additions or deletions.

**GOVERNANCE PROCESS:**

Todd asked the Advocacy Committee to give an update. Jayne informed the board that since the June board meeting there have been seven "Visioning Sessions" held throughout the state by the Cabinet of Economic Development. Participants at these sessions discussed a strategic plan titled "[Kentucky's Unbridled Future](#)", focused on job creation and investment across the state. Jayne also informed the board that Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer and Lexington Mayor Jim Gray have initiated the "[Bluegrass Economic Advancement Movement](#)" to create a "Super Region." Board members can log on to [Facebook](#) to make suggestions on discussion points relating to the arts for upcoming meetings.

Jayne asked Andee to speak on legislative priorities. Andee asked the board to write thank you letters to the Governor for his continued support and to set up meetings with their legislators especially during this election year. The board agreed to approve the stated legislative priorities, which focused on keeping the current funding level for the Kentucky Arts Council.

Lori informed the board that Tom Birch from the [National Assembly of State Arts Agencies](#) recently requested that constituents contact their legislators and ask them to vote to keep the current [National Endowment for the Arts](#) (NEA) funding. Tom asked Lori to communicate with those in Congressman Ed Whitfield's district to contact him personally about voting in favor of the NEA. The Kentucky Arts Council sent this information to the Kentucky Arts Partnership groups and the response was very high; Congressman Whitfield voted yes to keep the current NEA funding. Jayne asked the board members to each write a letter of thanks to Congressman Whitfield.

Suzanne gave an overview of the updated legislative information for each board member. She informed the board that this will be the last paper version they will receive. All documents have been placed on the board's website so they can download and print information on an as-needed basis.

Suzanne informed the board that the Kentucky Arts Council has collaborated with one of our Kentucky Crafted artists, Mark Needham, to produce an [art pin](#). The pins are a great way to show support for the arts. The Kentucky Arts Council is currently working with other artists to develop additional pins.

Suzanne also gave an overview of the newly designed Public Value Report. The Kentucky Arts Council hopes to produce a poster for each of our Kentucky Arts Partnership groups to display in their lobby areas.

Jayne asked Wilma to speak about upcoming legislative opportunities. Wilma asked the board to attend the Governor's Awards in the Arts ceremony and luncheon on October 20. Wilma stressed the value of

attending. If board members were unable to attend, she asked that they spend at least four or five hours that week advocating for the arts.

Todd thanked the Advocacy Committee for their reports. Todd stressed to the board that advocating for the arts is the best thing we can do right now during an election year and to take every opportunity to do so.

Advocacy Best Practices Report by board members:

- Todd attended the opening season dinner for Actors Theatre. The table toppers were advocacy materials. He thought this was a great idea.
- Todd mentioned to the board that as they are receiving phone calls from political candidates for support, they should offer them information about the Kentucky Arts Council and let them know that we also need their support.
- Sonya informed the board that Calloway County is hoping to form an arts council. This effort has brought several organizations, groups and individuals together for the arts.

Todd asked Jayne to give a report on the Legislative Change Committee in Ron's absence. Jayne informed the board that the committee is currently working towards legislation for the Cultural Districts Certification program. As public policy, it will demonstrate that the cultural districts provide value not only to the arts but to the state as a whole.

Todd informed the board that he will be contacting board members soon to serve on the Nominating Committee. Todd mentioned that he would like to see the Nominating Committee call individuals for nominations and conduct a more thorough study of their background in the arts.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OPERATIONAL UPDATE:**

- Website: The Kentucky Arts Council's new website is more user friendly than the one before. The new site will feature more artwork, a featured artist of the month and beautifully updated directories.
- NEA application: The final reports for the NEA were finalized and submitted. The Kentucky Arts Council is currently working on the major application that is required every three years. Included are our major accomplishments: the World Equestrian Games; the National Symphony Orchestra residency; and the operational change of the Administrative Branch to the Communications and Technology Branch.
- Staffing: The Kentucky Arts Council recently hired Rachel Allen as the Arts in Education Director
- Cultural Districts: The Kentucky Arts Council received 43 intents to apply and has had two successful training and professional development workshops.
- Jenny Wiley State Park exhibit: Lori thanked the staff for their hard work and dedication to making the exhibit happen in a very limited time. Lori commended the staff on their ability to face unexpected challenges and opportunities.

- Press Releases: The Kentucky Arts Council has learned that the state news room has changed its format. Currently the arts council does not have a separate link for press releases; all state press releases are on one page.
- Kentucky Visions: This will be the fourth year for this exhibit. It runs January through April.
- Strategic Plan: Lori informed the board that she is currently updating the progress report. It will be posted on the board's website and a link will be provided to the board members within the next week.
- Kentucky Folklife Program: The Kentucky Folklife program is an inter-agency program of the Kentucky Historical Society and the Kentucky Arts Council, and funding for this program is split between the two agencies. The arts council currently pays the salary for a program assistant using NEA funding and also provides funding for folklife grants; the historical society pays for two staff salaries and all benefits and provides offices and storage space. Due to ongoing budget cuts, the Historical Society can no longer help fund the Folklife Program and the arts council cannot fund the program alone. The Historical Society and the arts council are able to fund the three positions until June 30, 2012, but will not be able to continue the program after that time. The arts council and Historical Society are investigating options to allow the program to continue under a different host organization. Lindy stated that the cabinet is also working with Lori and Todd on possible solutions.

#### **REVIEW OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

Lori provided an overview of the following monitoring reports:

- 1.1 End: Kentuckians Value the Role of Arts in Society
- 1.2 End: Lifelong Education in the Arts is Encouraged
- 1.3 End: Statewide Delivery of Arts Programs and Services is Provided
- 1.4 End: Artists Live and Work in a Supportive Environment
- 1.5 End: Public Policy Supports the Arts in Kentucky
- 2.6 Grant Panels Composition

General discussion followed.

Todd thanked Lori for her hard work and attention to detail on the monitoring reports.

*A motion to approve the monitoring reports was made by Paul Fourshee, seconded by Josephine Richardson. The motion passed without objection.*

Lori thanked Lindy, Todd and the board for their support.

#### **BOARD DISCUSSION ON ENDS:**

**End 1.2 Lifelong education in the arts is encouraged.** The discussion centered on the three parts of the end statement. Lori asked Lindy to speak about the Arts Education Advisory Group created to convene persons knowledgeable in the field to assess Kentucky's current arts education landscape. Lindy stated

that the group will have quarterly meetings and part of its role is to ensure that the arts education opportunities provided best meet the needs of the state.

Lori asked Cay to speak about the lifelong education opportunities provided by the Montgomery County Council. Cay gave an overview of their yearly activities. Cay also informed the board that there will be a legislative panel meeting at the Gateway Center on October 9 to discuss arts in education, and attendance is expected to be approximately 40 persons.

Lori expressed to the board that the information provided by Cay is a perfect example of how the Kentucky Arts Partnership groups are working with their communities to provide opportunities for lifelong learning.

Everett commended Cay and the arts council for their hard work in these areas.

General discussion followed among board members regarding the importance of opportunities for lifelong education in the arts.

At Todd's request Everett led the board meeting evaluation discussion. The following comments were made:

- Everett thanked Cay for hosting the board meeting.
- Todd felt that the discussion on the ends statement was one of the best he's heard.
- Sonya would like for the board to consider a way for the board to share ideas that they have during the meeting that they may not have the opportunity to speak about.
- Everett gave Sonya the quote of the day: "Art is not extra, it's essential."

Adjournment