



**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
Wednesday, February 10, 2021

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A regular meeting of the Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:04 p.m. as a Virtual Event in accordance with Ohio General Assembly House Bill 404.

The roll call showed that Trustees Hanson, McGowan, Mendez, Scott Taylor, and Sherman were present. It was determined that there was a quorum.

Also in attendance were: CAC staff: Jill Paulsen, executive director; Luis Gomez; Meg Harris; Cheyanne Jeffries; Heather Johnson-Banks; Julia Murphy; and Jake Sinatra.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Trustee Hanson, seconded by Trustee Scott Taylor, to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2020 Board meeting. Discussion: None. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no comments on the meeting agenda items.

**3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Paulsen thanked everyone for joining her and the Board. Ms. Paulsen's remarks can be found [here](#).

Trustee Sherman asked Ms. Paulsen to provide a brief overview of the potential changes to CAC's grant programs, which will be presented to the board at its April meeting. Ms. Paulsen provided an overview of changes as outlined in the meeting materials. Trustee Sherman also asked about the opportunity for grant recipients to provide feedback on the proposed changes. Ms. Paulsen and Mr. Gomez confirmed the process and timeline and that staff would be reaching out to grantees for feedback in March.

Trustee Hanson inquired if CAC anticipates tax revenue to increase in 2021. Ms. Paulsen responded that though revenue increased slightly in the 2020 calendar year, the increase was modest and that when tracked by levy cycle, there was a decrease in revenue in 2020. Ms. Harris added that recent articles reference an increase in smoking, however we cannot predict if this will continue and that groups should still plan for a decrease in their grant in 2021.

**4. BOARD ACTION - Grantmaking**

**Approval of 2020 Additional CARES Grants**

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Ms. Johnson-Banks presented grants totaling \$336,350 in additional Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds to 56 CAC grantees. The funds were distributed in December 2020.

The following actions were taken:

Motion by Trustee Scott Taylor, seconded by Trustee Hanson, to approve the CARES dollars to:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Grant</b>
Cleveland Museum of Art	\$ 25,000.00
DANCECleveland	\$ 3,500.00

Discussion: None. Vote – Ayes: Hanson, McGowan, Mendez, Scott Taylor. Nays: None. Abstain: Sherman. The motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Scott Taylor, seconded by Trustee Mendez, to approve the CARES dollars to:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Grant</b>
The Cleveland Orchestra	\$ 25,000.00

Discussion: None. Vote – Ayes: McGowan, Mendez, Scott Taylor, Sherman. Nays: None. Abstain: Hanson. The motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Hanson, seconded by Trustee Scott Taylor, to approve the CARES dollars as listed (below).

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Grant</b>
Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra	\$ 5,750.00
Art House	\$ 1,850.00
Arts Cleveland	\$ 3,700.00
Beck Center for the Arts	\$ 6,650.00
Broadway School of Music and the Arts	\$ 1,900.00
Center for Arts-Inspired Learning	\$ 5,450.00
Chagrin Valley Little Theater	\$ 1,500.00
Children's Museum of Cleveland	\$ 4,450.00
Cleveland Botanical Garden	\$ 8,800.00
Cleveland International Film Festival	\$ 7,450.00
Cleveland Jazz Orchestra	\$ 2,350.00
Cleveland Museum of Natural History	\$ 16,400.00
Cleveland Play House	\$ 12,150.00
Cleveland POPS Orchestra	\$ 4,150.00
Cleveland Public Theatre	\$ 5,800.00
Contemporary Youth Orchestra	\$ 2,500.00
Dancing Wheels	\$ 2,850.00
Dobama Theatre	\$ 3,350.00

Dunham Tavern Museum	\$	1,950.00
Ensemble Theatre	\$	1,500.00
Great Lakes Science Center	\$	10,350.00
Great Lakes Theater	\$	8,400.00
GroundWorks DanceTheater	\$	3,200.00
Heights Arts	\$	2,250.00
ICA - Art Conservation	\$	4,800.00
Ingenuity	\$	2,900.00
Inlet Dance Theatre	\$	2,200.00
Karamu House	\$	5,200.00
Lake Erie Ink	\$	2,100.00
Lake Erie Nature & Science Center	\$	4,700.00
LAND studio	\$	7,600.00
Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage	\$	6,850.00
Morgan Art of Papermaking Conservatory and Educational Foundation	\$	2,200.00
Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland	\$	7,050.00
Nature Center at Shaker Lakes	\$	4,600.00
Near West Theatre	\$	4,000.00
Northcoast Men's Chorus	\$	2,250.00
Piano Cleveland	\$	3,800.00
Playhouse Square	\$	25,000.00
Progressive Arts Alliance	\$	3,500.00
Rainey Institute	\$	4,800.00
Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum	\$	25,000.00
Roots of American Music	\$	1,950.00
SPACES	\$	2,750.00
The Cleveland Opera	\$	1,700.00
The Music Settlement	\$	8,350.00
The Musical Theater Project	\$	3,200.00
The Singing Angels	\$	2,450.00
Ukrainian Museum-Archives	\$	1,550.00
Valley Art Center	\$	2,700.00
Verb Ballets	\$	3,050.00
Western Reserve Historical Society	\$	9,450.00
Zygote Press	\$	2,450.00

Discussion: None. Vote All Ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Sherman thanked the County Executive for the funding and thanked the staff for their work to distribute the funds expeditiously. Ms. Johnson-Banks thanked the grantees for their responsiveness so that funds could be distributed before the December 30 deadline.

## **5. FINANCE REPORT**

Ms. Harris' report can be found [here](#).

Mr. Hanson inquired about the footnote that states outstanding 2020 grant obligations are on the balance sheet. Ms. Harris explained that grants funds are recognized on the balance sheet in January and that this is the recommended practice by the Auditor of State. Mr. Hanson also inquired about the category titled non-grant cash disbursements. Ms. Harris answered that this represents the costs CAC incurs to do its business, like overhead.

## **6. BOARD ACTION – Finance and General Business**

### **Contracts and Policies**

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Ms. Paulsen provided an overview of the contract included in the meeting materials for Board approval.

Motion by Trustee Mendez, seconded by Trustee Hanson, to approve a contract with Capitol Partners in the amount of \$30,000 for January 1 – June 30, 2021. Vote – Ayes: Hanson, Mendez, Sherman, Scott Taylor, McGowan. Nays: None. The motion carried.

### **Policies**

**Extension of Families First Coronavirus Response Act.** Ms. Harris provided an overview of the extension of the FFCRA policy adopted by CAC in 2020 through March 31, 2021.

Ms. Scott Taylor asked if the funds which provide two weeks of paid time off for employees should they contract COVID-19 come from CAC. Ms. Harris responded in the affirmative and noted that CAC employees receive three sick days so the extension of the policy is beneficial to employees.

Motion by Trustee Scott Taylor, seconded by Trustee Mendez, to approve the extension of the policy as presented to the Board. Discussion: None. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

### **Strategic Alliance Update**

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Trustee Sherman shared that she is enthusiastic about the alliance and the potential it has for our community.

Trustee Mendez said the work she has been a part of on the organizational development committee has been foundational and that the alliance is making progress.

Ms. Paulsen added that there is an active search for the new director of the alliance organization and that CAC will work alongside the new organization as a founding partner and will retain its role as a grantmaker to nonprofits.

Trustee Scott Taylor inquired about the composition of the new alliance board and how CAC Trustee participation in the board will be determined. Trustee Sherman stated that two of CAC's Trustee leadership would serve on the Board of the new alliance so that leadership would change as CAC Trustees change. Trustee Mendez added that the process for building the new Board has been transparent and that the diverse committee has had the opportunity to submit board candidates for consideration.

Ms. Paulsen thanked the staff of Arts Cleveland for their work and noted that this is about celebrating Arts Cleveland as it winds down to launch the new alliance.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Trustee Hanson, seconded by Trustee Mendez, to adjourn the meeting. Discussion: None. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

The next meeting will be held at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 as a Virtual Event.

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Charna Sherman, President, Board of Trustees

Attest:

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Michele Scott Taylor, Secretary, Board of Trustees