



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Wednesday, December 9, 2020

A regular meeting of the Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) Board of Trustees was called to order at 3:32 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; India Pierre-Ingram; and Jake Sinatra.

Motion by Trustee Hanson, seconded by Trustee Mendez, to adjourn into executive session to consider the compensation of public employees. Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote: Hanson, aye; McGowan, aye; Mendez, aye; Scott Taylor, aye; Sherman, aye. The motion carried.

At 3:49 pm executive session adjourned, and the Board resumed the public meeting.

Motion by Trustee Mendez, seconded by Trustee Scott Taylor to approve the personnel provide to the Board of Trustees. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Hanson, seconded by Trustee Mendez, to approve the minutes from the November 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](#).

4. BOARD ACTION - Grantmaking

Approval of Grants: Support for Artists

Ms. Johnson-Banks presented grant recommendations for the 2021 Support for Artists grant program as detailed in the memo shared with the Board as part of this meeting's materials.

Motion by Trustee Sherman, seconded by Trustee Scott Taylor, to approve the grants for the 2021 Support for Artist initiatives. Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

Resident-led arts and culture projects

Mr. Gomez presented grants to ioby (In Our Back Yards) and Neighborhood Connections as detailed in the contracts shared with the Board.

Motion by Trustee Sherman, seconded by Trustee Mendez, to approve a grant to ioby in the amount of \$90,000 and a grant to Neighborhood Connections in the amount of \$60,000 for programs in 2021, and a \$15,000 contract with Neighborhood Connections for Arts and Culture Network Night. Discussion: Trustee Sherman asked if that amount includes the possibility to move to in-person programming in the future. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

Approval of CARES Grants

Ms. Paulsen presented grants totaling \$2.664 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds to 94 CAC grantees. Ms. Paulsen thanked Cuyahoga County Council and the County Executive for their support that will aid groups challenged by the pandemic.

The following actions were taken:

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

Organization	Grant
BorderLight	\$3,200
Cleveland Museum of Art	\$150,000
DANCECleveland	\$26,200

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

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

Organization	Grant
Cleveland Institute of Music	\$96,244
The Cleveland Orchestra	\$150,000

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

Motion by Trustee Sherman, seconded by Trustee Scott Taylor, to approve the CARES dollars as listed (below). Discussion: None. Vote All Ayes. Motion carried.

Organization	Grant
Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra	\$43,600
Art House	\$14,200
Arts Cleveland	\$28,100
Beck Center for the Arts	\$50,400
Brite Cleveland	\$1,912
Broadway School of Music and the Arts	\$14,100
Carolyn L. Farrell Foundation	\$5,000
Cassidy Theatre	\$7,500
Center for Arts-Inspired Learning	\$41,100
Chagrin Arts	\$5,000
Chagrin Documentary Film Festival	\$7,500
Chagrin Valley Little Theater	\$19,600
ChamberFest Cleveland	\$4,782
Children's Museum of Cleveland	\$33,300
CityMusic Cleveland	\$7,174
Cleveland Ballet	\$7,500
Cleveland Botanical Garden	\$66,300
Cleveland Chamber Choir	\$3,200
Cleveland Chamber Music Society	\$5,000
Cleveland Classical Guitar Society	\$7,500
Cleveland International Film Festival	\$56,100
Cleveland Jazz Orchestra	\$17,800
Cleveland Museum of Natural History	\$ 124,200
Cleveland Play House	\$91,700
Cleveland POPS Orchestra	\$31,000
Cleveland Public Theatre	\$43,600
Cleveland Restoration Society	\$3,206
Cleveland Rocks: Past Present and Future	\$3,200
Contemporary Youth Orchestra	\$18,500
Dancing Classrooms Northeast Ohio	\$3,200
Dancing Wheels	\$21,900
Dobama Theatre	\$25,100
DuffyLit	\$5,000
Dunham Tavern Museum	\$14,500
Ensemble Theatre	\$11,400
Great Lakes Science Center	\$78,800
Great Lakes Theater	\$63,400
GroundWorks DanceTheater	\$24,700
Heights Arts	\$16,700
Heights Youth Theatre	\$3,867
ICA - Art Conservation	\$36,600
Ingenuity	\$21,900
Inlet Dance Theatre	\$17,000
International Women's Air & Space Museum	\$3,200
Karamu House	\$39,700

Kulture Kids	\$3,545
Lake Erie Ink	\$16,300
Lake Erie Nature & Science Center	\$35,700
Lakewood Historical Society	\$5,000
LAND studio	\$57,800
Les Délices	\$7,500
LYLESART	\$3,200
Maelstrom Collaborative Arts	\$3,200
Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage	\$51,400
Mercury Theatre Company	\$7,482
Morgan Art of Papermaking Conservatory and Educational Foundation	\$16,600
MorrisonDance	\$3,200
Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland	\$53,000
Nature Center at Shaker Lakes	\$34,500
Near West Theatre	\$30,100
Northcoast Men's Chorus	\$16,800
Piano Cleveland	\$28,800
Playhouse Square	\$ 150,000
Playwrights Local	\$3,200
Praxis Fiber Workshop	\$5,000
Progressive Arts Alliance	\$26,300
Rainey Institute	\$36,500
Refresh Collective	\$3,165
Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum	\$150,000
Roots of American Music	\$14,800
Sankofa	\$3,200
Shaker Arts Council	\$3,200
SPACES	\$20,600
Suburban Symphony Orchestra	\$3,200
Talespinner Children's Theatre	\$5,000
The Brecksville Theater	\$6,000
The Cleveland Opera	\$12,700
The Music Settlement	\$63,100
The Musical Theater Project	\$24,400
The Singing Angels	\$18,700
Transformer Station	\$7,500
Ukrainian Museum-Archives	\$12,000
Valley Art Center	\$20,500
Verb Ballets	\$22,800
Waterloo Arts	\$4,599
West Shore Chorale	\$3,200
Western Reserve Historical Society	\$71,500
Westlake Chinese School	\$3,000
Zygote Press	\$18,800

Trustee Hanson asked if the money distributed by the County or by the Federal Government. Ms. Paulsen shared that the county requested that CAC distribute the dollars. Hanson asked if there will be an audit from the Federal government. Paulsen answered in the affirmative and said CAC is preparing for the audit.

Trustee Hanson also asked about the additional CARES dollars that were distributed from the County. Paulsen shared that Arts Cleveland distributed the additional dollars that went to artists and for-profit arts organizations. Paulsen shared that we will be working to get all dollars out by December 30, 2020.

5. FINANCE REPORT

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

Ms. Paulsen asked about the status of funds in the reserve investment accounts. Ms. Harris stated that the reserve did not decrease in 2020 as CAC will not need to draw on the reserve, as planned, this year due to higher tax receipts and lower expenses. She stated that CAC does need to have cash on hand to cover any grants approved by the Board at the time of approval.

6. BOARD ACTION – Finance and General Business

Approval of 2021 Operating Budget

Ms. Paulsen presented the Board the 2021 operating budget, which is available in Budget Memo. Ms. Harris stated that it doesn't vary from much from the previous year's budget or long-term projections. The budget reflects a commitment to keeping General Operating Support and Project Support as steady as possible.

Motion by Trustee Hanson, seconded by Trustee Scott Taylor, to approve the CAC's 2021 operating budget. Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

Contracts Policies

Ms. Paulsen provided an overview of the two contracts included in the board packet for Board approval.

Motion by Trustee Sherman, seconded by Trustee Hanson, to approve a contract with DataArts in the amount of \$20,000 for January 1 – December 31, 2021. Vote – Ayes: Hanson, Mendez, Sherman. Nays: None. Abstain: Garth. The motion carried.

Motion by Trustee, seconded by Trustee, to approve a twelve-month contract for \$24,000 with Compelling Communications for work in the areas of communications and media relations. Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

Policies

Investment policies adjustment. Ms. Harris shared that the Audit and Finance Advisory Committee recommended an update to CAC's Investment Policy to bring it line with the Ohio Revised Code. The proposed change updates the investment length for certain investments and explicitly states that we can work with an investment advisor.

Motion by Trustee Hanson, seconded by Scott Taylor, to approve the updated Investment Policy as presented to the Board. Discussion: None. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

Strategic Alliance Update

Trustee Sherman thanked reporter Steven Litt for his recent article and shared the ways that the new alliance will be transformative.

Trustee Mendez said the collaborative nature of this work and how it's impact will be reflective of the changes that will be seen across the sector.

Trustee Hanson stated that the late Steve Minter had once shared that CPAC and Cuyahoga Arts & Culture need to work together to create a full vision for our arts and cultural sector and that initially this was a partnership that wasn't seen as viable but now this a vision coming true.

Trustee Sherman stated that this work and alliance will be working for the community and not just the individual.

Ms. Paulsen said that more information is available on our website [here](#). She added that this work is really for artists, nonprofit and for-profit arts organizations, and residents. This work and alliance are about bringing equity to the forefront and is not just about "expanding the table" but about "building new tables".

7. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Sherman thanked the CAC staff for their great work over the year and thanked her fellow Board members for their commitment and hard work.

Motion by Trustee Scott Taylor, seconded by Trustee Hanson, to adjourn the meeting. Discussion: None. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 pm.

The next meeting will be held at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 as a Virtual Event.

Attest:

Michele Scott Taylor, Secretary, Board of Trustees

Charna Sherman, President, Board of Trustees