



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Monday, February 25, 2013

A meeting of the Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) Board of Trustees was called to order at 3:35 p.m. in the Smith Studio at the Idea Center at PlayhouseSquare, 1375 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

The roll call showed that Trustees Vickie Eaton Johnson, Matt Charboneau, Sari Feldman, and Steve Minter were present. It was determined that there was a quorum.

A motion was put forward by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Charboneau, to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. No discussion. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

(Chris Coburn arrived at 3:36)

Executive session ensued.

At 4:08 p.m., a motion was put forward by Trustee Minter, seconded by Trustee Charboneau, to adjourn executive session and resume the public meeting. No discussion. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

Trustee Feldman called the public session to order at 4:09 p.m. in the Smith Studio of the Idea Center.

Also in attendance were: CAC staff: Karen Gahl-Mills, executive director; Jill Paulsen, director of grant programs; Meg Harris, director of administration; program managers Jesse Hernandez and Stacey Hoffman; Jennifer Schlosser, communications manager; and Jake Sinatra, program associate.

1. APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL PACKAGE

Trustee Feldman stated that during the executive session, they had discussed personnel matters including staff compensation. Trustee Coburn moved to approve the staff compensation package as discussed in the executive session. Trustee Minter seconded the motion. No discussion. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Johnson moved to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2012, board meeting. Trustee Charboneau seconded the motion. No discussion. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Gahl-Mills welcomed guests and made a report to the board. In her remarks, Ms. Gahl-Mills stated that during the meeting, staff would ask the board to approve two Creative Culture Grants, have an early-stage conversation about Project Support 2014, approve a grant to The Cleveland Orchestra for its annual concert on Public Square, and hear from Chris Ronayne of University Circle Inc., on how CAC funding has positively impacted that organization's WOW! Wade Oval Wednesdays program.

4. FINANCE REPORT

Ms. Harris gave a report on Cuyahoga Arts & Culture's finances. She provided an overview of the organization's financial results from 2012, stating that CAC had \$16,791,300 in revenue, which was \$477,000 over budget. The revenue stream declined at 2.65% which was a lower rate than was forecast. Revenue through January 2013 was \$1,425,269, which is typical for this period. Ms. Harris stated that CAC's investment income for January was \$6,570 which exceeded forecast by \$2,971. She added that CAC is seeing improving returns through investments with STAR Plus and Baird Public Investment Advisors.

Trustee Minter asked if there was an update about whether CAC would pay rent to PlayhouseSquare for its office space in 2013. Ms. Gahl-Mills stated that CAC is in communication with Art Falco about this matter, and it is expected that there will be an answer to this question in the second half of this year. Trustee Minter asked if the audit was under way yet. Ms. Harris stated that she expects that the audit will begin in March.

5. CONNECT WITH CULTURE

Ms. Gahl-Mills introduced Chris Ronayne, president of University Circle Inc., who made a brief presentation about UCI's mission and activities, and specifically how funding from CAC has allowed UCI to expand its WOW! Wade Oval Wednesdays concerts into a large community festival that reaches more than 50,000 people each summer.

6. DISCUSSION: ELEMENTS OF PROJECT SUPPORT 2014

Ms. Paulsen presented the board memo outlining CAC's plans to improve the Project Support 2014 program (see [PS 14 Board Memo](#)). Ms. Paulsen added that staff will present the Project Support 14 Guidelines to the Board for approval at the April meeting. Ms. Paulsen stated that the program has grown to serve 117 organizations this year. Ms. Hoffman stated that staff has identified three key areas of refinement: 1) Simplifying the application process, 2) Rethinking how CAC funds units of government, and 3) Making improvements to how CAC can serve as a resource to applicants and cultural partners.

Trustee Minter stated that as the current funding source for units of government is dwindling, perhaps CAC consider requesting legislation to refine the Ohio Revised Code to allow CAC to fund units of government using a small percentage of the revenues from the tax. Ms. Gahl-Mills stated that CAC would take his comments under consideration.

Trustee Johnson offered to review the application and guidelines in advance to give an outside perspective on the application process.

7. BOARD ACTION

Approval of Contract with Burges & Burges

Ms. Harris asked that the board approve a contract with Burges & Burges for \$3,500 per month in 2013. This represents a decrease in the annual contract of \$6,000 per year or \$500 per month.

Trustee Minter moved to approve the contract with Burges & Burges in the amount of \$3,500 per month for the period of January 1 – December 31, 2013 for consulting services. Trustee Johnson seconded the motion. No discussion. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

Approval of Grant for The Cleveland Orchestra's Concert on Public Square

Ms. Paulsen reviewed the board memo regarding the proposed grant to The Cleveland Orchestra for \$150,000 for its annual concert on Public Square in July (see [Public Square Concert Memo](#)).

Trustee Feldman stated that she would recuse herself from the vote because Cuyahoga County Public Library would be a partner in this project, although they would not receive any of the funds.

Trustee Charboneau moved to approve the grant for \$150,000 to The Cleveland Orchestra for its annual concert on Public Square in July. Trustee Coburn seconded the motion. No discussion. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

Approval of Creative Culture Grants Recipients

Ms. Paulsen provided a summary of the Creative Culture Grants program (see: [summary handout](#)) Ms. Gahl-Mills stated that the winners of the public voting contest were Dancing Wheels' DARING TO BE "DUMBO" and LAND studio's "AHA! FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS." She stated for the record that she is a board member of Positively Cleveland, one of the project partners for LAND studio's project, but that as the grant is to LAND studio, it is not considered a conflict of interest.

Trustee Charboneau moved to approve a grant to Dancing Wheels for \$130,421 for its DARING TO BE "DUMBO" project. Trustee Johnson seconded the motion. No discussion. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

Trustee Minter moved to approve a grant to LAND studio for \$150,000 for its AHA! FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS project. Trustee Charboneau seconded the motion. No discussion. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Verdi-Fletcher, founder of Dancing Wheels, expressed her organization's appreciation for the Creative Culture Grant and stated that the grant would allow them to reach thousands of people through their project.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Minter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Coburn seconded the motion. No discussion. Vote: all ayes. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Next meeting: Due to fact that there will not be a quorum for the next meeting scheduled for April 8th, that meeting will be rescheduled to a later date in April. The new meeting date and time will be posted on CAC's website.

Sari Feldman, President, Board of Trustees

Attest:

Matthew Charboneau, Secretary, Board of Trustees