

**New York State Council on the Arts  
Council Meeting Minutes**

**October 13, 2022, 3:10PM- 4:10PM**

**Held at the NYSCA Office: 300 Park Ave South, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10010**

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**Present:** Monica Angle, Lawrence Cook II, Aaron Flagg, Joan Hornig, Janet Kagan, Eric Latzky, James Lemons, Andrea Louie, David Alan Miller, Katherine Nicholls (Chair), Adriana Trigiani

**In-Person Quorum present:** Yes

**Others in attendance:**

Mara Manus, Executive Director, NYSCA

Megan White, Deputy Director of Programs, NYSCA

Abigail Young, Deputy Director of Operations and General Counsel, NYSCA (Joining via tele-conference)

Abby Adler, Executive Assistant, NYSCA

David Huff, Program Director, NYSCA

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*Before the meeting was formally called to order by the Chair, Abby Adler (NYSCA Executive Assistant) conducted a roll call of the Council to determine if a quorum was present. Following the roll call and confirmation that a quorum was present, the meeting of the NYSCA Council was called to order at 3:10PM by Chair Katherine Nicholls.*

**CHAIR'S WELCOME**

KATHERINE NICHOLLS (Chair): Good afternoon and welcome to the New York State Council on the Arts' October 13, 2022 meeting. I am KATHERINE NICHOLLS, the Chair of the New York State Council on the Arts. As we have a quorum of 11 Council Members present, I hereby call this meeting to order.

To remind all in attendance; this is a public meeting that is being recorded. A recording and transcript of the meeting will be made available on the NYSCA website.

Thank you to our Council Members for joining us today in-person - welcome all! Today marks the first in-person meeting for many of our members who began their service in Summer 2020, and it is a pleasure to finally share this space with you as we conduct the important work of this Council. Today, the NYSCA Council is composed of members representing counties across New York State's vast geography including Erie, Albany, New York, Kings, Franklin, Niagara, Broome, Nassau, and Westchester Counties - broadening NYSCA's connectivity and reach across our great state!

These past two plus years since we have been together has been an incredible period in the history of our agency and our field. The challenges faced by our field have been met with determination and collaboration from our incredible NYSCA staff. Council would like to take a

moment to acknowledge our entire team led by Mara Manus, Megan White, and Abigail Young who have served our field with their innovative and responsive approach and their unparalleled dedication to the arts and culture sector of New York. NYSCA has implemented historic changes to our grantmaking process and will continue to build upon these efforts each year - ensuring that our work is as responsive as possible to the ever-changing needs of our field.

Council also acknowledges the artists, cultural organizations, and creative sector workers who continue to build back after the immeasurable challenges of the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. We remain inspired by your creativity, determination, and resiliency. We are energized by the return to live performance and arts and cultural experiences in person everywhere! We recognize the response and action that has been required by our field and applaud their efforts to remain vigilant!

We are entering an historic era for the Arts and Culture field in New York State with unprecedented support from Governor Hochul and our state Legislature, who have recognized that the arts are a driver for the health and economic vitality of our communities.

At today's meeting, Council will ratify the FY2023 Panelist Rosters and review and vote on the FY23 Regrowth and Capacity Enhancement grants, the FY23 Statewide Community Regrant Partner grants, and the FY23 Partnership grants. The meeting materials were sent to Council on September 30, 2022.

While we are at meeting quorum today, there are a handful of recommendations with conflicts that we will be approving on an advisory basis and ratifying at our next meeting on November 9th. MEGAN WHITE will detail those conflicts later in our meeting. In-person attendance is material to conduct the business of this Council and ensure the timely distribution of vital funding across our state. We greatly appreciate your attendance at our upcoming meeting on November 9th – and please inform us as soon as possible of any conflicts you may have so that we may plan appropriately.

A reminder that our FY2023 Panels will continue for another week, concluding on October 20 with the Theater and State and Local Partnerships panels. I encourage all Council Members to join one of our virtual panel meetings to experience this important part of our process. Attending panels provides you with important context for when we come together, particularly at our upcoming November meeting, to vote on recommendations. A meeting calendar is sent weekly, and Council Members can RSVP directly with Sana Colter, the Executive and Communications Office Temp.

I am pleased to turn this meeting over to MARA MANUS, Executive Director of NYSCA, who will share some agency updates.

MARA MANUS (Executive Director): Thank you, so much, KATHERINE! It's just so great to be gathered in person today after so much time apart.

I first want to acknowledge the historic \$100 million capital funding commitment made by the Governor on September 29. These funds will allow NYSCA to be responsive to a broader range of requests across the state with grants up to \$10 million. This is in addition to the FY23 appropriation of \$50 million for small and midsize capital projects.

I would also like to emphasize that we will provide FY23 funding for projects that are small, midsize, and large, and organizations of ALL SIZES are encouraged to apply for any of the opportunities. Additionally, we encourage Council to share these opportunities within their respective communities!

For some context, our largest single year capital appropriation has been \$20 million. This new level of funding recognizes the significant impact of the arts and culture sector on the health of all New Yorkers and our visitors. Capital Projects play a transformative role in the longevity of arts and cultural facilities, and in turn, these projects strengthen our communities, promote accessibility and sustainability, and contribute to the growth of our economy.

There was a question from a Council Member regarding capital workload as it relates to the \$100 million commitment. A few points to this:

- First - the expectation is that this will not be spent out over the course of one year
- Second - our experience is that large capital projects have highly professional teams and require less application and oversight support.

We launched our FY 2023 Capital Project opportunities on Friday, September 30, the portal will close on January 12, 2023 at 4PM, and the Capital Funding recommendations will be reviewed at our March 15, 2023 meeting. We will hold a live opportunity webinar on October 19 at 11AM and a schedule for virtual office hours is forthcoming. These virtual opportunities allow our field to receive high-touch, 1:1 support from our staff. We have had high attendance and received overwhelmingly positive feedback about our office hours. We will continue to add office hours to our schedule if there is greater demand. The webinar recording and presentation deck will be available on the NYSCA website and we will send a reminder email out.

Since our last meeting in March, there is NYSCA staffing news to share:

- Fabiana Chiu-Rinaldi was promoted to Program Director, Folk Arts and Electronic Media & Film. Previously serving as the Program Officer in the Electronic Media & Film and Museum Programs, Fabiana brings with her over 23 years of significant NYSCA and grantmaking experience.
- Lauren Abbatiello was promoted to Program Officer, Finance and Compliance. She had previously served as an Arts Team Associate for 7 years.
- Will McDermott was promoted to Program Officer, Grants Management and Technology, previously serving for 6 years as a NYSCA Arts Team Associate.

- NYSCA welcomed Ann Marie Sekeres as our new Communications Director. Ann Marie has three decades of communications, public relations, and design experience in the non-profit and government sectors.
- NYSCA also welcomed Julie Callahan and Samantha Stern as temporary Program Staff members for our FY23 grant process. Julie is overseeing the Visual Arts and Music portfolios, and Samantha provides grant oversight and support for all panels.
- Menajiah Dailey officially started as a temporary Operations Staff member last week. She will provide support to our contracting and requisition processes.
- In June, NYSCA welcomed Totlyn Lewis as our new Auditor. Totlyn brings with her significant experience in financial and compliance oversight, which are vital to our grantmaking process.
- And finally, NYSCA has bid a fond farewell to two long-time staffers: Karen Helmersen, Program Director for the Electronic Media & Film and Visual Arts Programs, retired in June, following 23 years of service, and Sandra Rivera, NYSCA Secretary, who just retired, following 23 years of service.

I'd like to invite these staff members to stand and for us to applaud the tremendous service of our colleagues who have retired this year, to welcome our new agency staff members, and celebrate our staff members who are working with us in new capacities!

#### **FY2022 Panelist Roster Recommendations**

KATHERINE NICHOLLS (Chair): Thank you MARA. Our next agenda item is to review the FY2023 panelist roster recommendations. MEGAN WHITE, NYSCA's Deputy Director of Programs, will now present the roster and discuss this year's panelist recruitment process.

MEGAN WHITE (Deputy Director of Programs): Thank you, KATHERINE. Each year, NYSCA solicits nominations from NYSCA staff, Council members, current panelists, current grantees, and the general public. Advisory panelists are selected from these nominees. As a reminder, all panel members serve single year terms, and may be reappointed for a term of up to three years.

This year, there are 211 recommended panelists, over 100 of whom are new, representing all 10 regions of the state. To-date, 13 panels have been held over 23 days.

Advisory panelists are required to act with impartiality with respect to the evaluation and rating of applications and to protect panel deliberations from any potential conflict of interest or the appearance of such a conflict. Prior to serving, panelists are required to acknowledge any affiliations with organizations making applications to the Council and must comply with New York State Ethics Laws.

KATHERINE NICHOLLS (Chair): Thank you, MEGAN. Are there any questions or comments from Council at this time? We will vote to ratify the panelist rosters following our review of the FY23 grant recommendations.

A copy of the FY23 panelist roster recommendations can be viewed, [here](#).

*A motion is made and seconded to enter Executive Session. The meeting continues in Executive Session for Council members and invited guests until **4:05PM**.*

KATHERINE NICHOLLS (Chair): Welcome back to the public portion of the Council meeting for the New York State Council on the Arts. I am Katherine Nicholls, Chair of the New York State Council on the Arts. Thank you all for joining us. To remind all in attendance; this is a public meeting that is being recorded.

*At the request of Chair Katherine Nicholls, a motion is made and seconded to ratify the FY2023 Panelist Roster Recommendations. All recommended panelist rosters presented are hereby ratified and affirmed.*

*At the request of Chair Katherine Nicholls, a motion is made and seconded to bring the FY2023 NYSCA Partnership, State and Local Partnerships, and Regrowth and Capacity Enhancement grant recommendations to a vote. The following conflicts are noted for the record.*

- 1. SCR/Partnership Grant: Lake Placid Association of Music Drama and Art, James Lemons*
- 2. SCR/Partnership Grant: Poets and Writers: Andrea Louie*
- 3. Regrowth and Capacity Enhancement Grant: Albany Symphony Orchestra, Inc.: David Alan Miller*
- 4. Regrowth and Capacity Enhancement Grant: BELLEVUE LITERARY PRESS, INC.: Andrea Louie*
- 5. Regrowth and Capacity Enhancement Grant: Burchfield Penney Art Center: Monica Angle*
- 6. Regrowth and Capacity Enhancement Grant: Lake Placid Association of Music Drama and Art: James Lemons*
- 7. Regrowth and Capacity Enhancement Grant: The Little Orchestra Society/Orpheon, Inc.: David Alan Miller*

*All grant recommendations with noted conflicts were approved on an advisory basis and will be ratified at the next NYSCA Council Meeting on November 9.*

*Following the reading of the recusals, the motion to approve the FY2023 NYSCA Partnership, State and Local Partnerships, and Regrowth and Capacity Enhancement grant recommendations was unanimously affirmed by all present Council Members.*

## **ADJOURN**

KATHERINE NICHOLLS (Chair): Thank you, panelists, staff, leadership, and Council, for your ongoing service and commitment to NYSCA. Today in doing our civic duty, we have worked to ensure that all New Yorkers and visitors continue to experience and benefit from a dynamic, expansive, and healthy arts and culture sector.

On behalf of Council, we wish our grantees much success and we look forward to witnessing your work over the next year. We are grateful for your dedication and the incredible impact you have on the vitality our state.

*At the request of Chair Katherine Nicholls, a motion for the Council to adjourn the meeting is made and seconded. The motion carries unanimously by the Council members.*

*Meeting adjourns at 4:10PM*

**End of Council Meeting Minutes.**

**All grants approved at this meeting are available on the NYSCA [website](#).**