

**New York State Council on the Arts
Council Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2021 2:00 PM- 4:00PM
Held via Video and Teleconference**

Present:

Katherine Nicholls (Chair), Scott Eberle, Janet Kagan, Joan Hornig, Hildy Kuryk, Eric Latzky, Laudelina Martinez, Elsie McCabe-Thompson, Richard Mittenthal, Mahnaz Moinian, John Morning, Hal Payne, Deborah Ronnen

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

Christine Leahy, Director, Facilities and Arts Education, NYSCA

Abby Adler, Executive Assistant, NYSCA

Due to public health concerns and as authorized by Executive Order of the Governor, this meeting was conducted by teleconference and video participation.

Roll call conducted by Abby Adler and quorum was confirmed. Meeting called to order by Chair Katherine Nicholls at approximately 2:06PM.

CHAIR'S WELCOME

Good afternoon and welcome to the New York State Council on the Arts' June 8, 2021 meeting. I am Katherine Nicholls, the Chair of the New York State Council on the Arts.

Thank you to our Council Members for joining us today. Due to public health concerns and as authorized by Executive Order of the Governor, this meeting may be conducted by teleconference and video participation. To remind all in attendance; this is a public meeting that is being recorded.

It is so exciting to be together again. We have come a long way from our Council meeting last June. Today, arts and culture venues across the state, now including live performance venues, are reopening – a great example is that as of April 26, Museums have been approved to reopen at 50% capacity, which is an increase from 33% capacity which was set last summer. A reminder that reopening guidelines are subject to change to properly reflect the most up-to-date health and safety guidelines set by the Federal and New York State governments.

From masking up to protect those around us to New York being on track with meet the Federal vaccination goal with 66% of New Yorkers over 18 receiving at least one dose of the COVID

vaccine, New Yorkers have proven their dedication to collective healing and charting a course for a stronger future.

The reopening of arts is vital to the recovery of New York. The economic impact of our sector extends far past the doors of a museum or theater. Across our state, arts organizations and artists are the connective tissue of our communities – supporting tourism, hospitality, schools, restaurants, and Main Streets in every region. When our arts sector is supported, our state thrives.

At today's meeting, we will review the Fiscal Year 2022 grant opportunities and FY2022 Multi-Year grants. We will also review and vote on the Fiscal Year 2022 panelist roster recommendations, FY22 Community Regrant Partner grants, and a Creative Aging regrant. The meeting materials were sent to Council on June 2, 2021.

The materials we will review today are historic for NYSCA and our field. They reflect an incredible investment from Governor Cuomo and the Legislature and respond to the urgent needs our field has communicated to us.

The dual pandemics of COVID-19 and systemic racism have drastically heightened the need for reimagined and expanded services for the field. These funding opportunities are reflective of NYSCA's firm acknowledgement of the ongoing toll systemic racism and societal injustice have had on our state and sector, and the first of many steps to greatly expedite and broaden access to funding across the state.

I would like to commend the NYSCA staff for their extraordinary work to reimagine NYSCA's funding process and priorities, as well as their work to expedite the release of these funds to meet the much-needed reopening of our State.

These opportunities have been carefully laid out to achieve the following:

1. Significantly streamline the application process to reduce burden for applying, especially for new applicants and smaller organizations.
2. Provide immediate support for live performance – an area of our sector that has had its doors shuttered since March 2020 with a significant unemployed workforce
3. Expand eligibility and access to funding for underrepresented communities, smaller organizations, and a broader range of artistic practices
4. Provide flexible funding to be as responsive to the fluidity of our times

I recognize and salute the work that has been achieved, and I am eager for us to move forward together and take these critical steps towards our recovery. On behalf of the entire NYSCA Council, staff, and field, our immense gratitude to Governor Cuomo and the Legislature for their unwavering support and recognition of the critical work of our grantees. NYSCA will work hard over the coming months to quickly process and disperse this unprecedented and vital funding. To my council colleagues, today we have the unique responsibility and opportunity to be a

catalyst in aiding our collective recovery. I know you each share a sense of pride in doing our civic duty which has never been more essential.

A motion is made and seconded to enter Executive Session. The meeting continues in Executive Session for Council members and invited guests until 3:31PM.

KATHERINE NICHOLLS: 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 bring the FY2022 Panelist Roster Recommendations, FY2022 Community Regrant Partners Grant Recommendations, and the FY2022 Creative Aging Grant Recommendations to a vote.

KATHERINE NICHOLLS: I would now like to ask Megan White if there are any recusals to report. Those with a conflict will be deemed recused on their vote for the applicable application.

MEGAN WHITE: Thank you Katherine. I have the following conflicts to report for the record:

- Asia Society: Mahnaz Moinian
- Carnegie Hall Corporation: John Morning and Mahnaz Moinian
- Classical Theatre of Harlem: Elsie McCabe Thompson
- Henry Street Settlement: John Morning
- International Print Center New York: John Morning
- Manhattan Theatre Club, Inc.: Hildy Kuryk
- Rensselaer County Historical Society, Inc.: Laudelina Martinez
- The Jewish Museum: Mahnaz Moinian
- The Symphony Space, Inc: Richard Mittenthal
- The Vivian Beaumont Theater, Inc: John Morning
- Women's Project & Productions Inc: Janet Kagan

Following the reading of the recusals, the motion carries unanimously with the Council members joining via teleconference.

KATHERINE NICHOLLS: Before we adjourn, my immense gratitude to the entire NYSCA Council, leadership, and staff for being here with us today. It is always a pleasure to share a screen with you.

I am proud of the work that the NYSCA staff has done to be as responsive as possible to the needs of our field over this last year. I am also humbled by the resiliency of our grantees in continuing to provide critical support to their communities in the face of immense uncertainty and extreme fluidity. Our recovery is multi-faceted and multi-year process. These FY2022

opportunities are just our first steps towards collective healing and building a stronger future for the arts, together. On behalf of Council, we look forward to resuming our enjoyment of the arts in person. We value the individuals and organizations who enrich and enhance our lives and make New York the State of the Arts. Be safe, and continue to observe the guidelines!

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

Meeting adjourns at approximately 3:36PM.

End of Council Meeting Minutes.