



## **Nevada Arts Council**

**Board Meeting**

**Friday, March 26, 2021 – 2:00 PM**

### **MEETING LOCATION:**

DUE to COVID-19 this will be a virtual meeting via ZOOM conference platform

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Gail Rappa, Chair  
Jerry Schefcik, Vice-Chair  
Karen Michaels, Treasurer  
Amanda Horn  
Dr. Javon Johnson  
Andy Lott  
Mark Salinas  
Yale Yeandel

### **STAFF:**

Tony Manfredi  
Cathleen J. Wyatt  
Mary Jane Dorofachuk  
Rebecca Snetselaar  
Stephen Reid  
Sierra Scott  
Krista Ficken  
Kari Ward

### **DAG**

Harry Ward

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **A. Opening** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Call to Order and Confirmation of Proper Posting – Gail Rappa.

**Gail Rappa (Board Chair) Called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm. And asked if the meeting had been properly posted.**

**Tony Manfredi responded that the meeting was in compliance with the “declaration of emergency directive 006 3-21-2020 Nevada open meeting law” and has been properly noticed and posted at the Nevada Arts Council Website and on the Nevada Public Notice website.**

- b. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum – Gail Rappa.

**Chair Rappa conducted roll call and determined quorum was established.**

**Present:**

**Andy Lott, Javon Johnson, Karen Michaels, Jerry Schefcik,  
Yale Yeandel, Amanda Horn, Gail Rappa**

**Absent:**

**Mark Salinas**

**Staff and Deputy Attorney General were introduced.**

## **B. Public Comment** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Public comment is welcomed by the Board. Members of the public who wish to participate during a public meeting may do so by providing public comment during the two designated public comment periods. A period of public comment will be allowed at the beginning and at the end of the meeting. Because of time considerations, the period for public comment by each speaker may be limited to three (3) minutes at the discretion of the Chair, and speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers.
- b. Executive Director to state and read any writing public comments that have been received before the meeting.

**Gail Rappa asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.**

## **C. Nevada Arts Council Board Member Introductions/Farewells** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Introductions and Welcome – Gail Rappa

**No new members to introduce**

- b. Thank you to, and farewell remarks from, Amanda Horn – Gail Rappa, Tony Manfredi, Amanda Horn

**Gail thanked Amanda Horn for her service to the board and for all she has done for Nevada Museum of Art and Nevada. Gail wished Amanda much success as she moves on. Amanda thanked Gail and everyone in the meeting. She stated how proud and honored she was to serve on this board and how much she will miss being a part of it and the life she has built in Reno and in Nevada. She stated she is moving to Arkansas with her husband and daughter to be closer to her family. She expressed how much she enjoyed living in Reno and working across the state for the past 15 years. She was**

very sad to be leaving but happy to be moving closer to family. Tony also thanked Amanda for her time serving on the Nevada Arts Council board and for her camaraderie, professionalism, and friendship for the past 15 years. He said he was sad for Nevada and NAC but very happy for she and her family. He wished her well.

**D. Discussion Only – Agency Updates \_\_\_\_\_**

- a. Nevada State Poetry Out Loud 2021 – Tony Manfredi, Maryjane Dorofachuk

**Tony provided an update to the 2021 Poetry Out Loud state finals. He stated that this year’s recitation competition was again held virtually across the state. Last year for the 2020 Nevada Poetry Out Loud, 3,500 students took part. This year, because of the challenges of the pandemic, there were 500 participants. The top five finalists who competed in this year’s competition were Allyson Adamson from Clark County, Ava Nielson from Elko County, Harley Guerrero from Lyon County, Anastasia Chevaller from Storey County, and Eakjot Sekhorn from Washoe County.**

**Eakjot Sekhorn was state champion and a repeat champion, Anastasia Chevaller came in second (and also came in second last year), and third place went to Allyson Adamson**

**Tony then shared Eakjot’s video recitation.**

- b. Update on Governors Approved Budget for FY22 and FY23 – Tony Manfredi

**Tony shared the 2022-2023 Funding recommendations and totals by source. He also shared expenses and then described the agencies focus areas of Arts Education, Economic Vitality, and Healthy Communities.**

- c. Review of Nevada Arts Council District Advocacy Material – Gail Rappa, Tony Manfredi

**Tony shared an update on the district level brochures, highlighting the district level information being put together that highlight agency grant and program highlights that will be shared with board members, legislators, and other constituents across the state. It is expected that these will be complete by April 15.**

**Amanda Horn indicated that this data will benefit the entire arts and culture ecosystem across the state and suggested sharing this information with all agency partners. Tony concurred.**

- d. Updates on American Rescue Plan Act, National Endowment for the Arts

**Tony Manfredi gave an update on the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan (ARP) that was recently passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden. The act included relief funding for the creative industry including \$135 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, \$135 million for the National Endowment for Humanities. \$200 million for the Institute for Museums and Library Services, \$175 million for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, that serves PBS and NPR member stations, an additional \$1.25 billion that was added to the Shuttered Venues Operators Grant, and \$7.25 billion added to the PPP forgivable loans program.**

**Tony anticipates that the agency will receive approximately \$700,000 from the NEA's ARP funding. He also gave an update on the Shuttered Venues Operators Grant**

**Karen Michaels stated she was really interested in the Shuttered Venues Grant information and asked if this is something that can be shared via social media. Tony Manfredi stated that it could be and that the agency has been sharing information about it and been included in a number of statewide webinars about it, including one with Representative Lee down in southern Nevada.**

**Karen Michaels stated that was great information to know.**

**e. Update on FY22 Nevada Arts Council Grants – Tony Manfredi**

**Tony Manfredi gave an update on the agency's FY21 grants awarding 259 grants for \$745,000 to date. Tony reminded the board that funding is much smaller this year due to FY21 budget reductions.**

**Tony gave a report on the 175 Artist Relief Grants that have been awarded for \$1000 each to individual artists across all artistic disciplines. The agency received 934 applications for this grant. Awards were prioritized by geographic diversity and underserved populations and distributed to 10 Nevada counties. 137 from Clark County, 8 from Douglas, 2 in Carson, 15 in Washoe, 2 in Elko, 2 in Churchill, 3 in Lyon, 2 in Pershing, 3 in Nye, and 1 in Storey County.**

**Tony also provided grant funding estimates of \$1,200,000 for fiscal year 22 based upon the governor's recommended budget and National Endowment for the Arts funding.**

**Tony then discussed highlights from the March 23 and 24 We are Listening Sessions that engaged statewide constituents on organizational updates, grant needs and funding concerns to help formulate FY 22 grant opportunities. Operating support grants were the most important funding priority. Other concerns included fundraising, performance venues opening safely, opportunities for spontaneous interactions and collaborations, continuing with virtual programming, and the need for professional development opportunities.**

**f. Update on National Arts Action Summit – Tony Manfredi**

**Tony Manfredi gave an update on the agenda for virtual National Arts Action Summit on April 5th through April 9th.**

**g. Update on Advocacy Day at the Nevada Legislature – Gail Rappa**

**Gail Rappa gave an update on advocacy day for the Nevada legislature and shared that Cultural Alliance Nevada would be conducting a statewide survey, sending out to 200 arts organizations for data collection, launching a new website and will be pushing out social media information each day based upon a theme Sunday - importance of the arts organizations, Monday - arts friendly businesses, Tuesday - arts in the economy, Wednesday - arts and social justice, Thursday - arts education, and then Friday will be a recap and remind those who signed up to reach out to legislators.**

**h. Update on State Poet Laureate – Tony Manfredi**

**Tony Manfredi stated we were able to launch the Nevada Poet Laureate program. Important to note, this is a governor appointed position, but the Arts Council is going to be taking the lead in bringing all the applications together, conducting a panel review that that will then provide recommendations to the governor on the appointment. This will be a two-year program. Upon selection by the governor, the agency will work with the selected poet laureate on the project related activities. The agency is really excited that this project is moving forward.**

**Gail Rappa thanked Tony and the staff and thank board member Javon Johnson for his guidance. She stated that even though this has been a long time coming, the amount of work that has happened in a concentrated period of time to push this forward is impressive.**

#### **E. Discussion Only – Board member Updates \_\_\_\_\_**

**Gail Rappa asked if anybody had anything they wanted to share with the rest of the board and Tony about what's going on within your community.**

**Yale Yeandel stated he had a question about the art advocacy day for the legislature and the tradition of posting the art for the legislative session.**

**Tony Manfredi stated that they have artwork up in the legislative building, highlighting our newest NTI exhibit called Transformers. Stephen has been installing the entire exhibit in stages of three periods because it's a little too large for the space to accommodate. Tony also stated that the Find your Folklife lenticular exhibition is up throughout the legislative building, The agency chose to feature these two exhibits to highlight the core work it does throughout the year with it's funding.**

**Yale Yeandel asked if a calendar was being created.**

**Tony Manfredi stated it was and that he would send that PDF to all board members after the meeting.**

**Gail Rappa asked if anyone else had any questions or comments or board member updates.**

**Karen Michaels stated that April 16th is World Voice Day and that a few voice teachers in Las Vegas area were doing events and featuring tips about vocal wellness and vocal health.**

**Amanda Horn shared information on exhibit openings at the Nevada Museum of Art and described the virtual school tours they are doing in Clark County.**

**F. Discussion Only – Future Agenda Items \_\_\_\_\_**

**Gail Rappa stated, if anybody has a future agenda item that comes up between meetings, please e-mail that to Tony, not to me. And he will make sure that that it's on the agenda. Tony, did you have anything that you wanted to add for the next agenda?**

**Tony Manfredi stated he had nothing at this time to add.**

**G. Public Comment \_\_\_\_\_**

- a. Public comment is welcomed by the Board. Members of the public who wish to participate during a public meeting may do so by providing public comment during the two designated public comment periods. A period of public comment will be allowed at the beginning and at the end of the meeting. Because of time considerations, the period for public comment by each speaker may be limited to three (3) minutes at the discretion of the Chair, and speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers.
- b. Executive Director to state and read any writing public comments that have been received before the meeting.

**Gail Rappa asked if any public comment had come in via e-mail while we've been meeting.**

**Tony Manfredi stated there was no public comment via email at this time and asked if anyone on the call wants to give comments to go ahead and unmute and begin.**

**Claire Muñoz stated she wanted to recognize her colleague and friend Amanda who's so wonderful and has been such a contributor to the museum, but also to the statewide efforts. And all of you for continuing your work. I mentioned to Amanda, and I think that she shared that information because I had a really good conversation with Gail this morning that I would love to participate with the Nevada Arts Council in the future. I'm currently the Senior**

Director of Education and Engagement at the Nevada Museum of Art and I know several of you. I have worked with our community partners across the state of Nevada since 2012, and most essentially statewide since 2015. So, I just wanted to put my name in the hat and say hello to everybody here and just acknowledge the work that's been done and the goals of the Nevada Arts Council, which are so intimately aligned with what I do at the museum and my own personal passion. So. thank you.

Gail Rappa thanked her and asked if there were any other comments. There were none.

**H. For Possible Action – Adjournment** \_\_\_\_\_

Andy Lott made a motion to adjourn. Amanda Horn seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.