

Oregon Cultural Trust Board Meeting Minutes



February 25, 2021

Teleconference

Board Members Present: Chuck Sams, Chair; Nicki Price, Vice-Chair; Theo Downes-LeGuin; Bereniece Jones-Centano; George Kramer; Chris Van Dyke; Gayle Yamasaki.

Board Members Absent: Margaret Doherty; Nathalie Johnson; Gustavo Morales.

Staff Present: Brian Rogers, Executive Director; Kat Bell, Grants & Office Coordinator; Raissa Fleming, Trust Assistant; Carrie Kikel, Communications Manager.

Staff Absent: Aili Schreiner, Trust Manager.

Partners Present: Eliza Canty-Jones, Oregon Historical Society; Chrissy Curran, State Historic Preservation Office; Adam Green, Oregon Humanities; Kuri Gill, Oregon Heritage Commission; Deb Vaughn, Oregon Arts Commission.

Others Present: Liora Sponko, Oregon Arts Commission; Sean Andries, Chehalem Cultural Center; Myong-Hui Murphy, Global Art of Dance.

Welcome and Call to Order

Sams called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Cultural Trust Partner Updates

Kuri Gill said a conversation about the term pioneer is coming up. Adam Davis will lead the conversation on March 10. Grant programs are open. Series of workshops next week to explore the programs. Oregon Heritage Summit registration is open; topic is Collaboration April 29 and 30. Brian Wagner is facilitating the first day; second day is a tips and tools workshop. Also a gathering on morning of April 29 on Latino heritage. Continuing work with FEMA on collections damage due to wildfires. Have first round of results on COVID impacts survey. One question was related to COVID-specific grants for heritage – the Cultural Trust's CRFCS program had very high awareness.

George Kramer asked if Gill would continue as heritage coordinator. She said she hoped the position on the outreach team would be rehired. She will remain the contact for at least the next two years.

Eliza Canty-Jones said things are going well at OHS. They are allowed to reopen the Museum and will open on weekends first, then a few days during the week during spring break. Only 50 people are allowed at a time, including staff. Extended major exhibits well into 2021. Commitment to digital strategy continues. Just released special issue on White Supremacy. Work with educators continues to grow and expand. Oregon has adopted ethnic studies requirements. Just signed a contract with Portland Public Schools for curriculum for third graders. Talks about John Lewis and Ruth Bader Ginsburg scheduled. Levy to support OHS and other historical societies will be on the May ballot in Multnomah County. Working on a special issue of the Quarterly on the Chinese diaspora.

Deb Vaughn said the Arts Commission organized a relief fund for artists in partnership with Oregon Community Foundation and the Miller Foundation. 646 artists were awarded. Arts Commission is working on an 18 to 24 month strategic bridge plan; hope to have it completed in the fall. There will be virtual convenings to gather input. The Poetry Out Loud contest is all virtual this year; the Oregon State Contest will be on the Arts Commission's Facebook page starting at 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 13. Oregon Poet Laureate Anis Mojgani will present remarks. Liora Sponko gave an update on the development of a Cultural Districts Program. She has been connecting with communities to gather feedback on what a program could look like in their community and will be hosting more listening sessions.

Adam Green said Oregon Humanities had a very successful fundraising season with a 20 percent increase in donations. Just presented a new strategic framework with a new mission statement. Continuing the Consider This series. All of the events are on their website. Keeping a close eye on the new stimulus package and preparing for the possibility of an additional influx of funds.

Gayle Yamasaki asked if the Zoom presentations with a wider geographic spread helped with fundraising. Green said yes people have been attending from all over the state. Though they look forward to in person gatherings they will continue some virtual programming. Niki Price asked when the conversation projects will be in person again. Green said it will depend on the counties and their current guidelines for reopening.

Myong-Hui Murphy asked if in-person gatherings will continue in communities with limited online access. Green said absolutely.

Board Governance, Election of Officers

Sams presented the Governance report. It's time to pass on the baton, he said. He expects to join the Governor's Power Council soon. He is also a nominee for the National Parks Service director. COVID vaccinations are going well in Umatilla County.

Brian Rogers said the recommendation is to have Niki Price become Chair and George Kramer to become Vice Chair.

He asked Sean Andries and Murphy to introduce themselves as new board members pending Senate confirmation.

Murphy introduced herself (bio in packet).

Andries introduced himself (bio in packet).

Rogers asked board members to consider people that may be good candidates for board positions coming open in the fall.

Action: Bereniece Jones-Centeno moved approval of Niki Price as Chair and George Kramer as Vice Chair effective immediately and that Sean Andries and Myong-Hui Murphy become board members pending Senate approval. Seconded by Yamasaki. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Sams turned leadership of the meeting over to Chair Price. Price thanked Sams for serving an additional year as Chair to oversee the tax credit reauthorization.

Minutes

Price called for approval of the minutes.

Action: Sams moved approval of the minutes from October 30, 2020 and September 18, 2020. Seconded by Kramer. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Fundraising Campaign Update

Raissa Fleming and Carrie Kikel presented their report. Downes-Le Guin asked if we are in a position to renegotiate our credit card fees. Fleming said she was not sure. Andries asked if virtual board presentations would continue after the pandemic. Kikel said we hope so if virtual meetings are still being held.

Coronavirus Relief Funding Cultural Support Update

Rogers presented report. Kramer asked if Congress passed more federal money and we received some, could we use this model. Rogers responded that the CARES money comes to us through the National Endowment for the Arts so it must be granted to organizations that are adjudicated with an eye toward artistic merit. If more CARES Act funds come to the state and are allocated to culture we could use the CRFCS model.

License Plate Redesign Update

Kikel presented her report. Downes-Le Guin asked Kikel to discuss marketing the plate.

Executive Director Report

Rogers presented his report.

Grant Programs Update

Rogers presented report.

Board and Staff Updates

Yamasaki said that even though John Goodwin isn't on this call, she wanted to thank him for his time and service to the board.

Motion

Send something to the office for a gift basket for John Goodwin

Downes-Le Guin moved and Kramer seconded. Items to be sent to the Trust office by March 8. Fleming offered to assemble and send to Goodwin.

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

Price adjourned the meeting at 12:02 pm.