



## **Region of Waterloo Arts Fund**

### **Minutes**

Monday, June 15, 2020

5:00 p.m.

Meeting held electronically

Regional Administration Building

150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario

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Present were: President B. Chesney, A. Dobkowski, L. Golds, B.A. Keller, R. Nixon, K. Redman, I. Ring, S. Scott, K. Sheehy, C.A. Treitz and R. Waldeck

Not Present: M. Braun and H. Jowett

Also Present: K. Odson, Artist at Large Advisor; H. Chimirri-Russell, Director, Cultural Services

### **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest Under “The Conflict of Interest Policy of the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund”**

None declared.

### **Business Arising from the Minutes of January 16, 2020**

#### **1. Communications Committee Report**

Susan Scott summarized the Arts Fund Plan to Engage Artists via Social Media. The Communications Committee engaged with local artists Vincent Marcone, Jason Green, and Adrian Konstant, who all have a strong social media presence, to advise on how to strengthen connections and communications with local artists. Adele Dobkowski said the Arts Fund now has a Facebook page, which has done quite well with support from the local community, but an Instagram account will also be needed to fully connect with local artists. She noted the artists consulted suggested a formula for successful social media postings and the Arts Fund can ask grantees to generate content by promoting their Arts Fund supported project, which will be monitored and vetted for posting. Artists

will also be asked to use their own social media to make Arts Fund supported projects as visible as possible.

The Board discussed the best way to find the right Social Media Coordinator, who will set up an Instagram account for the Arts Fund and monitor all social media. It was agreed the Coordinator should be someone from the local arts community and that advertising for the position could be done through social media and the Arts Fund's current Mailchimp mailing list. S. Scott, as Chair of the Communications Committee, and support staff will supervise the Coordinator.

Moved by B.A. Keller

Seconded by R. Waldeck

That the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund advertise for a position to manage Arts Fund social media, with specific terms to be determined, for \$100 per week, beginning in August 2020.

Carried

S. Scott and A. Dobkowski will work on the advertisement to circulate for the position.

## 2. Electronic Applications and One Stage Application Update

Lindsay Golds said she and T. Plummer have started onboarding with WizeHive and summarized the process in place to implement development of the online application. She will be calling on some Board members and previous applicants to help test the application, and final signoff with WizeHive is expected July 30. T. Plummer has created a MailChimp mailing list that will be used for e-blast messaging to advertise the new online application. Staff were directed to remove all current application forms from the website and post notice about the upcoming online application process. The Board will control when the application will be released and a link will be posted on the Arts Fund website. Once it goes live, no changes will be able to be made to the Fall application but it can be reviewed after the Fall 2020 intake to identify any changes needed after having experienced a round of applications and grant decisions. The Communications Committee will identify a strategy to launch the online applications, including website postings, e-blasts, media spots, Facebook and Instagram. A meeting will be set up in August to walk the Board through the online application.

## 3 Region of Waterloo Arts Fund Granting Philosophy – Draft Discussion Paper

B.A. Keller reviewed the work that has been done since the Retreat in 2019 and noted resiliency will continue to be important as the Arts Fund and the local arts community move forward and beyond the current pandemic.

The Draft Discussion Paper was received for information.

T. Plummer will circulate the summary document provided by L. Golds which was used to inform the questions being developed for the online application system.

4. Repeat Funding – Draft Discussion Paper

B.A. Keller noted many Arts Fund grants are turning into operating grants for applicants. She said the paper was provided for information and given the current circumstances with COVID-19, that the Board should wait to consider further discussion.

A. Dobkowski will work with B.A. Keller to identify what still needs to be done from tasks developed at the Retreat and will circulate the various documents that were generated.

### **Correspondence**

1 Neruda Arts, Re: Appeal of Arts Fund Guideline

The Board discussed the request by I. Cisterna to reconsider the current Arts Fund application guideline that new applications are not allowed from any grantees with open or outstanding projects or reports, especially for an organization like Neruda which represents a large group of people with a wide variety of projects.

The Board agreed that given current circumstances with COVID-19, further discussion on this topic should be deferred since there is so much need in the community and this may not be the best time to consider funding more than one grant for an artist or organization. B. Chesney will respond to I. Cisterna with the Board's response.

2 Vincent Marcone, The TORNographers (F19-44) Re: Request for Project Change

The Board discussed the request for a project change and project extension. Staff are directed to send written notification of the Board's decision and want to be kept informed of which Mr. Marcone will do.

Moved by B.A. Keller

Seconded by R. Waldeck

That the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund approve the request for a project change for Vincent Marcone's project, The TORNographers (F19-44) and a project extension, as outlined in his correspondence of June 1, 2020, until January 15, 2021, at which time a Final Report will be due.

Carried

3 The Board ratified the following requests which were approved via e-mail in advance of the June 15, 2020 Arts Fund Board meeting. Staff are directed to send written notification of the Board's decision.

- Joni NehRita, Love & Protest (F17-45) Re: Project Update

Moved by S. Scott

Seconded by I. Ring

That the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund approve the request for a project revision for Joni NehRita's project, Love & Protest (F17-45), as outlined in correspondence from April 22, 2020, and a project extension, until December 31, 2021, at which time a Final Report will be due.

Carried

- Isabella Stefanescu, Closures (S18-46) Re: Project Extension to June 30, 2020

Moved by S. Scott

Seconded by I. Ring

That the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund approve the request for a project extension for Isabella Stefanescu's project, Closures (S18-46), until June 30, 2020, at which time a Final Report will be due.

Carried

- Bonita Wagler, The Elmira Water Project (F18-16) Re: Project Extension to December 31, 2020

Moved by S. Scott

Seconded by I. Ring

That the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund approve the request for a project extension for Bonita Wagler's project, The Elmira Water Project (F18-16), until December 31, 2021, at which time a Final Report will be due.

Carried

- Ayr (Dumfries) Pipe Band, Creating a Community Hub through Piping and Drumming (F18-28) Re: Request for Extension to December 31, 2020

Moved by S. Scott

Seconded by I. Ring

That the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund approve the request for a project extension for Kelley McPate, Ayr (Dumfries) Pipe Band's project, Creating a Community Hub through

Piping and Drumming (F18-28), until December 31, 2021, at which time a Final Report will be due.

Carried

- Kitchener-Waterloo Poetry Slam, Grand Poetic Showcase (F18-66) Re: Project Extension

Moved by S. Scott

Seconded by I. Ring

That the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund approve the request for a project extension for Bashar Jabbour, Kitchener-Waterloo Poetry Slam's project, Grand Poetic Showcase (F18-66), until December 31, 2021, at which time a Final Report will be due.

Carried

- Jennifer Lloyd, Lover Boy (F18-67) Re: Project Extension

Moved by S. Scott

Seconded by I. Ring

That the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund approve the request for a project extension for Jennifer Lloyd's project, Lover Boy (F18-67), until December 31, 2021, at which time a Final Report will be due.

Carried

- Green Light Arts, Sudden Death: The John Kordic Story (S19-19) Re: Project Extension to February 28, 2021

Moved by S. Scott

Seconded by I. Ring

That the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund approve the request for a project extension for Carin Lowerison, Green Light Arts' project, Sudden Death: The John Kordic Story (S19-19), until February 28, 2021, at which time a Final Report will be due.

Carried

- Richard Stephens, The Wizards Gallows – An Epic Fantasy Series (F19-01) Re: Project Extension to December 31, 2021

Moved by S. Scott

Seconded by I. Ring

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That the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund approve the request for a project extension for Richard Stephens's project, The Wizards Gallows – An Epic Fantasy Series (F19-01), until December 31, 2021, at which time a Final Report will be due.

Carried

- Mary Neil, Exploring Diversity in the Region of Waterloo through Community Compositions and Junk Music (F19-12) Re: Project Change and Project Extension to February 28, 2021

Moved by S. Scott

Seconded by I. Ring

That the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund approve the request for a project revision for Mary Neil's project, Exploring Diversity in the Region of Waterloo through Community Compositions and Junk Music (F19-12), as outlined in correspondence from March 15, 2020, and a project extension, until December 31, 2021, at which time a Final Report will be due.

Carried

- Open Ears, Arts and Sound Walk (F19-14) Re: Project Extension to August 31, 2021

Moved by S. Scott

Seconded by I. Ring

That the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund approve the request for a project extension for Richard Burrows, Open Ears' project, Arts and Sound Walk (F19-14), until December 31, 2021, at which time a Final Report will be due.

Carried

- North South Entertainment, I Once was Lost (F19-22) Re: Request for Project Change

Moved by S. Scott

Seconded by I. Ring

That the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund approve the request for a project revision for Laureen Kuhl, North South Entertainment's project, I Once was Lost (F19-22), as outlined in correspondence from March 23, 2020.

Carried

- University of Waterloo Art Gallery, This Could be the Place (F19-32) Re: Project Extension to June 30, 2021

Moved by S. Scott

Seconded by I. Ring

That the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund approve the request for a project extension for Ivan Jurakic, University of Waterloo Art Gallery's project, This Could be the Place (F19-32), until December 31, 2021, at which time a Final Report will be due.

Carried

- Age of Majority Singers, Branches (F19-40) Re: Project Extension to June 25, 2021

Moved by S. Scott

Seconded by I. Ring

That the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund approve the request for a project extension for Megan Brenneman, Age of Majority Singers' project, Branches (F19-40), until December 31, 2021, at which time a Final Report will be due.

Carried

- ProjectUP, Because of Her (F19-54) Re: Project Extension to April 1, 2021

Moved by S. Scott

Seconded by I. Ring

That the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund approve the request for a project extension for Shama Saleh, ProjectUP's project, Because of Her (F19-54), until December 31, 2021, at which time a Final Report will be due.

Carried

## **New Business**

1. Final Reports Update: COVID overall approach to extension requests

B. Chesney reviewed the guiding ideas regarding all Final Reports that would be due in 2020, noting the deadline for completion of all current granted projects due in 2020 has been extended to December 31, 2020 and any extension requests made because of COVID19 would be extended to December 31, 2021.

2. MPP Laura Mae Lindo Virtual Living Room Conversation

B.A. Keller reviewed key highlights noting the topic of resiliency, the theme of lack of leadership in arts community, and, a renewed enthusiasm for a Regional Arts Council.

3. ArtsUnite Ontario Project

B. Chesney summarized the forum he attended on behalf of the Arts Fund. ArtScape, along with Ontario Arts Council and other regional and national funding partners, want to provide a “one-stop” service that brings together all available resources to assist artists in knowing what resources are available and how to access them. He signed a provided letter on behalf of the Arts Fund and once resources have been developed, a link can be added to the Arts Fund website.

4. Good Foundation Update

B. Chesney said he had exchanged emails with Jim Good in January regarding an organization that had not included the Good Foundation logo in their project literature. B. Chesney followed-up with all grantees who received funding from the Good Foundation to remind them of their obligations to acknowledge both the Arts Fund and the Good Foundation. He also said the Good Foundation has recommitted to providing \$40,000 to the Fall 2020 round of grants.

**Closed Session**

Moved by K. Redman

Seconded by I. Ring

That a closed meeting of the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund be held on June 15, 2020 at approximately 6:20 p.m., electronically, for the purpose of considering the following subject matters:

- a) Personal matters about identifiable individuals related to final reports

Carried

**Motion to Reconvene into Open Session**

Moved by K. Sheehy

Seconded by I. Ring

That the Arts Fund Board reconvene into Open Session at 6:45 p.m.

Carried



**Other Business**

Earl McCluskie, Kaleidoscope: Grand Music Live @ Lot 42 (S18-48) Re: Request for Project Change

Moved by B.A. Keller

Seconded by S. Scott

That the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund approve, in principle, the request from Earl McCluskie, Kaleidoscope: Grand Music Live @ Lot 42 (S18-48), for a project change, as outlined in his correspondence from June 15, 2020;

And that E. McCluskie be requested to provide a budget for his requested project change for further consideration by the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund Board.

Motion defeated: 7 against; 3 in favour

Moved by A. Dobkowski

Seconded by I. Ring

That the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund direct staff to issue a Demand for Payment letter to Earl McCluskie for the project Kaleidoscope: Grand Music Live @ Lot 42 (S18-48).

Carried

**Next Meetings:**

- **September 10, 2020**
  - Annual General Meeting
  - Regular Meeting
- **Thursday, November 12, 2020 (Fall 2020 Grant Review Meeting)**

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

**Board President, B. Chesney**

**Corporate Clerk, T. Plummer**