MINUTES

Wisconsin Arts Board Special Meeting

Monday, September 14, 2026
Meeting Location | Virtual

Board Members Present
Brian Kelsey
Dinorah Márquez Abadiano
Marcela "Xela" Garcia
Jayne Herring
John W. Johnson
Susan Lipp
William Mitchell
John Potter
Tyler Marchant
Kristin Tjornehoj
LaShawndra Vernon
Matthew Wallock

Staff Members Present
George Tzougros
Karen Goeschko
Kaitlyn Berle
Vivienne Timchenko
Nathaniel Petreman

Board Members Excused
Karen Ann Hoffman
Jennifer Schwarzkopf
Lynn Richie

Welcome and Introductions _____Kelsey

Chair Kelsey called the meeting to order at 2:02pm.

Budget recommendation for 2027-29 Biennium _____Potter/Tzougros

The WAB Budget and Finance Committee met on August 5th to determine the following recommendation. During the second year of the biennium—FY2029—the budget should increase by 3.5% to match the anticipated increase in funding through the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA.) State funding is needed to realize the full grant amount from NEA. Including it in the Biennial Budget reduces or eliminates the need for a "1310 request" for FY29 to the WI Department of Administration—a special request for funding to meet the NEA amount proposed. Inclusion in the biennial budget is more efficient for the WAB, DOA, and Legislature.

Potter moved and Johnson seconded that the WAB request a 3.5% increase to its FY29 budget in order to match anticipated NEA grant dollars.

Staff is working with the board to develop a white paper focused on increased funding to WI's arts community in general and the Wisconsin Regranting Program in particular. This

paper will be shared with the Secretary of Tourism, the Joint Committee on Finance, the new Governor, and legislative leadership. It will communicate the history of the Arts Board's state funding; outline scenarios that take in consideration funding comparisons with other Midwest states and the nation; and address the rate of inflation.

Currently Wisconsin Arts Board is funded at $0.18 per capita. The recommended level will be $0.60 per capita, an increase of $0.42 per capita.

Other Business_____Kelsey
Board members were reminded of the meetings in Eau Claire and Hudson, WI that will take place from Thursday night through Saturday morning as part of the WAB's quarterly board meeting on September 24-26th.

Lipp moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:20p.m. Garcia seconded. Motion carried.