

# MINUTES

## Wisconsin Arts Board Quarterly Meeting

Saturday September 13, 2025 8:45 am – 12:00 pm

Meeting Location | Via Zoom and In Person

Lemon Street Gallery

4601 Sheridan Road

Kenosha, WI 53240

### Board Members Present

Brian Kelsey  
Jayne Herring  
Marcela “Xela” Garcia  
John W. Johnson  
Susan Lipp  
Dinorah Márquez Abadiano  
Tyler Marchant  
William Mitchell  
John Potter  
Jennifer Schwarzkopf  
LaShawndra Vernon

### Staff Members Present

George Tzougros  
Karen Goeschko  
Vivienne Timchenko  
Kaitlyn Berle

### Board Members Excused

Karen Ann Hoffman  
Lynn Richie  
Mari Lindsay Schneider  
Matthew Wallock

**Welcome and Introductions** \_\_\_\_\_ **Kelsey**

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Kelsey.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Johnson and seconded by Vernon.

**Closed Session** \_\_\_\_\_ **Kelsey**

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(g) the board moved into closed session to confer with legal counsel with respect to terms of federal award at 9:05 am on a motion by Schwarzkopf and seconded by Marchant.

The board, on a motion by Schwarzkopf and seconded by Potter reconvened in open session at 9:45 am.

**Minutes** \_\_\_\_\_ **Herring**

Minutes of the May 9, 2025 Annual Board Meeting were approved on a motion by Schwarzkopf and seconded by Vernon with correction of spelling of staff person Vivienne Timchenko's first name.

Minutes of the May 9, 2025 Quarterly Board Meeting were approved on a motion by Vernon and seconded by Potter with correction of spelling of staff person Vivienne Timchenko's first name.

**Arts Board Logistics** \_\_\_\_\_ **Kelsey**

**Future Board Meeting Dates 2025-26**

December 12, 2025 - in Milwaukee

March 17, 2026 - during WIGOT in Milwaukee

May 15 - in Madison, includes Annual Meeting

September 24-26 - West-Central Wisconsin, locations TBD

December 11, 2026 – in Milwaukee

**Panel Chair Assignments**

FY 26 Creation and Presentation - Music (11/18&19/25) Lipp chair, Vernon/Marquez back up

FY 26 Creation and Presentation - New (11/21/25) Lipp chair, Vernon/Marquez back up

FY 26 Woodland Indian Arts Program (3/9 or 3/10, 2026) Hoffman chair, Schwarzkopf/Garcia back up

FY 27 Creative Communities

--Arts in Education (4/23 or 24/2026) Johnson chair, Mitchell back up

--Folk Arts/Folk Arts Apprenticeship (4/27 or 28 or 29/2026) Marchant chair, Herring/Vernon back up

--Local Arts (4/30/2026) Schwarzkopf, chair, Herring/Vernon back up

**Bylaws Committee Report** \_\_\_\_\_ **Potter**

Potter reported, after review of the bylaws by the committee, that three changes (as outlined on page 14 of the board book) were required and had been sent to the board within the required timeframe. The changes were approved on a motion by Johnson and seconded by Schwarzkopf.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Nominating Committee** \_\_\_\_\_ **Schwarzkopf**

A committee comprised of Schwarzkopf, Lipp, and Richie will seek officer candidates for election at the Annual meeting. The committee was elected on a motion by Potter and seconded by Herring.

**Budget Committee Report** \_\_\_\_\_ **Potter**

Potter reported that the FY26 NEA grant will appear to be under-matched, but that at the end of the biennium we will end up slightly over matched. We are on budget for the current fiscal year (FY 26).

--The required State match has increased this year due to the NEA's increased support in the areas of America 250 (\$25,000) and the Arts and Health (\$75,000).

-- As a reminder, State dollars support three staff people and a small amount of DOA administrative costs. The rest of staff and most WAB operational expenses, including travel and computers, are paid by Federal dollars.

--We will ask DOA to clear up the assessment listed on this report.

--Space rental also seems to be incorrectly allocated and we will ask DOA to get it in the right spot.

--A motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Potter to approve the FY26 Budget along with any remedies necessary after clarification by the Department of Administration and seconded by Potter. The motion carried.

--Goeschko is working on the annual NEA grant request, which is due at the end of September.

**External Relations** \_\_\_\_\_ **Garcia**

The committee will continue to watch the federal funding situation and what is happening with funding of state agencies. Garcia will be participating in a League of Municipalities panel discussion next week in Milwaukee about strengthening communities using the arts.

**Access Committee** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mitchell**

The Access Committee, now a standing committee through a bylaws change approved earlier in this meeting, is embracing flexibility in who they serve. They will react to needs as expressed. The members stand by having WAB grantees report every 3 years on accessibility and feel it will lead to improvements within their organization and help broaden their audience base.

**Program Updates**

**Creation and Presentation** \_\_\_\_\_ **Goeschko**

October 9<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for Music organizations to submit applications which will be reviewed by the Creation and Presentation - Music panel in November. A smattering of applications also are expected to be submitted by organizations in other disciplines. These will be reviewed by the Creation and Presentation – New Applicants panel in November.

**Creative Communities** \_\_\_\_\_ **Goeschko**

The guidelines and almost all of the panelists have been set early in advance of Berle's expected leave. The America 250-related projects have been integrated into Creative Communities (Phase 1 applications) but have separate guidelines.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grant Program Update** \_\_\_\_\_ **Goeschko**

All 22 counties that were the focus of this grant program have been served. Staff will encourage these applicants to submit FY27 Creative Communities grant applications, building upon their current work.

**Woodland Indian Arts Program** \_\_\_\_\_ **Goeschko**

The February application deadline for this program will allow more time than the previous November deadline for the applicants to develop their proposals during what is typically their "down" time.

## Old Business

### Chairman's report \_\_\_\_\_ Kelsey

Kelsey expressed gratitude to all who participated in the Executive Director's performance review—the first in more than a decade. The results have been shared with Tzougros.

### Arts Board Member Regional Reports \_\_\_\_\_ Kelsey

Board member reports make it clear that the arts—visual and performing—are actively engaging their communities across the state with new plays and concerts, new visual art shows, culinary arts, and even new venues coming on line.

### Executive Director's Report \_\_\_\_\_ Tzougros

**Arts Midwest** received a large private financial gift and is currently looking for ways to help Michigan's state arts agency, which is in danger of being defunded by its legislature.

**Midwest Arts Xpo** is being held in Milwaukee for the first time ever, September 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. The WAB is a sponsor and Tzougros and Goeschko will be very involved in this presenting/performing arts conference in sessions and in the exhibit hall.

**Non-State Grant Program**, created by Governor Evers, is accepting its second round of applications for construction projects that are "shovel ready." WAB has promoted this DOA-run opportunity through the WI Arts News and during this Racine/Kenosha board visit.

**Wisconsin Science Festival** will run from October 16-26, statewide.

**Rural Arts & Culture Forum**, co-sponsored by WAB and Create WI and hosted by the Mabel Tainter Historic Theater, will be held October 28<sup>th</sup> in Menomonie, WI.

**The Art and Health "Social Prescription" Project** is closer to happening in WI. The partners bringing in Art Pharmacy need to raise \$250,000 to get the project started. They are well over halfway there.

## New Business

Herring thanked all who attended the meeting and the Racine/Kenosha tours Thursday evening through Saturday.

No other new business.

**Adjournment** \_\_\_\_\_ **Kelsey**

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 pm on a motion by Schwarzkopf and seconded by Vernon.