



MSAC Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES
August 24, 2021

The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Council, make recommendations to the Council, and shall perform other duties as specified...

In attendance: Benny Russell, Jackie Copeland, Anne Winter West, Carole Alexander, Shelley Morhaim, Julie Madden, Chad Buterbaugh, Emily Sollenberger, Laura Weiss, Dana Parsons, Keyonna Penick

11:02 a.m. meeting called to order by Jackie Copeland.

The Chairperson reported that there would be a report included in the September Council Meeting agenda in regards to the discussion held during the closed July 16, 2021 Council meeting.

Interim Director, Steven Skerritt-Davis Report

Staffing Update

Art in Education Program Director position exempt from hiring freeze, submitted and approved to be posted. Chad Buterbaugh elevated from program director position to Senior Program Director. As such, he will retain oversight of the Folklife Network while Folklife Specialist Ryan Koons focuses more on daily administration of folklife.

Human Resources is ready to move forward posting the Executive Director position. The Executive Committee is proposing to review applications, conduct interviews and make a recommendation. The Council agreed the process is a welcomed change from the previous time an ED was hired. Steven will inform the Assistant Secretary that Jackie is the point person for the interview process.

Artist Employment Initiative Update, Chad Buterbaugh

Phased development: Phase 1 (summer): Staff interviews; Phase 2 (fall): Public outreach (Five public dialogues, online survey, program-specific communication); Phase 3 (winter): Program development; Phase 4 (spring): Marketing. Rollout Summer 2022. Parallel trends at other SAAs; Rhode



Island State Council on the Arts; South Carolina Arts Commission

Office Move Update

Staff to continue tele-working 100% after a survey revealed staff found the hybrid-virtual model to be inequitable and challenging. The office building remains open until the scheduled move to the World Trade Center is complete. Staff are using this as an opportunity to reimagine how they meet and engage with constituents in the field.

September Council Meeting Agenda Items

Amendments to the by-laws. Add former chair to Executive Committee, expanding the committee from 5 to 7.

Council agreed that in-person staff updates are valuable, but highlighted one or two programs during council meetings may be more efficient.

New Business

Staff recordings of areas of responsibility and program descriptions have been prepared during staff meetings and are available for review.

American for the Arts have not shown evidence of internal equity work taking place. Staff will hold a discussion and email a vote to the council as to continuing membership.

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.