



Deputy/Assistant Director Peer Session

November 14, 2014

Notes

Each attendee introduced herself or himself. The Deputy Director Peer Group coordinators (Michael Donovan of Missouri, Marian Boyd of Arkansas, Camellia El-Antably of Wyoming and David Slatery of Massachusetts) took turns introducing the various items on the [agenda](#).

National Endowment for the Arts Presentation

Several representatives of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) addressed the group concerning new NEA grant reporting requirements for state arts agencies (SAAs) as well as other happenings at the NEA. A number of handouts describing the new processes were distributed. **Andi Mathis** began the presentation by briefly describing some new federal grants management requirements promulgated by the Office of Management and Budget and found at 2 CFR Part 200. She highlighted the fact that there were many "newish" requirements for "pass through" entities (which include SAAs), found specifically at Part 200.331. **Carrie Holbo** explained that these new requirements apply only to SAAs' NEA funds and the required match, and referred the group to the handout, [Resources for Managing a Partnership Award](#).

Beth Bienvenu discussed accessibility issues, thanked everyone who had attended the LEAD conference in Chicago last August and urged SAAs to send representatives to [next August's LEAD Conference](#), to be held in Washington, D.C. Beth mentioned the establishment of an Arts, Health & Aging network that 27 or so states had joined. NASAA indicated that it had established a listserv for accessibility coordinators.

The presentation then returned to grant reporting requirements. Andi summarized them and the time line for implementation, which is summarized in [Resources for Managing a Partnership Award](#). Andi indicated the new requirements would be reflected in the annual reports due in September 2016 (federal fiscal year 2016). Andi then described some new changes around the annual partnership grant panel process. This year, the panel discussion will be available for viewing on video and

all panel comments will be submitted in advance and summarized by NEA staff prior to discussion of each application. The panels will be held January 13, 14 and 15, 2015, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Eastern.

Nikki Jacobs discussed the new NEA Handbook, which should have all of the information needed by SAAs in one place. A discussion on several items related to the new requirements (with particular attention paid to the new requirement that SAAs are required to accept any grantee's federally negotiated indirect cost rate under the new rules). **Laura Scanlan** offered her welcome and support to the SAAs as they work through all of the discussed changes.

The peer group thanked the NEA representatives for their thorough presentation and detailed handouts.

Lightning Presentations: Quick Presentations by our Peers

Mollie Hayes, South Arts, on ArtsReady: Mollie discussed the National Coalition for Arts Preparedness and Emergency Response's efforts to assist artists, cultural workers and organizations to prepare for and respond to disasters. The efforts are described in detail in [Essential Guidelines for Arts Responders Organizing in the Aftermath of Disaster](#).

Alison Watson, Michigan, on a Smart Phone App for Public Art: Alison explained that this initiative, which provides a tool for finding public art in Michigan by using a smartphone, grew out of an effort to develop a public art database for the state. The work is described in [Michigan Art Tours](#).

David Huff, Oregon, on Services to Individual Artists: David described Oregon's efforts to support practicing artists with unrestricted artist fellowship awards and career opportunity grants. "Artists should not be required to have grant-writing skills." The programs are described in [Oregon Individual Artist Grants](#).

Jaime Dempsey, Arizona, on Outcome-based Grant Programs: Jaime explained the efforts in Arizona to change the criteria of awarding grants to arts organizations from a formula/entitlement based system to one that is based on achievement of specific results. The state's efforts are summarized in [Arizona Grantmaking Renovations](#).

David Slatery, Massachusetts, on UP: David described a new accessibility initiative designed to change the culture around accessibility issues. "UP is a direction, not a destination." The initiative is summarized in [Massachusetts Accessibility Initiative](#).

Panel Discussion: Arts and Cultural Districts

The Arts and Cultural Districts panel engaged in a wide-ranging discussion of four different states' programs and of the concept of cultural districts generally.

Dan Strauss presented on Kentucky's program, **Sheila Sears** on Colorado's, and NASAA conference-host [Louisiana's cultural districts](#) were described by **Gaye Hamilton**.

Theresa Cameron of Americans for the Arts talked about [cultural districts generally](#), and specifically about the Maryland statute with which she had been involved. Panelists summarized their various state programs and different approaches, emphases and tools. Theresa mentioned the idea of creating a national group to look at cultural district issues and invited any interested parties to meet a gathering later in the day.

At the conclusion of the presentations, all presenters, panelists and participants in the Deputy/Assistant Directors Peer Session were presented with a copy of *Start with Why*, by Simon Sinek, a recommended work on leadership and inspiration—all courtesy of NASAA from the administrative funds made available for the session.

This year's Deputy/Assistant Directors Peer Session committee will coordinate next year's session.