

SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL

Minutes of the May 27, 2021 Special Council meeting

Held online due to COVID-19 pandemic

1. **Call to Order** – SDAC Chairman Mary Bordeaux called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. CDT.

- A. Council members present were Jim Walker, Jane Rasmussen, John Mogen, Brian Bonde, Lee Ann Roripaugh, Nan Venhuizen, Lynne Byrne. Council members Dohui Kim, Laura Diddle and Roger Broer were absent. Also present were SDAC staff members Patrick Baker, Rebecca Cruse, Kathryn Vandel, and Sarah Carlson.

2. **Public Comment Period** – No public comment was given.

3. **Review of select proposed FY22 Grants** – Bordeaux explained that she had to call a special meeting for the Council due to two conflicting actions taken at the May 7 meeting when the Council reviewed grant recommendations and approved the FY22 budget. At that meeting, the Council had approved grant recommendations from the theatre panel, which included a new application in the Statewide Services grant category with a funding recommendation of \$48,000. However, the Council did not approve the budget that would fund that grant application along with the rest of the grant recommendations. They had approved an alternative budget that did not allow that funding.

Theatre Panel chair Jim Walker reviewed the panel recommendation to approve this grant application and explained how the funds for the grant were already being used for this work with this organization and they would be moved from the current programs to the Statewide Services program to accommodate this change. The organization had requested the change because the parameters of the Touring and AISC programs were limiting for their organization and the schools and students they serve all across the state, and they believe the Statewide Services grant is a better fit for their organization.

Action: Walker made a motion to approve the theatre panel's recommendation to fund the grant application from Dakota Players in the Statewide Services grant program and to approve the correct budget – labeled Budget A – to fund the grant in that program, replacing Budget B, approved at the May 7 meeting. Discussion was held. All members voted in favor of the motion via roll call vote.

Discussion: Bonde stated concerns that he does not believe this grant proposal really fits into the Statewide Services grant program and that the organization was allowed to apply for the program in a year when the Council would normally not be accepting applications for Statewide Services grants.

Baker explained that the request came from the organization, and he shared it with the executive committee of the Council, per program guidelines. The executive committee agreed that the application should be allowed and considered. Walker added that the

panel had also discussed this matter and weighed it in their decision to recommend funding.

Bonde said if an organization can't do the work they need to do because of parameters in grant programs, then the Council should be revising the programs to better fit their needs, and that his concerns are with making special allowances for the application in an off-year for the program. This may be a slippery slope. Bonde said he really supports the work that's happening and wants to help the organization.

Rasmussen said she would like to learn more about what wasn't working for the organization in the touring and residency programs and how moving to the Statewide Services program would help solve those matters.

Venhuizen asked if the Council could approve the grant for this year and then work on solving some of the issues moving forward.

Walker said he believes that would be the proper approach to help the organization work more effectively for the coming year, and the Council could review programs and policies during the summer meeting to see if there are ways to adapt programming to help.

5. Adjournment – Bordeaux adjourned the meeting at 1:22 p.m. CDT.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Cruse, recording secretary