

Present: Ritcherson, Klehr, Williams-Maclin, Trone, Chambers (late), Supervisor Chawla, Morgan, Miquelon, Everson (mistakenly went to Access Wisconsin)

Staff: Mark J. Fraire, Director

Excused: Montoto

The new Executive Director of Very Special Arts, Christina Martin-Wright, presented her visions for VSA with a note that they are changing their name which is to be announced on the upcoming Sunday at a special event. VSA works with and for those with disabilities producing art over various disciplines.

Grants discussion

Chair Ritcherson offers that Grants awarded could be based on issues vs disciplines— Dane Arts is a funding source so what if Dane Arts acts like a funding source and we seek Requests for Proposals moving from reactive to proactive where we are helping to enhance the quality of life in addition to maintaining quality of life?

Chawla agrees but asks commissioners to consider a traditional grant cycle and a second cycle that could be more issues based

Morgan- maybe allot funds for a specific issue from the regular grant based funding

Ritcherson added that this is just the first step in the discussion to consider moving from a reactive position to a proactive position in the funds distribution process. - - does this sound like the right thing to do?

Chawla agrees the idea is good but a change could be shifted that might encourage new applicants and maybe having non-profits in that area help to determine proposals- alert nonprofits that might fit within those areas- might be a good way to expand “our charter” and a good idea of merging various arenas-

Chambers noted the merging of arts and advocacy as less desirable- she added that an organization chooses its work specifically aligned with that organization’s mission

Chambers- while you may expand our charter- but to me it is also means create- but is this aligned with our mission? I don’t think this forum is for advocacy but for casting beauty through those non-profits

Morgan- we do award and encourage artistic projects and support organizations with strong advocacy programs but as Chambers states it is decided by the arts organization proposing rather than Dane Arts imposing its guidelines

Chawla noted that stories must still come from the communities and we should work to support those ideas

Ritcherson added that our job is to effectively and efficiently use tax payer dollars and determine the best means by which to distribute? Will taxpayers not like how those funds are used if we change the process from reactive to proactive?

Klehr said that she appreciates what you all are saying and it is great being proactive but maybe not enough people may still even know about Dane Arts so we still need to achieve that too

Miquelon added that maybe the idea can be embedded within the work we already do

Ritcherson concluded that we should start the discussion

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Blockstein grant funds for this cycle will be determined by the commission itself- - an award will be added to award an organization that aligns with the goals of the Blockstein funds

Commission will review the criteria for the blockstein and include in the first cycle of 2020

Executive Committee will continue to discuss innovative ideas for the funds distribution process

Ritcherson- Second discussion item- geographic distribution of dollars- every city contributes to Dane County's budget- should we find a way to equitably give funds back to each city in Dane County?

A process in which we alert all communities on how funds are distributed

Trone- Cognizant of focusing on Madison and we need to think how we go about this process and take it seriously that we are the county but do we want to go that far related to a formula vs merit

Morgan- we need to keep talking about how to award rural areas or those with less funding traditionally

Grant group- no report

PR- two more days of circus camp but will researching arts groups in dane county – Montoto and Miquelon

Fund raising- no report from Chambers

Director's report submitted in writing prior to meeting

