

MINUTES OF THE NEW MEXICO MUSIC COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

I. Roll Call and Introduction

The regular meeting of the New Mexico Music Commission was called to order by Chair Carlos Medina at approximately 1:07 p.m. on the Zoom teleconference platform. Administrator Bruell called roll and a quorum was achieved with the following Commissioners present:

Commissioners Present

Carlos Medina
Buddy Abeyta
Sara Diaz
Keith Langerman
Derrick Lee
Nelson Martinez
Busy McCarroll
Sullivan Peraino
Jennifer Rogers
Tracey Whitney

Commissioners Excused

D'Santi Nava
Jir Anderson
Tom Frouge
Marc Whitmore
Zenobia

Dept. of Cultural Affairs Staff Present

Katie Bruell
Nancy Cooper
Max DeAzevedo
Jane Egan
Michelle Laflamme-Childs

Attorney General's Office

Chris Moander

Others Present

David Schwartz, New Mexico Arts Foundation

II. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Whitney moved approval of the agenda as presented. Commissioner Langerman seconded and the agenda was unanimously approved by a verbal vote.

III. Request for Approval of the October 25, 2022 Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner McCarroll moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as published. Commissioner Abeyta seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved by verbal vote.

IV. Executive Updates

Executive Director Michelle Laflamme-Childs:

DCA: We are now in the legislative session and DCA is working through various bills that may directly or indirectly impact them. They are doing some bill analysis, which Commissioner Media also was able to participate in. Budget items are also being worked on, including the Music Commission budget. There are important committee budget hearings Thursday and Friday of the current week. They can be streamed or attended in person. People who are in person have the opportunity to stand up and show their support for DCA and its budget.

Katie Bruell was introduced to the group as the new administrator for the Music Commission.

NM Arts: NM Arts is down a few staff members, which is making things challenging, but will allow them to reclassify certain staff positions so that the job titles reflect the abilities needed and duties performed.

HB8, Creative Industries bill is in process. DCA is neutral as the executive has not taken any position on it. There are official talking points which ED Laflamme-Childs helped to draft and which she will share with the Commission. Commissioners do not need to stick strictly to these talking points in their comments, but DCA staff must. This bill asks for \$65m to create a creative industries division under the economic development division. NM Arts Chair Cooper commented that there are some groups supporting this bill. ED Laflamme-Childs recommended that people visit nmlegis.gov to see the full text of the bill and to track its progress through the legislature.

Assistant Attorney General Moander noted that the AG's office has been looking at the future of the emergency order and Zoom meetings. They are expecting that the emergency order will not be reupped, or may go month-to-month (the Federal order expires in May). He anticipates that once the order has been lifted, the Open Meetings Act (OMA) will be in full effect. OMA does not provide an exception for video conferencing or telephone participation. Geographic distance has not been found to be a compelling reason for Commissioners not to attend meetings in person. Barring any amending of OMA in the current legislative session, once that order has been lifted, the Commission will need to meet in person with a public component—ie, a hybrid meeting. AAG Moander recommended that now would be a good time to get familiar with per diem paperwork for travel and lodging, provided Commissioners meet certain requirements. Katie Bruell will be tasked with looking into this and sharing information with the Commission. Chair Medina noted that the next meeting is scheduled for April, and it's unlikely we will hold that meeting in person. The following meeting is in July and that one is more likely to be required to be in person.

AAG Moander noted that if the legislature does amend OMA, that would take effect before the Commission's July meeting. While the April meeting is more likely to be "in flux" in terms of OMA.

Jane Egan weighed in that if it is difficult or impossible for Commissioners to travel, exceptions may be made, especially as Commissioners are volunteers and live all over the state. She also reiterated that DCA is deeply grateful for Commissioners' service. AAG Moander weighed in on

the lack of case law around the definition of “difficult or impossible” and how this makes it uncertain as to what kinds of exceptions will be allowed to OMA. His advice is to talk to the new board counsel, when that person is appointed.

V. Commission Updates

Chair Medina noted that Commissioners do not need to fill out a request for financial disclosure that might have been sent to them. Please disregard.

All Commissioners now have state emails. Many Commissioners had difficulty setting these up. We will schedule some time for Commissioners to work with a staff member from IT to get those emails working. In the meantime, we will continue to use Commissioners’ personal emails.

Commissioner Whitney would like to explore a partnership with the music federation. Chair Medina ceded the floor to Commissioner Whitney. The American Federation of Musicians gets funding from the music performance trust fund, which is distributed through unions to musicians. Make Music Day is an annual, worldwide event, held on June 21st this year. If the Commission could participate that would be wonderful. Funds came through the AFM to have 8 different events last year, with 8 different bands performing in Albuquerque. The musicians that participate get paid at union scale and also get paid for practice time. If we could combine funds from the trust fund and the Commission, and perhaps some other money, for example from senior centers or county extension offices for matches, we could use this to host some great events.

Chair Medina proposed that we work with county extension offices for them to provide \$5k matching funds to NMMC funds (from the non-rural outreach programs in our budget allocation). Chair Medina and Commissioner Whitney will form a committee to work on this, and they welcome other Commissioners to participate. They will keep the full Commission informed.

Commissioner McCarroll noted that she produced the Make Music event in Santa Fe for 7 years. Now the City of Santa Fe has taken over and she and David Schwartz, among others, are on a committee to help plan the event. The City is giving \$5k for the event this year. In previous years the NMMC logo was used as a sponsor logo.

Commissioner Whitney noted that there are different buckets of money, both for the event as a whole, and then for individual programs under the umbrella of the event.

Commissioner Diaz proposed that we include the people participating in the Artist INC workshops in Make Music Day events. Commissioner Whitney said that this would be a good proposal for the committee that she and Chair Medina are forming to consider. This discussion was tabled so that it can be taken up by the committee.

Chair Medina gave an update on the NMMC budget. There are discrepancies between the budget proposed by the Legislative Finance Committee and the Governor’s budget. Chair

Medina will be going to a clean up meeting to attempt to reconcile these differences in a way favorable to the Commission. He will also be working with legislators who may be interested in allocating some of their junior bill money to the Committee.

Update on Website: There is a complicated process to give anyone access to the website. Instead of hiring an outside contractor, the website task may be given to Administrator Bruell, which will simplify access issues. The Commission may still hire an outside contractor for social media. There is a new temporary website that ED Laflamme-Childs created.

ED Laflamme-Childs noted that we will next work on updating the directories on the website, including the musician directory. Both the information in the directories and the software powering them are very outdated, and cannot be migrated to the new website. We will have discussions with Commissioners about what a new, updated, and manageable directory will look like.

Chair Medina noted that the Commission collaborated on two events: one in Quay County which raised \$1k for the local animal shelter. The second was at the St. Francis Auditorium which raised \$5k for St Elizabeth's homeless shelter. This second event was a collaboration with AMP concert promoters. More events are coming up as Electric Coops begin to schedule their annual meetings for 2023.

VI. New Mexico Arts Foundation Update

David Schwartz stated that the Foundation is the fiscal agent for the NM Arts Awards. Their latest project is to develop a research-backed program around music therapy for memory care patients. The tentative title for this program is "Let the Good Times Roll." It would provide monthly visits to memory care units from a singer with acoustic guitar who would perform hit songs from the high school years of the residents of the facilities. This has been shown to aid people in recovering some of their memories, with audience members even singing and dancing along with the songs. Chair Medina requested a meeting with Mr. Schwartz to discuss this further, and to talk about how the NMMC could be involved.

VII. Professional Development Committee Update

Commissioner Diaz noted that we are getting very close to the info Zoom meeting for the Artist INC workshops. Commissioners should sign up to watch the presentation so they can get a good idea of what the program is about and how we can all serve more people with the workshops. Participants in the workshops are screened by the Mid Atlantic Arts Alliance (MAAA). MAAA is creating a press release which they will send throughout the Western region. Commissioner Diaz noted that this is more than just workshops—this is a rebranding of the Commission and a way to direct attention to the importance of the Commission's work. There will be one workshop in March and one in April. All the information will be on the new NMMC website. Commissioner Diaz and Administrator Bruell are happy to send information to any contacts that Commissioners would like to be invited to the workshops or the info session.

Commissioner Whitney asked if Commissioners can share the information directly with their contacts. Commissioner Diaz said yes, enthusiastically! Commissioner Peraino shared that she has shared it with a number of her contacts at the opera. Commissioner McCarroll asked that we share the information with her again as she has been out of town.

VIII. Election of Officers

Commissioner McCarroll nominated Buddy Abeyta as Vice Chair. Commissioner Whitney seconded. Commissioner Abeyta was approved by a unanimous verbal vote. Commissioner Martinez nominated Commissioner Diaz as Secretary and spoke highly of her passion and abilities. Commissioner Langerman seconded the nomination. Secretary Diaz was approved by a unanimous verbal vote. Chair Medina will appoint two at-large members of the executive committee.

IX. Adjournment

Having completed the agenda and with no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Medina adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:17 p.m. The next meeting of the Commission will be on Tuesday, April 11, 2023.