



**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
Friday, April 2, 2021 3:00 PM

**In Attendance:** Jan Newcomb, Meghan O'Toole, Barbara Davis, Ted Berger, Susie Surkamer, Jerelle Jenkins, Michael Royce, Andi Mathis, Tom Clareson, Cornelia Carey, Amy Schwartzman, Beth Flowers, Mollie Quinlan-Hayes, Kay Takeda. **Absent:** Eddie Torres, Stephanie Atkins, Jennifer Leff, James Hafferman, Pam Breaux, Lilia Sterling

**ACTIONABLE ITEMS - If you read nothing else!**

Susie asked the entire SC to:

1. Review the responses to the questions.
2. Report back, what you agree with, and do not agree with
3. Add anything you want to add.
4. Send your thoughts to Jan by **Friday, 4/9/2.**

We need clear input to move forward on what will be proposed for the next grant cycle. The proposal will be run by everyone at our next convening.

The Three Questions:

1. What is the role of NCAPER?
2. What have the external impacts of NCAPER been over the past three years?
3. Is NCAPER relevant? If not, why? If yes, how so? in what areas?

The meeting was called to order at 3:11 pm. In the interest of time, it was decided to have our guest, Beth Flowers, present first, then follow with Member Updates and the 3 Questions discussion.

**Updates – project and member updates:**

**SOUTH ARTS: Susie Surkamer** – South Arts did a webinar with AFTA going over the new ARP bill and what it meant for not just arts organizations but individual artists, as well. It was excellent information for individual artists and well attended. There is a recording of the webinar available. Susie added she wanted to report something positive and shared the good news that the National Jazz Program, some of the artists, have begun touring again. Exciting news!

**THE ACTORS FUND:** Barbara Davis - I attended a meeting with the Mayor of NY. The Mayor's office on Film, Theatre and Broadcast convened to discuss bringing back live performance in NYC. A great mix of groups were there. The theme of the meeting was for live performance, Arts & Culture, to come back as soon as possible. Some key points discussed were:

- The Mayor hoped for full houses in September (not all agreed)
- Help is needed for capital upgrades and Covid related costs, like PPE.
- Mayor did say they would get help for supplies like PPE.
- A lot of comments about rapid testing and help needed with that from the City.
- Strong request to have the City help with the marketing of the return of performing arts.
- Strong emphasis that help is needed with the arts ecosystem.
- The Mayor and his team said they could help with access to benefits, food, healthcare.

- Unions wanted to be included in setting up and running of vaccine sites.
- The importance of the City to help promote that NYC is open and safe to visit and make people comfortable to visit.
- Discussion of creating a Recovery Navigation Czar position to help arts organizations navigate all these city systems and areas they are not used to dealing with
- How the City can help live performance come back in an equitable fashion was discussed.
- Helping protect the workforce was also discussed.

Barbara stated it will be interesting to see how the actual follow up and coordination will go. She also reported the AF just completed a survey of those they have assisted over the last three years. Over 7000 respondents. The survey was taking a look at the impact of Covid on the lives of those AF has serviced. They are in the process of dissecting the responses right now. The initial look - the impact is very significant. AF will share when they have more of a summary with more detail. **As an update:** Actors Fund has disbursed almost \$21million and still has \$10 million to disburse this year. The survey will inform how they will disburse the remaining funds as the year continues and how they may approach that differently. Very concerned about artists losing housing, for example, when the eviction moratorium is lifted. The AF is very interested in hearing how other groups are approaching their continued funding, as well.

**Discussion followed about the data gathered on the impact of Covid on the arts sector as a whole:** Ted Berger asked if AF has had any conversation with Artist Relief? Barbara responded that they have not but may reach out now with our survey data. With our new data we could bring people together to discuss these surveys in totality - especially AFTA data. Reports are still being compiled. **A. Schwartzman** remarked she is concerned there is not a comprehensive view, especially the impact on individual artists.

**SC discussed the many groups who have been gathering data and how it will all be shared in a comprehensive way.**

**CERF+: Cornelia Carey**

CERF+ just finished the third cycle of Covid Relief: 300 artists, \$3300,000 distributed and now raising funds for a fourth cycle.

- CERF is launching "Get Ready Grant" initiative this month. Get ready and get back to work being the focus. (underwriting child-care etc., anything that helps you get back to work)
- noted Arts Advocacy Day, this Thursday, April 8 1pm - hope all can tune in.
- CERF is pivoting on one of their Mellon projects. Two of the three pilot sites are moving forward (Artist Trust and Baton Rouge) but shifting the other project to focus on communities that have been harder hit by racial and social injustice.
- Cerf is looking to create a stronger advocacy voice for studio-based artists long term. CERF is exploring ways to expand this area of focus, always.

**THE JOAN MITCHELL FOUNDATION: Kay Takeda**

- Kay wanted to acknowledge that since the SC last met the new Joan Mitchell Fellowship was launched, involving some of the priorities of JMF strategic planning process, which does include the sunset of their ongoing Emergency Grant fund program.
- JMF is still interested and concerned with artist readiness and recovery, the artist safety net.
- legacy planning is where JMF feels it will still be focused on artist preparedness.
- JMF feels there is still important work to do with NCAPER and Kay will stay on the SC.

## **NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS: Andi Mathis**

NEA has \$135 million ARP funds that will be distributed through SAA, and regionals very quickly. NEA will be amending open grants that they already have, and the remaining 60% of the funds will be going out through direct grants. The Biden administration's new team is listening very hard, truly looking at this next cycle under an equity lens. The guidelines are under development. The hope is the funds will disburse in June. Andi also reported the release of the updated BEA data, GDP of the sector state by state, is now available.

## **AIR Institute's partnership with NCAPER – Crisis Analysis Mitigation (CAM) Coaching Program for Arts Responders**

Jan introduced Beth Flowers, Executive Director of the AIR Institute. Beth gave an overview of AIR and the CAM project.

- AIR Institute has developed programs focused on growing Creative Economies; How do we help communities grow an ecosystem that includes the arts? Much of the work has been within rural and underserved communities for the last 8/9 years.
- AIR's trainings are very hands on with inclusive curriculum.
- Our approach is to lean into design thinking, deep listening, empathy and making sure the table is filled with people who are not normally at the table (or even those who do not know the table exists)
- Covid made us realize our work is truly Community Development. A lot of what we teach is related to recovery and response work.
- AIR approached the Tremaine Foundation regarding Covid recovery and Heather connected me to Jan/NCAPER
- Beth noted CAM is an opportunity moment for big systemic change. A chance for the work NCAPER and all SC has been doing in emergency preparedness within the Arts, to now be presented with a different value proposition. NCAPER has the opportunity to step forward and say how can our work/the arts assist communities with mitigation?
- FEMA calls this the time period when nothing is happening, pre disaster, and they too have goals to engage communities at this time in the mitigation phase.
- The message is the arts should be at the table to help communities figure out how to be prepared and prioritize readiness.
- We are going to use AIR's method of deep listening, facilitation training to getting something done - moving into action - and use our training process towards readiness with CAM.
- This pilot training is a trial balloon to see if it makes sense, and if it is replicable, to help prioritize readiness on the ground for all communities. Can we assist SSA, RAO's prioritize readiness?
- We are going to train people to be on the ground to help communities ready, so the next disaster is less detrimental.
- The focus is for arts workers to be on the ground helping communities PREPARE as opposed to only acting during recovery.
- The Arts will be at the table in a different way with this approach. Presenting as a key group to assist communities with mitigation.
- Beth noted that AIR has been adapting all of our programming to online/hybrid this past year. So, we will be able to lean into virtual trainings in a way our country was not ready for even a year ago. We can do meaningful work across the large geographic areas now virtually.

## Questions from the SC:

### When local networks are put together who is in that network?

- "Who do we want at the table?" will be answered as part of this pilot: the arts community as well as the overall community, traditional first responders, social service agencies, FEMA, SBA etc. We will build it to be inclusive, equitable, BIPOC and individual artists who are not usually at the table. AIR has a series of successful programs we are modifying that are focused on building the creative economy - a lot of the same groups from the community will apply to CAM. We will utilize what has worked for us in the Creative Economy facilitation trainings in our formula for the Readiness trainings.

### Should we connect into the existing NCAPER work with CERT /FEMA programs that integrate artists/organizations and the disaster relief/management systems and infrastructure that are already there?

- Jan replied that Jack Heide and FEMA are involved. For context, she noted the protocols being used are also from when NCAPER was hosting/facilitation phone calls, looking for "who is out there" when making phone calls in PR, for example, identifying who in the community can help us help. The training is about knowing how to bring a group together in a time of mitigation. Cerf+ and Springboard will be asked to bring their experiences to the table.
- Beth also noted our goal is to synthesize what has been working, and what NCAPER has already been working on. The new title of this training is: Readiness for All of Us. Thinking of the entire community as part of the process of mitigation.

### Is this training focused on response to all disasters, including economic, like Covid? Or just physical/natural disasters?

*Andi noted she is asking due to a new working group she has joined with the CDC. Confidentially, the CDC, in response to Covid, has been tasked with developing a long-range plan for the federal government all about community resiliency. They are looking at seven vital conditions: thriving natural world, basic needs, humane housing, meaningful work and wealth, lifelong learning, reliable transportation, belonging and civic muscle. The arts fit everywhere in these vital conditions and this is a chance for us to be heard at the developing level. We are commenting in all of the areas being discussed. Andi suggested all to look at <https://thriving.us/> to further explore the seven vital conditions. Work is focused on communities being able to withstand the next disaster, whatever comes at them.*

- Beth assured the SC that the broader definition of disaster is what is being focused on for CAM. All things that cause a community to contract. This includes social unrest, and cross sector disasters like Covid, or future pandemics.

### What is the application process? Is it the same application for each region? What questions are being asked of the applicants for the CAM training?

- Beth explained we are at the beginning of creating that process. We hope to have the RAO's help us to identify who the right people might be, that could prioritize this type of work, and are the kind of people who are willing and able to be a part of this type of a pilot that is hoping to be replicable and transformative.

### Is part of this project ensuring individual artists will be at the table?

- Absolutely. AIR is passionate about making systems change. As a part of this process, we are looking for a marriage of an institutional partner and engaging with independent contractors, and individual artists, to make sure these processes can be done, and utilized, over and over and over again in communities.
- Susie remarked that each RAO will be engaging with Beth and Jan to discuss what they need. Each of us will likely find our own way of identifying good candidates from our regions.

Jan thanked Beth for her time and for coming on board with AIR Institute's expertise in training for this important project.

*The SC returned to discussing the CDC long range plan for resilient communities that Andi mentioned prior. All agreed this is critical work that is exciting to hear is happening. The project is right now in the briefing stage for new leadership. It is moving quickly, and we will see the response and where it goes in the near future. **Andi reminded everyone again that this discussion is confidential.***

**Discussion of Steering Committee's responses to the three questions:** Susie reported - the questions that were posed to the entire SC were meant to give the Proposal Development Working Group a good basis to determine how to proceed with our next Melon proposal. Susie thanked all who were able to respond and asked everyone to read the responses and give feedback to Jan no later than a week – April 9.

Schedule next meeting – to feature Amy Schwartzman's discussion of her Rand Report.

Date: [May 14, 2021 3pm - 4:30PM](#)

Meeting was Adjourned at 4:20 PM Eastern.

**These minutes were derived from Meghan O'Toole's notes and the recorded Zoom meeting and further edited by Jan Newcomb. As always, please submit any errors, additions, deletions.**