



## Steering Committee April 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

**Attendees: Steering Committee:** Stephanie Atkins , Ted Berger, Cornelia Carey, Tom Claeson, Barbara Davis, James Hafferman, Ruby Lopez Harper, Mollie Quinlan-Hayes, Michael Royce, Amy Schwartzman, Lilia Sterling, Susie Surkamer, Kay Takeda, Eddie, Torres. **Staff:** Janet Newcomb, Meghan O'Toole.

**Excused:** Pam Breaux, Jennifer Leff, Andi Mathis, Tom Simplot

### Welcome & Call to Order

Barbara Davis called the meeting to order at 1:09 and welcomed everyone

**Approval of January 9, 2020 meeting minutes** B. Davis asked for approval of the January 9, 2020 minutes. Cornelia commented that she had corrected her part of the minutes which J. Newcomb reported that everyone had received. Approved unanimously.

**NEA Update** Since both **Tom Simplot** and **Andi Mathis** were unable to attend due to their involvement with the federal funding for disaster relief, there was no NEA update.

**Task Force on Response Funding Principles Update: A. Schwartzman** reported for the group (A.Schwartzman, T. Berger, T. Claeson, R. Lopez Harper, K. Takeda, J. Newcomb). The working group will be reaching out to the People's Fund and Springboard for their insights on the document. We are looking at the issue of accessibility as a principle as well as on how we create and distribute the information. Resilience and readiness will be considered and added as important principles when granting funds. Lynn Dates will format the final version which will be sent to everyone for posting on NCAPER.org. We are also hoping for distribution by all SC organizations once it is ready. We want it widely distributed. Barbara reported that she had been talking with for-profit groups. Broadway Tours, Live Nation and a number of large corporations who are all looking for guidance on how to proceed for their constituents. **Michael Royce** asked if the document focused only on COVID or if it includes all disasters and questioned if it would sound outdated in 6 months. **Amy** responded that although it was prompted by COVID-19, it does mention that it's for every disaster response. **Jan** reminded everyone that these briefs will be compiled for future needs and disasters and thus could be updated and resent in 6 months. **Amy** asked for everyone's approval of the document. The document was approved.

### Are Emergency Relief Funds Taxable?

**Kay Takeda** brought up the question of whether or not emergency relief funds are considered to be taxable income and if programs being clear about telling people to contact their own legal and/or accounting people if the granting is taxable or not. **Cornelia Carey** reported that Federal relief funds are non-taxable and that she will share her information. **James Hafferman** stated that CERF+ always follows the federal guidelines. **Amy** will go back and be sure the tax question is included in our document. **Barbara** said that her accountants always go on the idea that it's taxable only if we send out a 1099 and that if it's needs-based charity it shouldn't be

taxed. The group discussed that relief money in a declared disaster is tax free but some of their losses might be taxable. Some of the SC organizations sent 1099's and others did not. **Amy** added that COVID-19 is only a national emergency, not disaster which could affect tax language. **Michael** received a note from his financial person that NYFA 1099's everyone, so there is ambiguity that should be researched. **Barbara** asked about artists (American or members of an American arts union or association) living abroad and who assists them? She is starting her own List regarding this today and would like input from all.

**Discussion Issue: After the pandemic: what should the long-term reaction plans for NCAPER be How does this inform our next proposal to Mellon?**

**Tom Claeson:** The idea for today's discussion comes from looking at the prior discussions about what NCAPER should be doing in the long term. This crisis makes it more pertinent. How do we spread information now and in future situations? What are arts organizations going to do in the long term? Can we take a little time to think about what we might move from the back burner to the front burner? What are organizations going to do in the future – it's a *Blue-Sky* topic, but are there things we should be considering now? **Kay:** we are thinking about freeing up funding for future needs and discussing how we go about doing that in advance. We are hearing that other funding organizations are having similar conversations. We understand that we have to phase it, but what does that look like? Then what? **Tom:** Everything now is about bridging the crisis but not about the long term. **Amy:** I see our role as combining our group expertise; it's the most valuable resource we can contribute. We should continue as advisors and speak about readiness and resilience issues. This includes how to achieve our advocacy goals like benefits for the self-employed. We can continue CERF+ goals to help self-employed and go beyond to cultural workers.

**Ruby Lopez Harper:** hears the crisis conversations about organizations having no budgets for 2021. We should talk about preserving the livelihoods of both individual artists and the needed infrastructure of the arts which includes arts organizations. If organizations are gone it will be that much harder to reach the individual artists. Everyone is discussing how do we plan 2021 with so many unknowns. Everyone is seeking guidance on how others are planning right now. AFTA has always stood for both individuals and the organizations as the structural support for artists. We need to be sure that we focus on both. There is a lot of fear. Organizations are asking AFTA for guidance. Let's not lose the spirit of supporting both the artists and the arts organizations. **Cornelia:** Yes, back in 2006 at first this coalition was about the focus on individual artists but then we realized that we have to focus on the structural organizations, as well. But there seems to be a bifurcation: some of our work seems specifically for artists and then we work for the networks and arts organizations. Do we have the capacity to do it all with only part-time staff? Should we separate artists work and organizations work? **Tom:** The working group on the guidelines was helpful and fairly quick. So now can we continue to work in these groups, report on what is happening in general, but also ask Ruby what is

happening currently with Local Arts Agencies. **Pam Breaux's** report last week was very helpful to know what state arts agencies are doing. We could plan another call that is more focused on the individual artists. I don't want any of it to fall off the radar. It is all important. Maybe we need to separate the calls to focus on artists and then another on arts organizations/groups/networks. **Ruby:** During other disasters if you take us back to our core of "preparedness" it has always been organization focused. I think we need to think holistically and bigger picture. Right now, individuals are appropriate, but I think we need to focus back on our core issue of preparedness and that work is done through the organizations. If I am here, and the sharing is only about individuals then I don't have the information to bring back to my area. This sharing is needed - our resources and knowledge on both areas. This is where we're needed. **Amy:** I think the advice we are providing is serving both and we are thinking holistically. My concern is where do we need to go outside of our group and seek guidance on aspects of this current recovery that is beyond our expertise? This is happening to our entire society. This is certainly beyond me - who are the great minds we can reach out to as informal advisors? This is systemic and we should be careful that we are aware of our limitations and how the rest of society is reacting. We can help groups think creatively. This is something useful we can do, and we can balance in all ways and get outside advice. Jim Marrone of Rand Corp. has offered to be an informal advisor to NCAPER when we need it.

**James:** After talking with other Mellon cohorts, I hear that this crisis is elevating the conversation of preparedness on city and state levels across the board, and much less on individuals. Cities and states are creating and adding new networks working together to respond. How does NCAPER come into play in these conversations and drive priorities? **Jan:** Our Cultural Placekeeping Guide provides a framework and can address how to plan and respond. I live in a rural community and a local Artist Relief Fund was created because the community had developed a PAR Cultural Network based on the Placekeeping Guide. We should look at the CPG and what we advocated within it and expand it. Our concept was always a network of networks. **Amy:** How can we expand the infrastructure of NCAPER and these new networks that James mentioned are developing? How can we build out and build our notion of a network of networks? **Tom:** All of these ideas show where we can go in these next few years. Can we look at having themed meetings, and opportunities for alerts? Maybe we push the topics in this way? The recent working group worked very well under pressure. The main thing I have been hearing is what Ruby is hearing, that they are being forced by their city to think about budgets and running scared right now. **Jan:** Our next Mellon round we can include ways to connect these efforts - creating a network of networks. **James:** I agree that if we align our mutual goals it makes us look more strategic and aligned and will have a better structure to continue Mellon grant. I think they will see bigger potential on a combined ASK of some sort. **Jan:** We will be in December and what is happening now should inform our work on that next grant proposal.

**Ted Berger** joined the meeting and added the following: he feels the For-Profit side will be in even more trouble and will need a bailout. The Non-Profit three-legged stool approach is wobbly but there are still different income streams. But any For Profit looking to survive on ticket sales will be most affected in this crisis. People are not going to want to gather for a long time and are getting used to streaming. I suspect of a bailout of the for-profit side, is this what you are hearing, **Barbara**: I agree with Ted. We in the Non-Profit sector need to watch how our piece of the pie fits into this. We should keep a close eye on the For-Profit world's happenings. There are a lot of locked door conversations going on. Not all are willing to share, and we are not going to hear about their deals until they are complete. **Ted**: Is AFTA in conversation with the For-Profit side? We need to talk about both sides of the sector. I suspect the sports side is really cutting the bail out deal. **Tom**: We are listening and there have been some good and timely refund practices. PAR is trying to get them into the conferences to share about their ideas and philosophy. **Ted**: For years I have thought that there needs to be a formalizing of the "creative sectors". Is this the time for that? **Barbara**: Maybe we can conceive some webinars that combine these different sectors. **Ted**: I think there will be a Work program. More and more we will move toward guaranteed income which we're already seeing in Spain. And if that happens, we have to make sure, the Arts and Culture sector is positioned in that discussion.

**Barbara**: in wrapping up asked for other business. **Tom** reported that the Phase II of PAR grants was announced. He asked that if anyone had ideas on state alliances that would be good applicants for the network grants to please pass the information on to him. He add that the Art of Mass Gatherings is a new component of PAR.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:21 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Meghan O'Toole & J. Newcomb