Colorado Humanities Board of Directors Meeting
December 9, 2017
Holland and Hart, LLP
555 17th St. #3200, Denver

Meeting overview and materials

Actions taken

- approval of the agenda (page 1)
- approval of the September 23, 2017 Board meeting minutes (page 1)
- approval of 2019-2023 Program Plan (page 6)

Assignments/Directives

☐ Recommend potential board candidates (page 3) — Board, staff
☐ Contact Alamosa Valley Courier publisher for board recommendations (page 3) — Ballantine
☐ Contact end of term Board members regarding re-election (page 3) — Tate
☐ Develop policy for withdrawing investment gains (page 3) — Finance Committee, Board, staff
☐ Find contact info for Colorado College Fine Arts Center (page 4) — Hurley

Next meeting

March 3, 2018
Holland and Hart, LLP
555 17th St. #3200, Denver

Colorado Humanities Board of Directors Meeting
December 9, 2017
Holland and Hart, LLP
555 17th St. #3200, Denver

Present: Dahlin, Bantis, Best, Cunningham, Garcia, Hurley, Lee, Meyer, Miller, Nelson, Tate
Absent: Ballantine, Kirkpatrick, Mason, Rodriguez
Staff: Coval, Albright, Jones, Tucker

1. **Welcome and introductions** (Dahlin)
   Dahlin welcomed and introduced new members Hurley and Meyer.

2. **Ice breaker** (Dahlin)
   Dahlin asked for those present to share a favorite winter activity or memory.

3. **Approval of agenda** (Dahlin)
   The Board determined that the Blue Sky discussion would be best left until the end of the meeting in case it required more time. The Finance and Development Committee reports were moved to precede the Program Committee report.

   Motion by Bantis to approve the modified agenda.
   Seconded by Miller
   Vote: Unanimously approved

4. **Approval of September 23, 2017 Board meeting minutes** (Dahlin)

   Motion by Nelson to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2017 Board.
   Seconded by Bantis
   Vote: Unanimously approved

5. **Chair's report** (Dahlin)
   a. Dahlin recognized the following Board members for their recent activities:
      - Miller for participation in Changing the Legacy of Race pilot program
      - Ballantine for inviting Jones to present to the Ballantine Family Foundation
      - Nelson and Miller for facilitating the October Blue Sky workshop (Tate interjected thanks to new members Hurley and Lee for participation in the Blue Sky workshop), and participation in the Blue Sky working group meeting
      - Tate for meeting with Hurley prior to her election, and for attending the National Humanities Conference
      - Mason for attending the Blue Sky community meeting in Durango

   b. Identifying assessment site visitors
      Dahlin explained that prior to each five-year program plan a site visit is required as part of the NEH self-assessment. The site visitors will report to NEH their assessment of CH's organization and plans. Coval said, in the past, site visitors were required to be from out of state. The last review was conducted by two Colorado residents, but Coval said this

time NEH would prefer that at least one be from out of state. They cannot know one another and should have differing backgrounds that relate to CH's work overall. Coval suggested that since future programs are moving toward discussion/civic engagement someone with that expertise might be good. CH must suggest six candidates who are willing to commit the time and travel. Coval said she will be in touch with colleagues at the National Humanities Conference to begin to gather recommendations for site visitors.

Nelson suggested board prospects who could not commit to long-term service, or participants from Blue Sky focus group meetings. Garcia suggested that one reviewer be from another state's humanities council, and one from outside the humanities for an unbiased perspective. She said that reviewers from outside of Colorado will not have a vested interest.

6. **Executive Director's Report** (Coval)
Coval thanked Dahlin for hosting the post return tour Blue Sky working group meeting, for attending several committee meetings, and for participating in the two most recent new member orientations.

    a. National Humanities Conference report (Jones, Tate)
    Coval reported that she attended the National Humanities Conference with Jones and Tate. For the second year it was held in conjunction with the National Humanities Alliance conference, which makes for broader attendance. The theme throughout was civic engagement and convening difficult conversations. Coval reported a national trend toward programming with less presenting and more discussion. She mentioned a session conducted by Oregon Humanities entitled "Leading Challenging Conversations."

    Tate recommended attending the National Conference as an effective way to learn about the organization. She said that CH is offered a travel stipend for new board members to attend. She reported attending sessions on best practices and using technology to deliver content.

    Jones reported attending a "Think and Drink" with program officers and realizing the format limitations. She determined that it may be good for developing engagement, but it is not good for discussing deep subjects like race. She stated that NEH acting Chairman John Peede's talk was very inspiring. The 2018 conference will be November 8-11 in New Orleans.

    b. NEH funding and update
    Coval said that new Federal State Partnership Director Joshua Sternfeld is on paternity leave. Karen Kenton, Senior Program Officer for Public Programs is Acting Director. She said that Acting Chairman John Peede's commitment to public humanities is worth noting. He stresses the importance of the partnership between Federal State and state humanities councils. He sees the role of the humanities as that of breaking down barriers.

    Coval reported that the previous federal budget continuing resolution ended December 8th, and a second continuing resolution is in place until December 22nd. With the first continuing resolution, $156,000 had been released to CH based on the FY2017 budget. $100,000 still remains available. It is unknown at this point how much the second continuing resolution will allocate. Coval believes that the worst-case scenario is level funding, which is $149 million to NEH and $46 million to the state councils.

c. Other
Coval reported concerns raised by some staff members regarding a High Plains Chautauqua presentation planned for 2018. The HPC theme is the 1960s. As always, the challenge is presenting characters without seeming to commemorate those figures. The representation of George Wallace is the concern. The staff have asked ourselves, is this the wrong time for Wallace, given the heightened sensitivity around race relations? We are confident about the quality of the program and the sholarship of the presenter. Will we create a perception that HPC or CH or the Greeley community share some of Wallace's views? Coval said she raised the concern with the HPC Committee, some historians, and African American Chautauquans. The HPC Committee met, reviewed the feedback, and after much discussion, decided to support the educational value of presenting all views in the first person narrative followed by discussion. We decided to proceed with the program. Board members Best and Dahlin expressed support for the decision.

7. **Nominating and Governance Committee** (Tate)
Tate reported that Dahlin interviewed Bill Philpott who is very interested in joining the CH board. He is a history professor at DU, and Tate recommended pursuing his election to the board.

Tate summarized 2017 as very busy with five new board members bringing interesting and diverse skill sets. She was excited about having new members at the same time that new programs are being considered. She reported five remaining vacancies, with six candidates currently in the vetting process. She asked for recommendations of people from Alamosa and Limon and younger prospects including those with technology experience.

Miller suggested seeking potential candidates within the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce's "connect" program. Ballantine volunteered to contact the publisher of the Alamosa Valley Courier for suggestions.

Tate reported a number of current members whose terms expire in 2018. They are Ballantine, Bantis, Dahlin, Nelson, and herself. She will reach out to ascertain interest in serving second terms.

8. **Finance and Infrastructure Committee** (Bantis)
a. FY2017 preliminary year-end report (Coval)
Coval anticipates closing FY2017 at nearly even.

b. Investment and endowment fund report
Bantis reported $400,000 in current investments, most of it with Schwab. $55, 000 is still in an endowment fund at Community First Foundation (CFF), which performed well in

FY2017. CH will enlist an attorney in an attempt to access all funds from CFF. He recommended selling the UBS fund, which is overvalued.

He noted that CH has never taken any accrued investment earning as cash, and recommended developing a policy for doing so. He said a good practice is to take 50% of gains annually. He suggested further discussion at the March board meeting.

Best suggested reviewing investments at a set time each year. It could authorize, but not require, a percentage withdrawal of gains. Bantis informed the Board that current investment policy is not detailed, but calls for prudent management.

c. FY2018 Operations Budget review and recommendations
Bantis reported that remaining deficit figures in the budget will be pared, and income will be re-allocated to cover the balance. Staff have developed strategies to reduce operations and program expenses in the event of insufficient funding. Possible actions identified total about $30,000.

Bantis reported that CH can sub-lease office space, but 50% of the income would go to the landlord. It would be better to offer the space in trade for services such as graphic design. Coval thanked Nelson for introducing an attorney who reviewed and explained the lease with regard to sub-leasing.

d. Audit schedule
On behalf of the Audit Committee, Bantis reported that for the annual audit CH will contract with the same auditor, Jim Davis of Davis & CO. CPAs, P.C.

9. Development and External Affairs Committee (Nelson)

a. FY2018 fundraising status report (Coval, Tucker)
Coval reported progress on individual unrestricted fundraising goals. She noted that the figure listed includes pledges. WITS will not be implemented as the NEA grant was denied and CH will not pursue other funding. Colorado Book Awards is receiving fees as books are entered in the competition. Black History Live cost share pledges are confirmed as venues are contracted.

Tucker reported a BHL grant pending with Eulipions Fund for a potential $10,000. More funding is needed for the program. Miller suggested that any funds above costs brought in by the upcoming D.I.N.E. could go to BHL. Tucker reported that Kinder Morgan Foundation has pledged an undetermined amount to fund Young Chautauqua in Mesa County. She said, historically they have given $1,500 - $2,500. She reported an increase in individual giving to $14,620.

Bantis suggested Challenge America as a program partner for the Veterans writing workshops. They offer art and music programs, but currently do not have any literature offerings, and want to add those. Hurley volunteered to find contact information for Colorado College Fine Arts Center which offers arts programs for veterans.

b. Board giving report
   Nelson was pleased to report 100% participation in Board gifts and pledges for 2018. He encouraged the Board to complete expense reimbursement requests and in-kind forms for accurate reporting of board contributions to CH.

c. Holiday season fundraising activities
   This report was deferred due to time constraints.

d. Board contacts worksheet
   Time was allowed during the meeting for Board to complete the Board contacts worksheet. The purpose is to identify connections with businesses and foundations that might provide funding. Board facilitated introductory lunches with Coval are the initial goal. Nelson shared hopes of at least eight meetings in 2018. He appealed to new board members for their participation in the Development Committee.

10. Program Policy and Evaluation Committee (Miller)

Jones reported on the FY2017 year-end status of current CH programs. Of note:

- Colorado Book Awards is in need of a new venue
- CH will continue to self-manage River of Words and Letters About Literature
- The Motheread/Fatheread Colorado Social Innovation Fund impact study has been completed and the program was featured at the December 6 Mile High United Way What Works Showcase.
- Speakers Bureau WWI reading and conversations series will continue into early 2018
- Entrepreneurship is a possible theme for Durango Chautauqua 2018
- Hispanic Heritage Live struggles to draw Latino audiences in its current form
- Colorado Encyclopedia reached its first grant goals. A new State Historical Fund grant remains available when match funds are raised

Jones reported that a pilot of Changing the Legacy of Race (CLoR) was implemented in October as a BHL budget line. Miller and Garcia helped develop curriculum for the conversations, which were conducted on two Saturdays at each of two Denver locations, with a culminating potluck discussion combining the two groups. Resource materials used were the film *I Am Not Your Negro*, which features the writing of James Baldwin, and the anthology *The Fire This Time*, edited by Jesmyn Ward.

Jones reported stark differences between the skills of the academic content facilitator, and the trained process facilitator. Lighthouse Writers Workshop asked to include CLoR on their schedule of conversations. The inclusion garnered 3/4 million social media impressions. There were eighty attendees, about seventeen per meeting with a 75% return rate.

Venues were booked for two hour blocks of time. Excerpts from the film and book were shared, followed by discussion. Jones reported that engagement was deep. Attendees were primarily forty and over, with nearly 50/50 black and white.

Miller reported that he attended one meeting in Park Hill and the culminating potluck. He was impressed with the turnout and the level of the discussion.

11. **Blue Sky update and discussion** (Nelson, Miller)
Miller reminded the board that during the October workshop, they had decided on a list of potential programs to present to communities during the Blue Sky return tour.

a. Blue Sky Return Tour report (Jones)
During a two-week period in November, Jones revisited the eighteen cities where blue Sky focus group meetings had been held earlier in the year. Jones reported having great participants at the community meetings who were well connected with their communities and with potential partner organizations. 50% were millennials. She often heard about the influx of the homeless, young families, and marijuana growers affecting rural communities.

b. Review/revise/approve 2019-2023 program plan
Jones discussed the top ranking programs based on community input form the Blue Sky return tour. The Program Committee recommends those programs to comprise the 2019-2023 Program Plan. Almost all current programs fell lower on the rankings. Implementation of the lower ranked programs will require shifting them from production and delivery to a resource hub supported by staff consulting.

Jones reported that among communities visited, Latino Heritage Live was the program that garnered the most interest, with Legacy of Race and Ethnicity second. Non-Latino community members often shared that they don't know how to reach their Latino neighbors. Democracy Labs could be implemented following CLoR&E. Communities would raise their own funds to hire the process facilitator. The Athena group would provide the program model pro bono. Each program will be unique to its community.

The Regional Humanities Network was third in interest ratings.

Jones reported that Centura Health is willing to be a system-wide partner for Talking About Dying.

Speakers Bureau will continue to provide access to top presenters including Chautauqua, and can be modified to include various content. The model will shift from funding to vetting, consulting, and being a resource hub. Speakers Bureau, YC, BHL can offer online resources, including a YC teachers handbook and coaching handbook.

Legacy of Race and Ethnicity will offer facilitated conversations designed with the community. Jones noted that the American Library Association and Harwood are funding the training of librarians to hold difficult conversations.

Revision of the Five States of Colorado film will begin pre-production as soon as the Board grants approval. It will be in production for two years and could be ready to tour the state in three to four years. Coval expressed a desire to offer $15,000 in initial support. CH would work with Havey Productions to raise additional funding. She noted the opportunity to build discussion programs as a companion to the film, and possible development of K-12 resources.

Jones said the Museum on Main Street theme currently in development at the Smithsonian Institution is "Changing Rural America."

Discussion followed. Coval reminded the Board that new programs will be phased in gradually. Jones explained that all costs are largely scalable. Best suggested breaking geographic barriers with streaming, Facebook, TV, perhaps with subscription and on-demand offerings.

There was consensus that, given relative lower participation, the Center for the Book offerings should be reduced from five to three programs.

Motion by Tate to approve the proposed 2019-2023 Program Plan.
Seconded by Lee
Vote: Unanimously approved

12. Other business

Tate informed the Board of an upcoming D.I.N.E. luncheon, featuring Charles Pace as Malcolm X, on either Sunday February 18 or Sunday February 25.

Adjourned.

The Board of Directors Minutes have been signed and approved on this 20th day of March 2018.

by: Margaret A Coval
Margaret A. Coval
Executive Director, Corporate Secretary
Colorado Humanities