



MPAC Meeting
March 19, 2025
Zoom

Present: Emily Wolfram, Tom Webster, Jim Peaco, Gary Fjelstad, Jill Wagner, Rob Kohler, Connie Jenkins, Misty Annala

Tom called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm.

- Minutes of Board Meeting 10/13/2024 were submitted by Secretary Misty Annala, Jill made motion to approve minutes with correction on silent auction amount (misplaced comma), Jim seconded, motion carried.
- NEA Grants for Arts Projects
 - Emily reported that she will be applying for approximately \$20,000 for FY2027 and needs a statement of support by March 24th. Misty volunteered to write a statement.
- Advocacy
 - Emily reported on her trip to Washington DC with Creative West (with Krys Holmes, John Zirkle, Benji Cosgrove, & Paul Stahl). They spoke to a representative from Senator Dane's office, Senator Tim Sheehy, representative Troy Downing, and a representative from John Zinke's office.
 - Emily gave an update about the HB 9 Cultural Trust, and shared Rep. John Fitzpatrick's recent articles in the Seeley Swan Pathfinder.
- Strategic Plan
 - Emily has completed the course she took to learn about and develop a strategic plan for MPAC. She presented and discussed a draft of the strategic plan. She would like to have written comments and requests for changes by mid-April, and we will meet one more time if necessary, in April so that we can adopt the plan at the summer board meeting.
- 2025 Conference
 - Emily reported on showcase applications and pricing for the next conference. Conference registration may increase by \$10. Jill made a motion to increase the fee. Jim seconded; motion carried. Emily may also add a late registration fee.
 - Tom introduced us to the new ED of the Motherlode, Matt Jones. He will also invite Matt Laughlin to join the board. We discussed forming committees such as advocacy, nominating, membership, etc.
 - Jill asked for guidance from Emily on what to say to board members who are concerned about cuts to federal arts funding. Emily encouraged everyone to contact representatives about the importance of their arts funding.
- Block-Booking for FY26
 - Emily presented some feedback on the block booking process. There is evidence that it was much more effective this year with putting one presenter in charge of spearheading the block. Some expressed frustration with groups not wanting to commit until after the first of the year.
- 2025 Summer Retreat
 - The summer board retreat will take place June 13-15, 2025 at the Grand Union Hotel in Fort Benton.
- Meeting was adjourned at 2:08