



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Minutes

November 17, 2021

The Board of Directors of History Colorado (a/k/a The Colorado Historical Society) ("HC") met in person and via virtual conference Wednesday, November 17, 2021. Present were directors: Tamra Ward, Marco Abarca, Luis Benitez, Cathy Carpenter Dea, Cathey Finlon, Donna Lynne, Robert Musgraves, Ellen Roberts, Alan Salazar, Stephen Sturm, Mary ,Sullivan Penfield Tate III, and Ann Walker.

Also in attendance: Dawn DiPrince, Luis Colón, Sue Kim, Shadia Lemus, Joe Zhou, Jordan Parry, Patrick Eidman, Cathy Stroh, Chris Bowles, Jason Hanson, Patrick Warwick-Diaz, Bennett Boggs, Mary Kissberth, Shannon Joern and Christine Staberg. Dianne Brown served as recording secretary.

Ward called the meeting to order at 8:02am. She welcomed legal counsel Sue Kim, who will guide the board through the executive session of the JWC Stanley Carriage House LLC. Ward stated that JWC Stanley Carriage House LLC is appealing the decision to deny their historic tax credit. The board has been asked to conduct a hearing in accordance with the Administrative procedures act. Ward asked for a motion to move into executive session to allow the board to seek legal advice and discuss the formation and number of committee members. Roberts motioned to go into executive session, Abarca 2nd; motion passed.

The board concluded the executive session with counsel on the JWC Stanley Carriage House appeal process and staff and the public rejoined the board meeting.

Ward shared that the board had a discussion regarding the creation of a board committee to hear the Stanley appeal. She asked the board for a motion to adopt the draft resolution that was sent to the board for review. Tate motioned to adopt the resolution and to create a committee of 3 with 2 alternates for a total of 5 board members (Tate, Musgraves, Sullivan, Roberts and Ward) and volunteered to chair the committee; Carpenter Dea 2nd; Walker recused herself; the motion passed. Ward asked for a motion to approve the committee; Abarca motioned to approve, Tate 2nd; motion passed; Walker recused herself.

The committee will determine the members and schedule based upon the scheduling order. In addition, it was noted that the committee is authorized to perform adjudication and fact-finding of this appeal. Roberts motioned to approve; Tate 2nd; motion passed; Walker recused herself. Sue Kim excused herself from the session.

Ward then asked for a motion to adjust the agenda to discuss State Historic Fund Grants. Roberts motioned to approve; Tate 2nd; motion passed.

Ward asked for a motion to go back into executive session to discuss with counsel the University of Colorado-Denver State Historical Fund Grant. Abarca motioned to approve; Finlon 2nd; motion passed.

The board concluded its executive session and invited staff and the public to rejoin the board meeting.

Walker reported that the Archeology and Historic Preservation Committee (AHPC) met and reviewed 79 State Historic Fund Grants which were submitted on August 1. The State Historical Fund Advisory Committee presented its recommendations to the AHPC for review and approval. There were 35 grants recommended for funding; 6 pulled aside for contingency in priority order; and 38 were recommended for non-funding. She noted that there were many excellent projects. Walker explained that the latest application emphasized projects that benefit Black, Indigenous and other communities of color (BIPOC). Because of the new application, there were new complexities during the review. Walker specifically called out grant #2201-033 relating to CU Denver's request for preservation program scholarship funds and asked the board to vote on that separately.

Ward asked for a motion to approve those grants recommended for funding, contingency and non funding as listed in the board packet, noting the one grant exception. Walker motioned to approve; Roberts 2nd, motion passed; Musgraves abstained due to his affiliation to Colorado Preservation, Inc.; motion passed.

Grant #2201-033. Ward noted this grant has great merit and that this discussion is not around merit, rather the appearance of impropriety based on timing related to the lead grant applicant's employment with History Colorado. Roberts commented that she accepts AG advice that there is no technical conflict of interest; but there is an appearance of impropriety and she would prefer to move this grant to non-funded, and suggest that the applicant reapply at a later time. Walker asked if the board might support the applicant applying for a mini grant. Bowles noted that the next mini grant round will be in February and May of 2022. Roberts reiterated that existing state policy refers to a 6 month waiting period after exiting employment, and although it is not applicable to History Colorado, 6 months seems to be a good guideline/reference. Sullivan agrees that we should allow 6 months before we entertain the grant. Tate and Carpenter Dea concur that now is not the right time. Ward asked for a motion to not fund the Grant #2201-03 at this time with a note that the board sees merit and suggests reapplying after 6 months. Sullivan motioned to approve; Roberts 2nd; motion passed.

State Historic Fund (SHF) Grants - Walker encouraged the board to review all of the SHF grants; there was a great addition with BIPOC consideration. It is extraordinarily rewarding to fund these projects and she made a plea to add more board members to AHPC to add depth to the understanding of these grants and expand our knowledge of the projects. Ward agrees and

thinks the board can provide another aspect to the SHF program. Roberts echoed what Walker said and would like the AHPC and staff to know how much the board appreciates their extraordinary work and efforts. The board also thanked Walker for her work.

Archeology and Historic Preservation Committee (AHPC) - Walker noted that the AHPC would like to recommend Bill Tall Bull to serve on the AHPC. Walker motioned to add him (and recommended that the board review the AHPC structure/diversity); Finlon 2nd; motion passed.

State Register Review Board - Walker noted that the governor appoints the State Historic Preservation Review Board and the HC board typically approves adding the group to the State Register Review Board (as their backgrounds are appropriate for grant reviewing); Walker motioned to approve adding the State Historic Preservation Review Board to the State Register Review Board; Roberts 2nd; motion passed.

Getting back to the agenda. DiPrince read the land acknowledgement.

Ward asked for a motion to approve the September 22, 201 minutes. Tate motioned to approve; Carpenter Dea 2nd; motion passed.

Hart Award - DiPrince noted a change in the Hart Awards. We added a board award and a people's choice award. The people's choice award received over 1K votes. Additionally, she shared that the board selected the African American Survey and DiPrince asked for a motion to approve the selection. Finlon motioned to approve; Tate 2nd; motion passed.

SHF Contract Extension - Walker noted that the Costilla County Economic Development Council #20-02-020 Sangre de Cristo Heritage Center needs more time for their contract and is seeking board approval to extend the contract. Walker motioned to approve; Finlon 2nd; motion passed.

Financial report - Parry hit the highlights on the financial report. She noted the report is through Q1 and while we are not out of Covid pandemic, revenue is up 1%; earned revenue is down 10% and expenditures are down 14%. The community museums admissions and gift shops are up 54% & 31% respectively, and paid membership is up 89% and federal grants are up 240%.

Parry also provided a status on the FY23 budget submission, noting that the next step is the Dec. 9 JBC hearing. The hearing will be streamed online and she encouraged the board to listen in. We will know our final budget by April-May. She is working on an internal budget process, whereby divisions will take a more active role in building their budgets with more intent/purpose. These will be presented to the board at the May meeting.

Colón asked for approval of the reserve policy. Musgraves supported moving forward and asked to add one amendment to the last paragraph noting that these numbers are based on average monthly expenditures in the operating budget. Musgraves also noted that some board members may not be familiar with the minority share being kept aside. This new policy supersedes that policy. Musgraves motioned to approve; Carpenter Dea 2nd; motion passed.

Legislative Update - Staberg reported that the governor released his budget; her team is having a lot of conversations; the JBC convened and is conducting hearings; she will meet with OSPB analyst Bickell to dig into our request after the holiday. She noted that there are many pieces we are building on for the future. The governor's budget includes HC's decision item for reorganization, which is not a financial impact. Staff will present the Governor-approved capital projects to the Capital Development Committee in December. Amendment 78 failed; the redistricting process was approved; federal funds will be on the Governor and legislative agenda as to how to use funds. She and staff met with OSPB regarding the sale of storage property in Pueblo. She is working with Jason Hanson on the creation of a legislative-formed Commission for the 250th year anniversary of the US and 150th anniversary of Colorado; and she will connect with legislators on Hart awards. Walker commented that nationally it is the 250th year anniversary; it is also the 60th year anniversary that created Historic Preservation and Section 106 and we need to be sure to celebrate.

ED Report - DiPrince highlighted the volunteer infographic noting how we grew through volunteerism during Covid. We have over 1K volunteers who contribute \$1.2M in economic impact for HC; she also noted that board members are volunteers and contribute a significant amount of time to support HC.

DiPrince noted that November 18 is the preview of *The Power of Horses* and expressed generous thanks to Carpenter Dea for the inspiration. The board thanked Carpenter Dea for her work.

DiPrince reported that she is monitoring the compliance of federal funds since time is of the essence. She will conduct an analysis to ensure we have staff in place and we expend funds per rules.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:18.