

STATE OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY  
Special Grant Committee Meeting Minutes  
May 19, 2021

The Grant Committee of the State of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority held a special meeting via teleconference at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19, 2021.<sup>1</sup>

The special meeting was called to order by Dr. Estela Lopez, Committee Chair, at 12:32 p.m. and upon roll call, those present and absent were as follows:

**PRESENT:** Dr. Estela Lopez, Committee Chair  
Peter Lisi, Board Chair  
Steven L. Elbaum  
Susan Martin

**OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lawrence Davis

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeanette W. Weldon, Executive Director  
Denise Aguilera, General Counsel  
Debrah Galli, Manager, Administrative Services  
JoAnne Mackewicz, Controller  
Michael Morris, Managing Director, Client Services  
Cynthia D. Peoples-H, Managing Director, Operations & Finance  
Kara Stuart, Administrative Services Assistant  
Betty Sugerman Weintraub, Grant Program Manager  
of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority

**GUESTS:** Elizabeth Shapiro, Director of Arts, Preservation and Museums, CT  
Office of the Arts, Department of Community and Economic  
Development

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Lopez requested a motion to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2019 Grant Committee Meeting. Mr. Lisi moved for approval of the minutes, which was seconded by Dr. Lopez

Upon a voice vote, the “Ayes,” “Nays” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

<b><u>AYES</u></b>	<b><u>NAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSTENTIONS</u></b>
Peter Lisi	None	Steven L Elbaum <sup>2</sup>
Dr. Estela Lopez		Susan Martin <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> All attendees participated in the meeting via conference telephone that permitted all parties to hear each other

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Elbaum abstained from voting as he did not attend the May 15, 2019 meeting.

<sup>3</sup> Ms. Martin abstained from voting as she did not attend the May 15, 2019 meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Lopez requested a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2021 Grant Committee Meeting. Mr. Lisi moved for approval of the minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Martin.

Upon a voice vote, the “Ayes,” “Nays” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

**AYES**

Peter Lisi  
Dr. Estela Lopez  
Susan Martin

**NAYS**

None

**ABSTENTIONS**

Steven L. Elbaum<sup>4</sup>

Ms. Sugerman Weintraub introduced Ms. Elizabeth (Liz) Shapiro, Director of Arts, Preservation and Museums, CT Office of the Arts, Department of Community and Economic Development.

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**Elizabeth (Liz) Shapiro, Director of Arts, Preservation and Museums, CT Office of the Arts, Department of Community and Economic Development**

Ms. Shapiro gave a presentation on the following topics:

- Connecticut Office of the Arts
- Arts and economic impact
- Results of CHEFA’s grant to Connecticut Humanities, in partnership with the CT Office of the Arts

The floor was open to questions and a brief discussion ensued.

Dr. Lopez, Board members and CHEFA staff thanked Ms. Shapiro for her time and presentation.

Ms. Shapiro left the teleconference meeting at 12:55 p.m.

**FY 2019-2020 TARGETED GRANT REPORT/DISCUSSION**

Ms. Sugerman Weintraub reported that in conclusion, the FY 2019 and 2020 Targeted grant programs addressing Connecticut’s workforce priorities have largely met the goals outlined, to date, in their applications. Ms. Sugerman Weintraub stated that the grants continue to address the most pressing statewide issues as identified by the Governor, Governor’s Workforce Council, and key workforce stakeholders. These include training for in-demand career fields; removing barriers to employment (transportation, childcare, work-related necessities, stipends, etc.); youth first-time employment; youth education for in-demand careers in manufacturing; career navigation for residents of underserved communities; and soft-skill training and career pathways for residents who have been formerly justice-involved and/or hard to employ.

Ms. Sugerman Weintraub stated that each CHEFA Targeted grant has made an impact, and has acted as a catalyst for larger statewide, and regional discussions and initiatives. Ms. Sugerman Weintraub noted that in the future, grants could cover a two year time period to provide additional flexibility as often programs require a planning or start-up period prior to their commencement. Philanthropic studies have shown that the most impactful grants are multi-year grants.

A discussion ensued.

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<sup>4</sup> Mr. Elbaum abstained from voting as he did not attend the January 13, 2020 meeting.

**FY 2022 GRANT ALLOCATIONS DISCUSSION**

Dr. Lopez stated that staff is proposing a total of \$3 million for grant funding; \$1 million for Client grants, \$1 million for Non-Client/Nonprofit grants, and \$1 million for Targeted grants.

Ms. Weldon noted that the \$3 million is a potential number since the FY 2022 budget has not yet been fully presented to the Board or approved. Final board approval will happen at the June board meeting.

Dr. Lopez requested a motion to approve staff’s recommendation for the FY 2022 grant allocation amounts. Mr. Lisi moved for approval which was seconded by Ms. Martin.

Mr. Elbaum inquired about each grant cycle receiving the same amount of funding. A brief discussion ensued.

Upon a voice vote, the “Ayes,” “Nays” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

<b><u>AYES</u></b>	<b><u>NAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSTENTIONS</u></b>
Peter Lisi	None	None
Dr. Estela Lopez		
Steven L Elbaum		
Susan Martin		

**FY 2022 TARGETED GRANT RECOMMENDATION MEMO/DISCUSSION**

Dr. Lopez turned the floor over to Ms. Sugerman Weintraub to discuss the FY 2022 Targeted Grant Program.

Ms. Sugerman Weintraub noted that unlike previous Targeted grant cycles, the FY 2022 Targeted grant cycle will start with a Letter Of Interest (LOI) process that will be posted to both the CHEFA and CT Council for Philanthropy websites. Ms. Sugerman Weintraub stated that she and the CHEFA officers will serve as the Internal Review Committee and will review the LOIs to determine who will move forward with a full application.

Ms. Sugerman Weintraub stated that in FY 2019, the Grant Committee decided to align the Targeted grant program with the FY 2019-2021 CHEFA strategic plan pillar of economic and workforce development for the public good. Targeted grants in both FY 2019 and FY 2020 were focused on workforce development, but due to the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, the decision was made by the Grant Committee to replace all three grant programs: Client, Nonprofit, and Targeted with one \$3 million statewide COVID-19 response grant cycle for FY 2021. Therefore, the third year of the workforce funding did not happen. Ms. Sugerman Weintraub stated that given this change, there remains one year of Targeted grant program workforce funding based on the original three-year determination by the Grant Committee.

Ms. Sugerman Weintraub reported that the pandemic has brought unparalleled unemployment to the state and country. As of May 3rd, there are currently 140,000 unemployed CT residents, an 8% unemployment rate, with the hardest hit demographic remaining those holding low-paying jobs, largely women and people of color. Ms. Sugerman Weintraub noted that while Governor Lamont’s recently announced proposal for Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds will provide much needed education and training support to the workforce, programs remain that will not be funded, or only partially funded, with the federal dollars. Ms. Sugerman Weintraub stated that staff recommends a continued focus on workforce for FY 2022, with an emphasis on

gap funding (where federal/state funds would not be available) and programming for organizations not eligible for federal funding.

The floor was open to questions and a brief discussion ensued.

Dr. Lopez indicated that she thought it was important that 2-year grant funding be an option for targeted grants.

Dr. Lopez requested a motion to approve staff's recommendations for the FY 2022 Targeted grant program. Mr. Elbaum moved for approval which was seconded by Mr. Lisi.

Upon a voice vote, the "Ayes," "Nays" and "Abstentions" were as follows:

<u><b>AYES</b></u>	<u><b>NAYS</b></u>	<u><b>ABSTENTIONS</b></u>
Peter Lisi	None	None
Dr. Estela Lopez		
Steven L Elbaum		
Susan Martin		

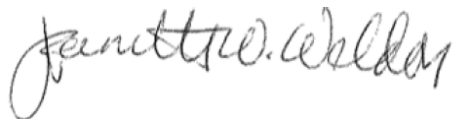
**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, at 1:29 p.m., Dr. Lopez requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Davis moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Martin seconded the motion.

Upon a voice vote, the "Ayes," "Nays" and "Abstentions" were as follows:

<u><b>AYES</b></u>	<u><b>NAYS</b></u>	<u><b>ABSTENTIONS</b></u>
Peter Lisi	None	None
Dr. Estela Lopez		
Steven L. Elbaum		
Susan Martin		

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanette Weldon  
Executive Director