



ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION (A&CA) MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, 22 February 2022

TIME: 3:30 PM

LOCATION: Online, via GoToMeeting (inclement weather)

Commissioners Present: Paula NEUHAUS (chair); Ryan DECKER (recorder); Ali LEVASSEUR; Sue RIEDEL; Thomas ROBBINS.

Commissioners Excused: Nicholas HALDER (vice-chair); Noelle CHESNEY.

Staff Present: Jenni PETERSEN-BRANT (coordinator); Mike WILLIAMS (intern).

Public Present (online): Justin Thiltgen.

Neuhaus called the meeting to order following staff assurance of Iowa Open Meeting compliance at 3:40 PM.

Roll Call & Review of Minutes

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves for public present. Petersen-Brant briefed Commissioners on appendix items. Approval of minutes motioned by Robbins, seconded by Decker. Vote: Unanimously affirmed. ***Motion carries.***

Taskforce & Working Group Reports

Petersen-Brant provided written and oral updates from active Master Plan Taskforce and Working Groups (see appendix). Acceptance of reports to minutes motioned by Decker, seconded by Riedel. Vote: Unanimously affirmed. ***Motion carries.***

Status Reports

Petersen-Brant provided written and oral progress updates of A&CA programs, grants and administrative business (see appendix). Notable updates include:

1. **Winter Arts Festival** very successful; post-event report will be drafted by staff and shared with Commission and City leadership.
2. **Slideroom** is now the active A&CA electronic grants/art submission platform.
3. **Arts & Economic Prosperity Study** will begin in May 2022; IAC funding opportunity for A&CA staff/internship of \$1000 may be available, staff to pursue.

Acceptance of reports to minutes motioned by Decker, seconded by Riedel. Vote: Unanimously affirmed. ***Motion carries.***

Old Business

1. **Strategic Plan:** Petersen-Brant briefed Commissioners on development and utility of Strategic Plan Action Steps (Chronological) excel document.
 - a. There was discussion over whether or not Calendar year or fiscal year was the most clear and useful tool; calendar year is most useful for staff. Commissioners will have access to the document through the new A&CA SharePoint site.
 - b. Discussion was held over Commissioners' individual capacity to participate advisory roles and boots-on-the-ground execution of the Strategic Plan
 - c. Commissioners began discussing areas they could execute Action Items over the next six months; Commissioners will email Staff with Action Items/Priorities they can undertake
2. **Master Plan Work Session** with City Council has been rescheduled for 18 April 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Commissioners are encouraged to attend and support.

New Business

1. **Art on the River (AotR):** Petersen-Brant shared the proposed theme and description of the AotR committee for the 2022-23 exhibition. Motion to approve theme and description by Levasseur, seconded by Riedel. Vote: Unanimously affirmed. ***Motion carries.***
2. **Special Meeting:** Petersen-Brant requested a special session for Commissioners to vote on guidelines for Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) grant distribution. Special meeting was set for **8 March 2022, 4:00-5:00 p.m.**
3. **Budget Hearing:** Set for **9 March 2022, 6:30 p.m.** Commissioner support is welcome.

Public Comment

1. **Justin Thiltgen**, Technical Grant Analysis Assistant for the City of Dubuque, introduced himself to the Commission. He commended the work of the Petersen-Brant and the Commission, and invites potential collaborators to come forward.
2. **A public letter** was shared by Petersen-Brant from the Foundation for Dubuque Public Schools regarding the work of the UD Heritage Center, supporting a change in Operational Support Grant guidelines to make education institutions eligible (see appendix).

Engagement Reports

Commissioners reported on community engagement activities:

- Neuhaus: NMRMA Membership initiative for at-risk schools and economic hardship
- Levasseur: DubuqueFest working with Loras College to rebrand as DBQ Fest

Adjournment motioned by Decker, seconded by Robbins at 5:03 PM. Vote: Unanimously affirmed. ***Motion carried.***

Next Special Meeting: Tuesday, 8 March 2022 at 4:00 PM, Multicultural Family Center
(Special Meeting for Tuesday 15 February 2022 was cancelled)

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 at 3:30 PM, Multicultural Family Center

Respectfully submitted:

Jenni Petersen-Brant
Arts & Cultural Affairs Coordinator, City of Dubuque

These minutes were passed and approved on Tues, March 8, 2022.

Witnessed By: *Paula Neuhaus* (signature)
Paula Neuhaus (printed)
Chairperson (officer position)

Dubuque Arts & Culture Master Plan Implementation Report

Task Force & Working Group Updates

Delivered at 2/22/2022 Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission Regular Meeting

Task Force

Not currently meeting, restructuring of Community Enactment Strategy anticipated in 2022.

Accessibility, Engagement, and Inclusion (AEI)

Creatives Café Steering Group* held 2nd event on Thurs, Feb 17 at Denny's Lux Club, 6-8PM

Steering Group present: Jason Neises, Alanda Gregory, Jenni Petersen-Brant, Mike Williams. Additional discussion facilitators: Hieyler Tally, Ranita Anderson, Lenore Howard.

- Continued curated invite process with more open publishing of event, 6 table topics.
- 33 attendees plus steering committee.
- Food by Shugga's Soul Café.
- Creatives Café developed based on previously discussed [World Cafes](#) / Dialogue Salons in support of Dubuque Renaissance Project initiative
- Next full group meeting will aim to be report out about:
 - Creatives Café event, plans for next event and continued connection
 - Black Heritage Survey (City-led by Planning Department)
 - Living History Project (In development, Heritage Works as current lead)
 - Captain Robert L. Martin Black Heritage Tribute (University of Dubuque + various partners)

* Creatives Café Steering Group is composed of the main AEI Working Group members interested in planning this particular activity.

NEXT MEETING to be determined, tentative for early March following Creatives Café debrief in February.

Branding and Communications

Coordinating schedules between Working Group members and Gigantic Design for launch of Communications Campaign discovery.

NEXT MEETING to be determined, anticipated for late February / early March with Gigantic Design.

Creative Economy

Not currently meeting, no Chair. Restructuring of Community Enactment Strategy anticipated in 2022.

Capacity and Investment

Not currently meeting, no Chair. Restructuring of Community Enactment Strategy anticipated in 2022.

Public Art Infrastructure

Not currently meeting, no Chair. Restructuring of Community Enactment Strategy anticipated in 2022.

OFFICE ARTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 2022 STATUS REPORTS FOR COMMISSION

• NEA LAA SUBGRANTING AWARD

- 'Official Notice of Action' received and filed by City Council at Feb 21 meeting.
- Goal is to issue awards / fund 'individual artist' projects in FY July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023 funding cycle.
- Goal is to issue awards / fund 'operating support' for orgs in CY Jan 1, 2023-Dec 31, 2023 funding cycle.

• ARTS & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY STUDY

- Please refer to previously forwarded email; study to begin in May 2023 with 800 surveys from diverse events to be collected for 12-month period.
- Opportunity to request funding from IAC of staff / interns dedicated to study; due March 1, 2022. Awards of up to \$1,000 anticipated.

• ART ON THE RIVER

- 'Crossing Bridges' theme and description to be reviewed / accepted at Feb 22, 2022 regular meeting of Commission.
- Mark calendars for Friday, August 5 for Opening Reception.
- DBQ Fest set for Saturday / Sunday following; Taste of DBQ set for Thurs, Aug 4.

• WINTER ARTS SNOW SCULPTING

- SUCCESSFUL event overall; debrief with Museum set for Thurs, Feb 24 at 11AM.
- 6 sculpting teams, 565 votes via in-person or online, thousands of in-person and online interactions!!
- Social engagement stats coming from PIO with report to Commission, City Manager and Council by end of March 2022.

• SLIDEROOM

- Contract signed and submitted, licensing fee paid as of 2/17/2022.
- www.cityofdubuque.slideroom.com
- Mike is added as an administration; we'll be navigating / learning the system in the coming months
- Art on the River 2022-23 applications will be first to be received through site; all upcoming calls for art / grant applications to be received through this

• MISCELLANEOUS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- Staffing additions – Communications / Grants Support position in process. FY23 IP not recommended so revamping to reflect only grant funding resources (\$7500 from IAC to spend by 6/30/22, \$50K from NEA to spend through early 2024)
- Mike's current work continues to include using IDCA's 'RE-IMAGINE' tools kit, helping with invites to Creatives Café, calendars of program benchmarks, and reaching out to creatives he has featured on social media to continue building the connection with invites to signup for various resources like WeCreateDBQ and other tools.
- March 9 @ 6:30PM, City Council Chambers / GoToMeeting – Budget Hearing for Economic Development
- April 18 @ 5:30PM, City Council Chambers / GoToMeeting – Master Plan Implementation Work Session with City Council

Letter of Support - UD Heritage Center

Thomas Robbins <TRobbins@dbq.edu>

Mon 1/4/2021 11:48 AM

To: Jenni Petersen-Brant <Jbrant@cityofdubuque.org>

1 attachments (131 KB)

Letter of support.pdf;

Good morning, Jenni:

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I don't know if this is appropriate at this point or not, but I recently had a conversation with Amy Unmacht, director of the Foundation for Dubuque Public Schools, regarding our City of Dubuque operating grant proposal. The Foundation has become a key partner in making it possible for district students to attend our SchoolBus Performance Series, so they have provided a letter in support of our proposal. Although Dubuque schools have been frequent/regular attendees of the SchoolBus program since the program's 2014 inception, our relationship with local schools has strengthened since 2018 due to an alliance with FDPS. I have attached their letter of support here for what it might be worth at some point in the determination process. Thank you.

Tom

Thomas J. Robbins
Executive Director, Heritage Center
University of Dubuque
2000 University Ave.
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-5099
Phone: (563) 589-3325
Box Office: (563) 585-SHOW

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.



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Office 563 588-2700

January 4, 2021

Jennifer Petersen-Brant
Arts & Cultural Affairs Coordinator
City of Dubuque
50 W 13th St.
Dubuque, IA 52001

Dear Ms. Petersen-Brant,

In 2008 the Iowa Department of Education ruled that Iowa schools can no longer charge fees for field trips. Under the state law, field trips that are tied to classroom instruction fall under the umbrella of tuition, which should be paid by the state and if an activity is not tied to the curriculum, it should not be held during the school day. This eliminated most school field trips unless outside funding sources were secured.

The mission of the Foundation for Dubuque Public Schools (FDPS) is to enhance student achievement by providing funding for projects and programs not covered by the school district's budget. In the fall of 2018 the FDPS formed a partnership with the University of Dubuque (UD) and the Heritage Center to give Dubuque Community School District (DCSD) students the opportunity to experience a live performance at the UD Heritage Center that correlated with their classroom curriculum.

School officials recognize the importance of field trips and the FDPS has been able to provide equity across the district by sending entire grade levels to performances at the UD Heritage Center. Information taken from a National Education Association (NEA) magazine states that

"Today's students are visual learners and a field trip lets them touch, feel, and listen to what they're learning about, [which helps them] build on classroom instruction, gain a better understanding of topics, build cultural understanding and tolerance, and expose them to worlds outside their own."

Carylann Assante, executive director for Student & Youth Travel Association (SYTA) and SYTA Youth Foundation, says field trips are particularly important for disadvantaged students, as they provide students with unique opportunities that level the playing field. "Field trips give diverse and financially-in-need students equal opportunity to experience things outside classroom that their families may not be able to afford." A field trip can also be the first trip a student takes without their parents, so it builds independence, as well.

During the 2019 – 2020 school year the FDPS with a partnership with the UD Heritage Center was able to send five entire grade levels of students in the DCSD to a live performance. These performances impacted approximately 4,000 students in the public schools that otherwise might not have had an opportunity to attend a live performance. Below is some feedback from staff that attended performances.

"My students were engaged and loved being able to see first-hand actors performing! Having this opportunity was a first for many of my students. They were energized by the excitement and anticipation of leaving the school environment. Anytime students can access real-world experiences, it helps support academic concepts and understanding."

"Most of my students had not attended a play or performance like this before. It was a great opportunity and experience."

"The best part of the trip was the way fun was incorporated into learning. Students were completely engaged, but able to recall new concepts they learned when we discussed the trip back in the classroom. Concepts tied in perfectly with our materials and motion science unit."

The FDPS recognizes the importance of out of the classroom experiences and has a goal to provide every student in the DCSD a hands on learning experience that supports their grade level curriculum that can be connected to their classroom learning. This goal can only be achieved with partnerships with organizations such as the UD Heritage Center.

For the 2020-2021 school year we had four performances already set for students to attend. Unfortunately, the pandemic and social distancing policies will not allow students to attend these performances this year. We look forward to providing this experience for students again in the near future.

Please accept this letter as support of the UD Heritage Center and the opportunities they provide to students and other community members in the Dubuque.

Sincerely,



Zach Hodge
2021 FDPS President



Josh Weidemann
Immediate Past President



Amy Unmacht
FDPS Executive Director

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Final Audit Report

2022-03-23

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