

Minutes
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION
May 28, 2013
Auditorium
Carnegie-Stout Library

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marina O'Rourke at 4:00 p.m. following staff assurance of compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

Commissioners present: Ellen Henkels, Louise Kames, Marina O'Rourke, Sue Riedel, Gina Siegert, Julie Steffen

Commissioners not present: Paul Hemmer

Staff present: Jerelyn O'Connor, Jan Stoffel

Members of the public present: Sue Becker, the Dubuque Chorale; Aaron Hefel, DubuqueFest; Jean Tucker, the Dubuque Symphony, and; Dan LoBianco, Downtown Cultural Corridor.

Approval of Minutes of April 23, 2013. Motion made by O'Rourke and seconded by Henkels to approve minutes. Motion carried 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approve funding levels of FY2014 Operating Grant Applications

Staff presented two possible funding scenarios – one with a maximum cap of \$40,000 or 5.5% of the organization's operating expenditures, and one with a cap of \$45,000 or 5% of the organization's operation expenditures. Commissioners noted that again, they were not able to fund the maximum of 6% or \$50,000 to eligible arts groups in Dubuque because of funding limitations. It would be a good time to reinforce with the City Council the need for additional funds for this program. Consensus of the commission was to select the the maximum funding level of \$40,000 or 5.5% be used this year. A motion made by Kames and seconded by O'Rourke to approve the funding formulas. . Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Henkels and seconded by Steffen to fund Bell Tower Productions \$14,097. Motion carried 5-0. Riedel abstained.

A motion was made by Siegert and seconded by O'Rourke to fund Colts Drum and Bugle \$40,000. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by O'Rourke and seconded by Kames to fund the Arboretum \$6,291. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Riedel and seconded by Henkels to fund Dubuque Arts Council \$4,542. Motion carried 5-0. Siegert abstained.

A motion was made by Henkels and seconded by Siegert to fund Dubuque Chorale \$1,397. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by O'Rourke and seconded by Siegert to fund Dubuque County Fine Arts Society \$3,176. Motion carried 5-0, Steffen abstained..

A motion was made by Riedel and seconded by Kames to fund Dubuque County Historical Society \$40,000. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Siegert and seconded by Kames to fund Dubuque Main Street, Inc., \$5,263. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by O'Rourke and seconded by Siegert to fund Dubuque Museum of Art \$18,844. Motion carried 5-0. Steffen abstained.

A motion was made by Henkels and seconded by Steffen to fund Dubuque Symphony Orchestra \$40,000. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Siegert and seconded by Riedel to fund Fly-By-Night Productions \$1,061. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Henkels and seconded by O'Rourke to fund The Grand Opera House \$17,233. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Riedel and seconded by Henkels to fund Julien Dubuque International Film Festival \$3,750. Motioned carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Kames and seconded by Henkels to fund Matter, Inc. \$3,026. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Henkels and seconded by Riedel to fund Northeast Iowa School of Music \$9,248. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Riedel and seconded by Henkels to fund Rising Star Theatre Company \$2,072. Motion Carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Review and Scoring of FY2014 Special Project Grant Applications.

There are 12 applications this year with a total request of \$61,807. One additional application was not eligible. There were 14 applications in FY13, 9 applications in FY12, 14 in FY11, 13 in FY10, and 8 applications in FY09. There are six first-ever applicants – Better Together Dubuque, Healing Moments, Studio Works, DubuqueFest (not under DCFAS) , Carnegie-Stout Public Library Foundation and Voices Productions (not under DCFAS). Applications were:

Bell Tower Productions, *Free Summer Musical Program*, \$5,000 (introduced by Steffen, Riedel abstained)

The project connects summer theatre to plays that are based on popular children's movies to attract a wider audience. Budget reasonable. Shows a good track record of success and has done unique marketing at Farmer's Market. Will expand to the 7-16 age range.

Better Together Dubuque, *Vibrant Dubuque*, \$7,000 (introduced by Siegert)

The intent of the project is good and the leaders qualified. The marketing cost should be broken down more. There was some confusion in what was done in the past and what would exactly be the new event. "Art infused workshop" was too vague. Should have addressed the controversy of the play. This project has great potential. It would be of great value to target audience. The event was budgeted on a full house which is hard to fulfill.

Carnegie-Stout Public Library Foundation, *The Gospel of Wealth: Andrew Carnegie Interpreted Through Sculpture*, \$4,495 (introduced by Riedel)

The subject matter was strong and included an element of live theatre as well as visual arts. It was confusing how the project fit in with the art work already created and displayed in the library in 2007. What would be different about this project? The application should have addressed this. Did not address costs related to bussing students.

DubuqueFest, *DubuqueFest Fine Arts Festival Community Art Project 2014*, \$5,000 (introduced by O'Rourke, Steffen abstained)

DubuqueFest is well known popular festival in Dubuque. City goals were well-addressed. It is creative community art project. Web/Facebook information confusing and budget did not tie out. Should be clear about what has been and what will be. What will it be in the future? Great potential for this event.

Dubuque Chorale, *Let the River Run*, \$6,280 (introduced by Kames)

The project description was strong in describing the river themed event and was tied to a good curriculum. It will expand audiovisual collaboration, use a city facility. The teacher guide is a real strength. Expertise of project leaders well documented. Contacted DBQ Community Schools to find out how to connect with underserved. Nice discussion of art as social change.

Dubuque Main Street, *Millwork Movie and Music Block Party*, \$4,800 (introduced by Henkels)

The Block party will include programming in the Millwork gallery and multiple arts groups can be included. The application was well-written and clear and uses community engagement and technology. Date is not conducive to college schedule. Would have been nice to know the movie selected but list of projects leaders shows expertise.

Dubuque Symphony Orchestra, *Rite of Spring at Voices*, \$7,701 (introduced by O'Rourke)

The project was described very clearly and goals were addressed. It puts the Symphony out of its traditional venue and comfort zone. The chosen music is edgy and will appeal to a wider audience. Wonderful project and application.

Healing Moments Alzheimer's Education, Advocacy and Ministry, *the Forgiving and the Forgetting – an Original Educational Theatre Production*, \$3,000 (introduced by Steffen)

Good use of education through art and the use of art in a health-based arena. The artists and project leaders are highly qualified. Innovative approach to a clinical focus. Funds being requested are in support of artists.

Julien Dubuque International Film Festival, 2014 *Julien Dubuque International Film Festival*, \$5,000 (introduced by Siegert)

The application was focused on what had already happened. The film event has the potential for great economic impact. Is there a selection committee? Focuses on tourism and not inspiring people to become filmmakers. Does not address those who may not be able to pay admission. Evaluation is very general. The application seems more like an operating instead of a special project.

Matter, Inc, *Creativity Program Development for Youth and Adults with Autism*, \$3,500 (introduced by Riedel)

The project sought to extend the scope of arts education to those with autism. The application was vague in the description of why it was needed and exacted numbers of people who might be served. Would this be better suited to happening at Mercy where expertly trained staff could assist? Eight hours of training in special needs is not adequate. This has great potential but need needs to be established.

Studio Works, Collaborative Mural Project, \$2,800 (introduced by O'Rourke, Kames abstained)

Project is well described and would involve an interesting artist. Mural would be a good community engagement device. Good involvement of middle and high school aged youth. Would have been better to have the building selected before the grant application. It is dependent upon other funding to happen.

Voices Productions, Voices Speaks 2013, \$7,231(introduced by Kames)

Strongly written application. It will present three major spoken word events, combining literary, visual and performing arts. Great artistic merit and combines professionals with emerging and local talent and will engage college students.

Commissioners took a short break to tally their scores. The votes were as follows.

FY 2014 Special Projects Arts Grant											
ORGANIZATION	FUNDING REQUEST	PROJECT TITLE	scores								
			Hemmer	Henkels	Kames	O-Rourke	Riedel	Siebert	Steffen	total	average
Dubuque Symphony Orchestra	\$7,701.00	Rite At Spring at Voices		88.00	89.00	100.00	100.00	97.00	89.00	563	93.83
Dubuque Chorale	\$6,280.00	Let the River Run		93	85	96	99	98	90	561	93.50
Bell Tower Productions	\$5,000.00	Free Summer Musical Program		98	94	93		88	90	463	92.60
Voices Productions	\$7,231.00	Voices Speaks 2013		90	95	88	85	96	85	539	89.83
Dubuque Main Street	\$4,800.00	Millwork Movie and Music Block Party		92	86	92	90	76	82	518	86.33
Healing Moments Alzheimer's Educa.	\$3,000.00	The Forgiving and Forgetting-original	76.00	71.00	96.00	90.00	90.00	91.00	514	85.67	
Studio Works	\$2,800.00	Collaborative Mural Project	81		89	80	91	85	426	85.20	
Carnegie Stout Library Foundation	\$4,495.00	The Gospel of Wealth:	89	68	84	87	99	77	504	84.00	
Better Together Dubuque	\$7,000.00	Vibrant Dubuque	81	72	79	78	97	86	493	82.17	
Dubuque Fest	\$5,000.00	DubuqueFest Community Art Proj	90	60	77	81	85		393	78.60	
Matter, Inc.	\$3,500.00	Creativity Program Development	81.00	66.00	79.00	75.00	91.00	75.00	467	77.8	
Julien International Film Festival	\$5,000.00	JIFF Film Festival	82.00	61.00	70.00	70.00	82.00	74.00	439	73.1	
Total Requests:	\$61,807.00										

Motion by Kames and seconded by O'Rourke to fund the top seven highest ranking applications and forward that recommendation to the City Council for approval. Motion carried 6-0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Kames seconded by Henkels to adjourn. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, 2013, at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Stoffel
Arts and Cultural Affairs Coordinator

These minutes were passed and approved on June 25, 2013.


Sue Riedel, Secretary