

MINUTES

ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 26, 2009
Board Room, Carnegie Stout Public Library
360 W. 11th Street, Dubuque, Iowa

Meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. following staff assurance of compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

Commissioners present: Paul Hemmer, Ellen Henkels, Louise Kames, Paul Kohl, Sue Riedel, Geri Shafer (left at 6 p.m.), Julie Steffen (via telephone conference). Staff Present: Jerelyn O'Connor, Jan Stoffel
Public attending: Char Eddy and Don Sisler, Holy Family Catholic Schools; Christopher Kulovitz, Get Reel Film Festival.

Approval of Minutes of April 28, 2009. Motion by Hemmer, seconded by Shafer to approve. Motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review of Project Support Funding Requests

Commissioners took turns introducing and leading discussion of each grant.

Dubuque Arboretum, Purchase of Art on the River Sculpture *Germination*. Kames rated the application as excellent and liked the connection with public art and the Art on the River project. Because of the 30,000 attendance at the Arboretum, it would have a big impact on the Dubuque Community. It addresses a Commission goal of furthering public art. Henkels like the path the Arboretum was taking establishing itself as a sculpture garden, noting that the Commission already funded the Japanese garden gate there and another Art on the River sculpture had been previously purchased by a private donor. Kohl wondered if there was a conflict of interest with the Commission running both the Art on the River and the grant programs, but staff and other Commissioners felt there was no conflict. Public art is an eligible activity under the grant program.

Dubuque Art Center/Community Foundation, Free Arts Enrichment Programs.

Riedel liked the project for its focus on youth, especially those at risk, and acknowledged the collaborative nature. There was a concern that it might be a duplication of a Museum of Art program. Stoffel pointed out a letter of support by the Museum. Hemmer felt that there was too much focus on gathering statistics and that it would be difficult to determine outcomes in just a year. Steffen and Kohl did not see a proven track record. Shafer was concerned about how the 100 children would be chosen for the program. The application was not detailed enough in how other care providers would be involved.

Dubuque Arts Council, Inc., Free Family Fun: Darwin.

(Hemmer abstained.) Henkles commented that the grant was very clearly written and presented a new and family-centered program. She was impressed with the connection of the project to the City goals and the collaborations used in the project. Kames liked the learning through artistic expression and suggested rethinking the title to express the art connection. If two performances were held, the potential audience would be 1600, many of them underserved.

Dubuque Community Y, Walking in Beauty: Life in Dubuque Without Violence.

Kohl felt while the project was worthwhile, it was not really art. Hemmer felt that third graders might be too young to successfully communicate the serious topic to a broad audience. Steffen liked that an important topic was brought up in an unexpected place, but Commissioners questioned if placemats at a restaurant would really accomplish the goals. Shafer felt that the budget was not detailed enough and members felt that the cost was excessive.

Dubuque County Fine Arts Society, Voices from the Warehouse District 2009.

(Kohl and Steffen abstained.) Hemmer thought the project was worthy but mentioned the parking and fire code challenges which could impact attendance. Shafer commented that although Voices had been done before, the 24-hour play project and multilingual aspects were good enhancements but wished there was more evaluation built into the project. Kames wanted to know who the national poet and the selected artists were. Planning should be better shown in the application.

Dubuque Museum of Art, Alfred Caldwell and Dubuque' Eagle Point Park.

(Steffen abstained.) Shafer commented that Paul Young is a significant resource for the Museum and the Community in this project and felt that the impact of the grant would be felt for generations. Kames appreciated the connection to another city institution felt it would attract a new audience to the Museum. Commissioners felt that the application only touched the surface of the educational and promotional possibilities of this venture.

Get Reel/Rotary, 2009 Student Film Competition and Festival.

(Shafer abstained.) Kames stated that the grant was well-written and was excited about the project and thought students would also be. The expansion to the college level was excellent. Kohl felt that film was an underserved art in the community. Hemmer thought the timeline in the grant was good. Riedel expressed some hesitation on the lack of a long record of dealing with financials. O'Connor commented that technically, the Rotary Foundation would receive the funds as fiscal agent. Riedel urged the Rotary to monitor the use of the money.

Grand Opera House, Young Adult Performing Arts Program.

Riedel questioned on what exactly the funds would be used for. Would they pay for the classes or go for the salary of the director? Commissioners thought that the budget lacked clarity and did not clearly define what the income would be. Hemmer thought that housing costs for the director were excessive. Kohl didn't

think the application presented a strong case that this was new or an expansion of programming. Kames noted that there was no collaboration within the project.

Holy Family Schools, Wahlert Community Concert.

Henkles thought the project was very ambitious but costly, noting that it was not part of the Symphony's regular season. Commissioners felt that the project would primarily serve Wahlert students and their families and were hoping to see a broader audience with some underserved populations and more collaboration. Kames felt the application would have been stronger with more detail about the type of music to be selected. Hemmer wondered that if it was not fully funded, would it be able to be produced.

Loras College, Hidden Treasures for Dubuque's Depression Era.

(Kohl abstained.) Hemmer liked the historical focus of the project, but felt that it did not benefit a wide enough group. The budget lacked detail and looked as if the majority of the money would fund salaries. It was unclear how students would be utilized. Kames questioned the newness of the project as some of these photos had been used several years ago at the Museum of Art.

Main Street, Fall into Art Gallery Tour.

Kohl liked the project but did not see it as anything new. Kames noted that the last event was hugely successful but did not feel that the application made a case that this was an expansion. Steffen liked the profit and non-profit partnership. Shafer was disappointed that the Art on the River exhibit was not included in the event it occurs in the district described in the grant. She urged Main Street to include the exhibit in the future. Riedel thought it was a good tourist attraction and was a small amount of money for a big impact.

Northeast Iowa School of Music, New Horizons Band Pilot Program.

Shafer commented that the project was totally new and addressed the underserved population of those 55 and older. She complimented the writer on including documentation on the impact of music on students of this age. Hemmer noted that New Horizons was a strong national organization and was happy to see the collaboration. He thought it would be a very attractive program for this age group. Kohl stated that it did not duplicate efforts of the Tri-State Wind Symphony because it was for people who had never played an instrument while the Tri-State Wind Symphony required some basic musical proficiency and experience.

Tri-State Wind Symphony, Concerts to Celebrate Eagle Point Park's 100th Birthday.

(Kohl abstained.) Hemmer questioned how long the fanfare would be and felt that the commission fee was high. He commented that there are some very good scores accessible for free. Commissioners liked the Eagle Point anniversary tie-in and suggested the Tri-State Wind Symphony and Museum of Art collaborate because of the similar focus of their grants. Perhaps the architectural drawings could be used on the program for the concerts. Commissioners complimented the Tri-State Wind Symphony on their Thursday concerts.

Commissioners reviewed their rating sheets. Scores were reported and tabulated.

FUNDING REQUEST	PROJECT TITLE	Hemmer	Henkels	Kames	Kohl	Riedel	Shafer	Steffen	total	average
\$3,500.00	Purchase of Art on the River Sculpture Germination	84	85	90	71	97	87	83	597	85.28571
\$8,000.00	Free Arts Enrichment Programs and Study	57	84	82	73	70	93	75	534	76.28571
\$7,215.00	Free Family Fun: "Darwin"	abstain	91	90	86	97	94	84	542	90.33333
\$8,760.00	Walking in Beauty: Life in Dubuque Without Violence	18	62	71	72	78	87	76	464	66.28571
\$10,000.00	Voices from the Warehouse District 2009	64	92	65	abstain	94	92	abstain	407	81.4
\$4,500.00	Alfred Caldwell and Dubuque's Eagle Point Park	60	78	92	80	83	95	abstain	488	81.33333
\$10,000.00	2009 Student Film Competition and Festival	86	82	85	87	80	abstain	85	505	84.16667
\$11,045.00	Young Adult Performing Arts Program	58	74	61	79	78	86	79	515	73.57143
\$12,550.00	Wahlert Community Concert	40	79	75	76	70	87	76	503	71.85714
\$23,330.00	Hidden Treasures from Dubuque's Depression Era	78	84	60	abstain	67	77	77	443	73.83333
\$3,800.00	Fall into Art Gallery Tour	55	76	83	73	87	88	69	531	75.85714
\$5,000.00	New Horizons Band, Pilot Program	74	88	80	79	85	94	74	574	82
\$2,700.00	Concerts to Celebrate Eagle Point Park's 100th Birthday	60	87	79	abstain	90	88	72	476	79.33333

Grant applications receiving a 75 point or above average score in rank order were:

Dubuque Arts Council, Free Family Fun Darwin	90
Dubuque Arboretum, Purchase of Sculpture Germination	85
Get Reel/Rotary, Student film Competition and Festival	84
Northeast Iowa School of Music, New Horizons Band Pilot Program	82
Dubuque County Fine Arts Society, Voices from the Warehouse 2009	81
Dubuque Museum of Art, Alfred Caldwell and Dubuque's Eagle Point Park	81
Tri-State Wind Symphony, Concerts for the Eagle Point's 100 Birthday	79
Dubuque Art Center, free Arts Enrichment Programs and Study	76
Main Street, Fall into Art Gallery Tour	76

Because the requested amount exceeds the \$35,000 available, the Commissioners awarded the top four grants, The Dubuque Arts Council (\$7,215), the Dubuque Arboretum (\$3,500), Get Reel Film Society (\$10,000) and the Northeast Iowa School of Music (\$5,000), 100% of their requested amount. The next two highest point totals were the grants from Dubuque County Fine Arts Society (\$6,397) and the Dubuque Museum of Art (\$2,888) that were awarded approximately 64% of their requested amounts. These awards totaled \$35,000. Commissioners expressed regret that there was not sufficient money to fund the remaining three applicants that had reached the acceptable point threshold.

Henkels moved and Kohl seconded to accept these funding totals. Motion carried 6-0. (Shafer absent.)

OLD BUSINESS:

The members discussed funding scenarios presented by staff for the 2010 operating Support Grants. Riedel questioned whether funding Main Street would be appropriate. Shafer commented that their request for a specific amount was unusual. Hemmer wanted more information about the breakdown in financials between Main Street's arts activities as a percentage to the entire budget. Shafer moved and Hemmer seconded not to fund Main Street's application for operating support because of the request for a specific amount and because of the lack of arts financial information. Motion carried 6-0. (Kohl abstained.)

Steffen moved and Hemmer seconded to approve the following funding levels for the 2010 operating grants. Motion carried 6-0. (Shafer absent.)

Dubuque Symphony Orchestra	\$40,000
Dubuque Museum of Art	\$23,871
Dubuque Arts Council	\$3,816
Dubuque Chorale	\$243
Grand Opera House	\$26,954
Bell Tower Productions	\$11,311
Dubuque County Historical	\$40,000
Fly-By-Night Productions	\$472
Colts Drum & Bugle	\$40,000
Dubuque Fine Arts Society	\$3,003
Northeast Iowa School of Music	\$6,044
Dubuque Arboretum	\$4,286

ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION: Chair Kames feels that the Commission's strategy undertaken last year to require those organizations that had applied two years in a row to sit out for a year had been successful. This strategy was undertaken to encourage a wide range of creative projects from varied non-profits, including first-time applicants. She complimented staff for their work in facilitating both the Operating and Project grant programs.

Hemmer thought that the posters of the present Art on the River sculptures that are in the lobby of the post office are an excellent way to publicize the project.

INFORMATION SHARING:

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC:

ADJOURNMENT

The next Commission meeting on June 23 will begin at 4:30 p.m.

Motion by Hemmer and second by Kohl to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.
Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Stoffel
Jan Stoffel

These minutes were passed and approved on

June 23, 2009

Ellen Henkels (e)
Ellen Henkels, Secretary