



## ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MINUTES

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**DATE:** Thursday, May 28, 2020

**TIME:** 3:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Via GoToMeeting

### Regular Meeting

**Commissioners Present:** Ali Levasseur, Nicholas Halder, Susan Riedel, Ryan Decker, Gina Siegert, Susan Riedel, Tyler Daugherty, Paula Neuhaus.

**Staff Present:** Jennifer Petersen-Brant

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Levasseur at 3:34 PM following staff assurance of compliance with Iowa Open Meeting Law.

**Review of Minutes:** Changes were discussed and implemented. Motion to accept minutes of April 28, 2020 with changes by Commissioner Riedel, seconded by Commissioner Siegert. Commissioners Levasseur, Halder, Riedel, Decker, Siegert, Daugherty, and Neuhaus voted to approve motion; Motion passed.

**Minutes / Reports from Working Groups:** Notes submitted by Petersen-Brant on behalf of various Working Groups reviewed by Commission with general discussion. Motion to accept reports by Commissioner Siegert, seconded by Commissioner Riedel. Commissioners Levasseur, Halder, Riedel, Decker, Siegert, Daugherty, and Neuhaus voted to approve motion; Motion passes.

### Program Status Updates from Staff

**FY21 Arts & Culture Grants:** Reported that have been reviewed and scored; Commissions' recommendations as to funding levels can not be forwarded at this time because City budget still in flux due to impacts on tax revenues from COVID-19. Amount of overall grant funding available, originally \$250,000 in Operating Support and \$35,000 for Special Projects, is being reconsidered as part of City Department proposals for 10/20/30% reductions that are due to City Manager on June 12. Grant contracts may not be able to be offered until early Fall due to this new budget review timeline. Discussion by Commissioners followed on possibilities of input on the reductions; Staff noted that the number of Special Project grants exceeded

expectations so there was not an automatic reduction that could be made there. Suggestion by Commissioner Riedel to draft and send letter to City Manager emphasizing the importance of Operating Support grants. Input provided by each Commissioner on appropriateness and potential content of the letter, stressing that is the Commissions' role to advocate for funding and support of local arts and culture organizations who have already applied for these grants. Suggestion made as to possibility of maintaining Operating Support as in full as possible in lieu of funding Special Projects as project timelines may not be feasible due to COVID-19. Commissioner Daugherty suggested sending letters to State Representatives as well for discretionary funding for projects cut under City budgets. Commissioner Siegart suggested repurposing funds from other Commission projects. Commissioners Neuhaus and Levasseur volunteered to compose the letter; Commissioner Riedel suggested all Commissioners see it prior to sending.

**Art on the River (AOTR) Update:** Staff reported that Department Manager Jill Connors was not currently considering a reduction to AOTR in initial budget reduction proposals and AOTR reviewing was proceeding as planned. 34 proposals were submitted, ten will be selected with 3 alternatives. Staff noted that Lighted Boat Parade will likely be cancelled and that Taste of Dubuque is still up in the air. Commissioners will need to hold a special meeting next week in order to have AOTR recommendations on the June 15<sup>th</sup> City Council agenda for approval. Staff to send email to gauge availability.

**Strategic Planning & Goal Setting Proposal Update:** Staff reported that Department Manager Jill Connors is generally in support of funding for Commission to undertake a strategic planning and goal setting session but advised that the Commission wait for FY21 funding. Discussion that later date would also allow Powers time for needed prep work. Commission to pursue full \$1600 service proposal in FY21.

**New Business:**

- Comments of support and condolences to Staff regarding the recent death of her husband.
- Staff reported that City buildings will continue to be closed to the public through July 6, 2020.
- Arts and Culture Partners recorded a PSA featuring representatives of the City's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, the Arts & Culture Advisory Commission, and 15 local 501c3 arts and culture organizations, all funded through the City's Arts and Culture Grant Programs. The PSA serves as a collective message to the community about the arts and culture institutions' ongoing work to connect, inspire, and uplift while venues remain closed and operations are disrupted due to COVID-19. The message will be shared online by those appearing in the video and throughout the community by other engaged in the Arts & Culture Master Plan. The message was shared with City Council during the May 18 City Council meeting, airing on CityChannel, and via the Iowa Arts Council on social media.



**Current Events Reporting from Commissioners:**

- JDIFF going digital in new format, June 25<sup>th</sup> through July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Commissioner Decker reported that Trainwreck Productions is bringing back Drinks and Dialog.
- Commissioner Neuhaus reported that River Museum opened Memorial Weekend with restrictions including 50% capacity and Phase 1 of their opening has been successful. The William M. Black will open the first week of June. A volunteer otter had babies on the wetlands on their site.
- Commissioner Daugherty report that Torquefest is scheduled for the first week in July with 2,000 to 4,000 attendees expected.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Siegert and seconded by Commissioner Daugherty. Commissioners Levasseur, Halder, Riedel, Decker, Siegert, Daugherty, and Neuhaus voted to approve motion; Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, July 28, 2020**

Respectfully submitted:

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

These minutes were passed and approved on June 23, 2020.

Witnessed By: [Signature] (signature)

Ari Levasseur (printed)

Chair (officer position)

# Arts & Cultural Affairs Master Plan Task Force

## Working Group & Task Force Updates

As of 5/28/2020 to share with Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission

### Task Force

CANCELED due to extenuating circumstances – May 28, 2020 meeting

NEXT MEETING - Thurs, July 23, 2020 from 8-9am at TBD Location with virtual option provided

### Accessibility, Engagement, and Inclusion

Met Mon., May 4, 2020 @ 3:30pm, via MS Teams Virtual Call

Attending: Michaela Freiburger, Alanda Gregory, Ali Levasseur, Jason Neises, Jenni Petersen-Brant, Geri Shafer, Heidi Zull

#### 1. Updates from A&C organizations; community “temperature check”

- a. Geri watched the [Americans for the Arts webinar](#) today – be sure to check it out on its website. It was about COVID-19 responses in the arts community, CARES Act, building a case for funding in the arts during this crisis, upcoming opportunities to support the arts. Underscored the importance of the arts during these times.
  - i. The link above includes some of the content from the webinar, including links for COVID-19 resources for the arts.
- b. Jenni has a weekly check-in every Friday for arts organizations that are looking for help. This Friday they’re doing a PSA about the importance of the arts & welcoming everyone back in the future, how essential they are for the community. Want to be sure leadership & decision-makers know the importance of the arts.
- c. At DuMA the concern is primarily funding, NEA CARES package. Other grant applications to remain open. Holding virtual exhibitions.
- d. Dubuque County Fine Arts Society is doing some committee work since they have time due to the cancellation of Dubuque Fest.
  - i. Reviewing finances, by-laws, things that often don’t get attention.
  - ii. Writer’s Guild is currently reviewing submissions for its upcoming book, working with the designer & publisher. Submission deadline has been extended two weeks.

#### 2. PechaKucha update

- a. Global PK has been doing virtual events, so that might be an option for June if we’re still under social distancing guidelines. Could do this with the folks who had already been lined up for the April event that was cancelled.
- b. The help that’s needed from our group is recruiting people to tell stories.
  - i. Usually have 10 – 13 speakers lined up for each event.
  - ii. Also need help following up with people to be sure they’re on track with their presentations.
  - iii. Alanda & Jason offered to help people put their presentations together. As this becomes a regular function of this group we can get more of our committee members involved.
- c. Could we start doing story-telling workshops in conjunction with PK?

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- i. Jason & Jenni can look at grant opportunities. Jenni has a resource in DSM that she'll send around info about.
  - ii. There are opportunities for rural audiences in the CFGD region.
- d. The Dubuque Stories project for Architecture Days might be another potential partnership.
- e. Could we re-envision having a poet laureate for Dubuque?
  - i. Create a calendar of events so the laureate could celebrate upcoming events.

### 3. Next steps for the Dubuque Renaissance Project

- a. Interim steps under social distancing guidelines
  - i. Netflix Viewing Party – view online together & have a discussion.
  - ii. Susan Gorrell at JDIFF has been contacted as a potential partner. She and Jason are meeting next week.
- b. Groundwork with cultural organizations
  - i. Use the initial group of events to start informing cultural leaders about the idea behind the project.
- c. Meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00pm

### 4. Other items to note and/or celebrate?

- a. DMS is working on what June Music on Main Street will look like if it can't be held in person.
- b. Farmers' Market starting on May 16<sup>th</sup> but no music or crafters. Check the website for full social distancing guidelines.
- c. DMS has sent out Dubuque-themed coloring books.
- d. Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> there is a Front Porch downtown shopping event.
- e. Alanda is doing a live online show every Sunday called "Great People to Know" updated on YouTube. Featuring area artists & entertainers. Get the series established so it can be a part of the Renaissance Project.
  - i. Could be a feeder for PechaKucha too.
- f. Since Dubuque Fest is cancelled, they will do an online nomination process for people to post things they're purchased from artists who have exhibited at Dubuque Fest in the past, celebrate the act of purchasing art & supporting artists.

### 5. Meeting logistics

- a. Next meeting: June 1 at 3:30pm
- b. Will update closer to the meeting about the status of the McCarthy Center for in-person meetings or if we'll be virtual again.

### 6. Adjourn

## Branding and Communications

### Met Wed, Apr 1 @ 3:30pm via GoToMeeting

Present: Gina Siegert, Miki Robinson, Randy Lengeling, Mallory Gardiner, Taylor Cummings, Jenni Petersen-Brant

#### 1. Updates on Survey

- Dubuque Arts & Culture Scene Survey is out and shared with grantees and have approx. 120 responses.
- Questions on how often do we share survey results with others. Also has this been sent out to Task Force members and Working Groups and have a deadline of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### 2. Update on Communications Platform (Google Drive)

# Arts & Cultural Affairs Master Plan Task Force

- Jenni is uploading important information on the Google Drive. Gina will put all past documents in an Archive Folder.
- 3. **Review and refresh goals of B&C Work Group**
  - Brief review based on the Master Plan working group enactment strategy. Past meetings were based on interior communication and externally communication. At that time WG felt we needed more information for external marketing & branding, and who executes decisions. Most work was on internal communication. Some progress has been made but need to pick up.
  - Suggestion to table thoughts until in person meeting can be held. Jenni suggested to regroup and devote a meeting in person in July. Should also have an online meeting for all to attend.
  - Also push out survey and discuss in June.
  - Re-engage past members.
- 4. **Review of Creative Economy template.**
  - Some are tangible and some not. Feedback from Survey needed.
  - Question on how A&C Commission reacted to
    - General opinion is on board, suggestion to contact DAAC
- 5. **Update from Jenni on Friday grant recipients weekly virtual meeting**
  - A PSA of collective scripted voice of cultural representatives to welcome public back
  - Weekly group is also working as a think tank
  - Working as a collective of cultural organizations. This has been a “wish list” idea of the arts and cultural sector for years.

NEXT MEETING scheduled for Wed., June 3, 2020 at 3:30pm, via GoToMeeting.

## Creative Economy

May meeting not held due to extenuating circumstances

NEXT MEETING tentatively scheduled for Tues, June 9, 2020 at 6 PM via GoToMeeting.

## Public Art Infrastructure

NEXT MEETING tentatively scheduled for Mon, June 15, 2020 at 3:30 PM via GoToMeeting.

## Capacity and Investment

NOT MEETING AT THIS TIME