



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

DATE: Tuesday, January 24, 2023

TIME: 3:30 PM

LOCATION: Multicultural Family Center, The Ruby Sutton Building, [1157 Central Ave](#), Dubuque, IA 52001

Commissioners Present: Nicholas HALDER (chair); Tom ROBBINS (vice-chair); Noelle CHESNEY; Doug DONALD; Sue RIEDEL; Paula NEUHAUS; Shirley DAVIS-ORWOLL (recorder)

Staff Present: Jenni PETERSEN-BRANT (coordinator); Mike WILLIAMS (intern); Laura MERRICK (grants asst)

Public Present: Fran Henkels, Pam Rosmann

HALDER called the meeting to order following staff assurance of Iowa Open Meeting compliance at 3:34 PM.

Roll Call & Review of Minutes

Roll call conducted followed by approval of 20 December 2022 minutes with confirmation of adjournment time and correction of name spelling for NEUHAUS motion by ROBBINS, seconded by DONALD. Vote: Unanimously affirmed. ***Motion carries.***

Staff Status Reports

Written updates provided by PETERSEN-BRANT. Highlights referenced by staff included:

- Update on the NEA LAA subgranting Arts Operating Recovery for Organizations.
- Update on the NEA LAA subgranting Individual Arts Grant Program.
- Arts & Economic Prosperity Study surveying by Mike ongoing. End of May for final collection.
- Update on the Winter Arts Snow Sculpting Festival to take place February 7-12. 6 sculpting teams signed up.
- Art on the River-Opening Celebration to be held first Friday in August from 5-7 PM at Grand River Center patio.
- GARE mini-grant / sponsorship opportunity still forthcoming.

Motion to accept staff status report and include with the minutes of the meeting by NEUHAUS, seconded by RIEDEL. Vote: Unanimously affirmed. ***Motion carries.***

Master Plan Working Group Update

Verbal update provided by PETERSEN-BRANT about the Creatives Café that is to take place this

Thursday, January 26, 2023 from 6-8:00 PM at Five Flags Historic Theater. No motion necessary.

Old Business

1. **Strategic Plan Reporting:** ROBBINS offered update about the recent discussions that Priority 4 committee has had on strengthening advocacy, exploring feasibility/need of arts support organization, among other topics. The committee is entertaining idea to gather representatives from surrounding arts councils/support organizations to share information / models on arts support agencies at the local level; virtual or in-person town hall style panel discussed. To support engagement of Dubuque-based organizations and artists on regional / national level, committee is compiling list of opportunities they are aware of arts and culture resources / networks. ROBBINS also offered information about Governor Reynolds move to disband Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs and place former divisions of that agency within other state department office. Brief discussion was had on potential impacts and limited ability of Commission to advocate; Commission can as individuals but not as representatives of Commission/City.

Motion to request PETERSEN-BRANT to ask Teri Goodman if Iowa Cultural Coalition information email can be transmitted to Council for their awareness by DONALD, seconded by RIEDEL. Vote: Unanimously affirmed. ***Motion carries.***

2. PETERSEN-BRANT shared updated ordinance amendment regarding adjustment to Commissioner term expirations as prepared by Legal Department. Ordinance amendment will appear on February 7, 2023 Council agenda for approval.
3. HALDER confirmed that he is drafting a letter on behalf of the Commission to the City Manager voicing support for FY24 improvement packages. Letter will be submitted to City Manager via email and shared with Commissioners.

New Business

1. **Program Materials for Individual Creative NEA Subgranting:** MERRICK presented program materials for distributing \$15,000 in NEA LAA funds to working creatives living in Dubuque. Materials reviewed included a notice of funding, application questions, and scoring criteria and matrix. Discussion clarifying “projects must take place within the city limits of Dubuque.” PETERSEN-BRANT suggested that the statement might be rewritten to read “the project must be made accessible to the Dubuque community.” Other general discussion about the program followed. MERRICK thanked RIEDEL, HALDER, NEUHAUS and PETERSEN-BRANT for their help in the process of developing all materials reviewed. Motion to accept Creative Empowerment NEA Subgrant program materials with change as noted above by DONALD seconded by CHESNEY. Vote: Unanimously affirmed. ***Motion carries.*** Commission thanked staff for their work on building out the new one-time grant program.
2. **External Grant/Designation Opportunities:**
 - a. PETERSEN-BRANT shared that she'd been asked by Teri Goodman to explore Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge opportunities. Currently in discussion with Dubuque Museum of Art for collaboration application exploring themes of diversity, access, and histories of Black, Marshallese, and Indigenous communities in Dubuque. Application due February 15, 2023.
 - b. Opportunity for NEA Grants for Arts Projects is being explored. City can apply as a local arts agency for subgranting funds. PETERSEN-BRANT has proposed to Teri

Goodman idea of requesting \$35,000 to double Special Projects grant program budget to \$70,000 in FY25. Application due February 9, 2023.

- c. Iowa Great Places Redesignation application is being drafted by City staff with work lead by Cori Burbach. The redesignation would provide a 10-year designation recognized by the state with IGP funding and endorsement opportunities for geographic area determined in application. Application due February 17, 2023.

Public Comment/Correspondence

Fran Henkels shared his support for advocating for the arts in Dubuque given the realignment of Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs being proposed by Governor Reynolds. He attended meeting to ensure Commission was aware of this activity at the state level.

Pam Rosmann shared that her and her husband moved here partly due to the vibrant arts and culture community. This is her first time attending a Commission meeting. She recently applied to be a grant reviewer for the Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs as she has grant reviewing experience; she's looking forward to getting involved.

Events and Engagement Reporting from Commissioners

HALDER shared that on February 8, 2023 from 6-8pm at Steeple Square, the Community Foundation will hold an Arts and Culture in Dubuque discussion with a panel from various organizations.

NEUHAUS shared the River Museum will host a ribbon cutting for its new River to the Seas exhibit on March 2, 2023. She will forward an email invitation to all Commissioners.

Adjournment motioned by RIEDEL, seconded by NEUHAUS at 5:11 PM. Vote: *Unanimously affirmed. Motion carries.*

**Next Meeting: Special Meeting on Monday, January 30, 2023 at 3:30 PM,
Multicultural Family Center**

Respectfully submitted:

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

These minutes were passed and approved on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023.

Witnessed By: Nick Halder (signature)

Nick Halder (printed)

Chairperson (officer position)

OFFICE ARTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

JANUARY 2023 STAFF ACTIVITY REPORT FOR COMMISSION

• NEA LAA SUBGRANTING AWARD

- Arts Operating Recovery for Organizations:
 - Reviewing complete.
- Individual artists grant program:
 - Creative Empowerment – See materials presented for review / recommendation at January 24, 2023 meeting
- Overall end of NEA period performance for City = May 31, 2024. All reporting due.

• ARTS & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY STUDY

- Survey collection ongoing, 221 surveys collected as of 1/4/2023.
 - Overall goal to collect 800 surveys by May 31, 2023 (hard deadline).
 - Survey of non-profit org operations to start in February.
 - Results expected in Summer / Fall 2023.

• WINTER ARTS (IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DUMA)

- Snow stompng, Tuesday, Feb. 7 + Snow sculpting, Thurs.-Sun. Feb. 9-12 with Community Festival on Sunday, Feb. 12 from noon-4 p.m.

• ART ON THE RIVER

- Planning committee meeting Thursday, Jan. 26.
- Save the date: Friday, Aug. 4, 2023 for Opening Celebration at Grand River Center

• ART EN ROUTE

- No updates at this time.

• CITY ARTS & CULTURE GRANT PROGRAMS

- No updates at this time but lots of work to be put in motion:
 - GARE mini-grant series needs to get out.
 - Prep for FY24 Operating Support and Special Projects.

• EXTERNAL FUNDING / DESIGNATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunities currently being looked at:
 - Bloomberg Public Art Challenge.
 - NEA Grants for Arts Projects.
 - Iowa Great Places Designation.

• INTERN: MIKE WILLIAMS

- February / March
 - Identifying / attending events as part of AEP6 study
 - Social media promotion on:
 - Winter Arts
 - Creative Empowerment grant program
 - Survey with Teens on creative arts opportunities
 - Resharing content / events from funded partners

• AMERICORPS: AMY HENSON

- February / March
 - Continuing to reach out to organizations / partners scheduling and hosting interviews regarding creative programming for teens, 13 interviews as of 1/24/2023.
 - Developing strategies / connections to gather input from teens on needs / opportunities / barriers.
 - Volunteering at teen-focused arts and other experiences.

- MISCELLANEOUS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- Budget
 - Public Input Session, generally early February
 - Budget Hearings, generally mid-March
- Additional service / engagement by A&C Marketing
 - City:
 - ARPA / BIL Infrastructure and Human Infrastructure task forces
 - AchieveIt software training and implementation = tracking progress on various plans
 - Iowa Arts Council
 - Local Arts Agency monthly calls
 - Cultural & Entertainment District Committee
 - Other:
 - Eastern IA Art Society
 - Dubuque Forward – Arts Passion Team