

Minutes
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION
Tuesday May 22, 2012
Lacy Board Room
Carnegie-Stout Library

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

Commissioners present: Paul Hemmer, Ellen Henkels, Marina O'Rourke, Sue Riedel, Geri Shafer (on phone), Julie Steffen. Commissioners excused: Louise Kames

Staff Present: Jerelyn O'Connor, Jan Stoffel

Public present: Jean Tucker - Dubuque Symphony Orchestra; Jennifer Klinkhammer and Sue Becker - Dubuque Chorale; Anthony Davis and Valorie Woerdehoff – Loras College.

Approval of Minutes of April 24 2012. Motion made by Riedel, seconded by Henkels to approve. Motion carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Review of Special Project Grants.** The Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission met to review a record 14 grant applications from Dubuque organizations requesting \$91,286 in funds from the FY 2013 Arts and Culture Grant Program for Special Projects. Chair O'Rourke pre-assigned Commissioners to introduce individual grants. Other Commissioners added additional comments. The grants were reviewed in alphabetical order.
 - **Brick Road Films, *Dubuque's Historic Millwork District- a Visual Record, \$7,500.*** Riedel introduced. This will be a great historical documentary. Track record strong with the Field of Dreams work. This documenting needs to be done now as the Millwork district is developing. Should have explained more information about the principal artists. The project will be educational, and makes good use of sponsors. It was hard to see from the narrative if the video would be produced as part of this grant. The narrative lacked enough detail.
 - **Dubuque Arboretum Association, Inc., *Japanese Garden Installation, \$2,580.*** O'Rourke introduced. This project was well thought out and has been planned for awhile. The application demonstrated the love and passion the volunteers have for the Arboretum. It is unfortunate that the Arboretum is only accessible by car – a bus route would be a plus to make it accessible to all. Budget is reasonable. Narrative was light on the merit and qualifications of the original artists. A special project grant funded an element of the Japanese garden in the past.
 - **Dubuque Chorale, *Legacy of the British Isles: "I have had singing..." \$6,400.*** Shafer introduced. The project has an interesting historical context. The City goals were well addressed. This is a new opportunity for the Chorale and has been well planned. The Commissioners recommended that the Chorale film the final concert. This story has not been told before with such variety of media. There is a solid plan for sponsorships. This project will have a strong public appeal and be located downtown.

- **Dubuque County Historical Society, *Julien Dubuque: The Artistic Portrayal*, \$8,070.** Riedel introduced. Interesting to contract with nationally known forensic artists. Young people will be interested in the authenticity because of exposure to CSI type TV. The project is timely. Do people really care what Julien Dubuque looked like? This is the type of programming on the History Channel and will appeal to a wide audience. Would open more opportunities in the community to delve deeper into our own history.
- **Dubuque Fire Pipes and Drum Band, *Purchase of Uniforms*, \$6,225.** Hemmer introduced grant. He questioned whether the grant is even eligible since he considers uniforms to be equipment. Discussion followed. Some Commissioners felt that uniforms are equipment and others recognized that uniforms were important to programming.
- **Dubuque Museum of Art, *Dubuque at Work, 1912-2012 Photography Exhibition*, \$7,762.** Riedel introduced. Steffen abstained. This grant shows good use of partnership. It is unique, involving history and art. Tim Olson is a recognized Dubuque artist and this is a creative project. There will be free access through the museum. Excellently planned with a reasonable budget. It is interesting to consider if someone 100 years from now will continue the project.
- **Dubuque Symphony Orchestra, *Summer Melodies*, \$9,730.** Shafer introduced. Hemmer and Steffen abstained. Exciting for the Symphony to perform at an unusual venue to attract and cultivate new audiences. The grant was very well written. While ticket prices to many cultural events can sometimes be high, it is great to see the Symphony go back to free concerts.
- **Grand Opera House, *Ghosts of the Grand*, \$4,000.** Henkels introduced. Hemmer abstained. This project shows a new way to present history through haunted legends. Good job of reaching out to the Boys and Girls Club for free Sunday performances. The timeline and budget could have been more detailed. Good use of local writer and actor. Nice way to honor the gift of historic materials.
- **Julien Dubuque International Film Fest, *Film Festival 2013*, \$8,000.** Steffen introduced. This year's event was a great success and well executed. Commissioners suggested that publicity could have been better. The downtown arena was a good venue. This grant showed a good array of funding sources. Strong grant writing. Need to explain specific target markets better. Is this new or existing program? Congratulation to all involved this year for event that has the potential to be a large tourist draw.
- **Loras College, *Black History Month: African American Achievement Program*, \$4,750.** Henkels introduced. The spoken word genre is not readily available in Dubuque at this time. This shows an opportunity for some education for the community. It addresses City goals well and will be an exciting and worthwhile event. Using the paper survey is very good. The application lacks detail on how to reach a diverse audience. The strategic plan should be updated.
- **Matter (Dubuque Art Center), *Faces of the District Public Art Project*, \$7,000.** Steffen introduced. The application shows some evidence of collaboration, and the reuse and green initiative component is good. It ties into the City goals. The budget is heavy on staff salary and has a high dependence upon grant money. Lacked detail regarding the credentials of the jury

and how applicants would be recruited. Is an artist fee necessary? Timeline not developed. Confusing but creative application.

- **Multicultural Family Center, *Native American Heritage Month*, \$8,822.** Shafer introduced. This looks to be an expansion of a previously funded project. It is a worthwhile project showing a female perspective. It will have a positive impact on the target audience and is free. Perhaps a small fee or free-will offering could help for expenses. The application needs more explanation about the project and timeline.
- **Northeast Iowa School of Music, *Lollipops \$ Music for our Preschoolers*, \$2,700.** Hemmer introduced. It is a nice little project in collaboration with the library with the right ingredients. Great appeal for children and will combine music and reading. It will be nice to have a program where children will be able to move with the music instead of sitting still. Realistically budgeted. Commissioners suggested that the performers are specially instructed in how to interact with this age-group.
- **University of Dubuque, *Mid 20th Century American Regionalist Prints Project*, \$7,747.40.** O'Rourke introduced. Shafer abstained. Good recognition of the Association of American Artists at work in this community through this grant. City goals are well addressed. Shows a way to connect with the Dubuque Museum of Art. A nice way to recognize the Knute Family gift to the University of Dubuque. Using students as research assistants and docents a great idea.

A short break was held for Commissioners to total their points. The voting was as follows:

ORGANIZATION	FUNDING REQUEST		Hemmer	Henkels	Kames	O'Rourke	Riedel	Shafer	Steffen	Total	Ave.
Dubuque Museum of Art	\$7,762.00	Dubuque at Work, 1912-2012 Photography	100	99	NA	90	100	94		483	96.6
Dubuque Symphony Orchestra	\$9,730.00	Summer Melodies		90.00	NA	95.00	100.00	96.00		381	95.3
Dubuque Chorale	\$6,400.00	Legacy of the British Isles: "I have had singing..."	100	100	NA	95	94	80	90	559	93.2
Northeast Iowa School of Music	\$2,700.00	Lollipops & Music for our Preschoolers	100	94	NA	93	88	94	84	553	92.2
Grand Opera House	\$4,000.00	Ghosts of the Grand		91.00	NA	95.00	92.00	81.00	90.00	449	89.8
Dubuque County Historical Society	\$8,070.00	Julien Dubuque: The Artistic Portrayal	67	98	NA	98	95	96	84	538	89.7
University of Dubuque	\$7,747.40	Mid 20th Century American Regionalist Prints	69.00	97	NA	93	92		89	440	88.0
Julien Dubuque International Film Fest	\$8,000.00	Film Festival 2013	93.00	78.00	NA	90.00	88.00	83.00	88.00	520	86.7
Loras College	\$4,750.00	Black History Month: African American Achievement	65.00	98.00	NA	90.00	93.00	90.00	84.00	520	86.7
Dubuque Arboretum Association, Inc.	\$2,580.00	Japanese Garden Installation	69	92	NA	95	88	83	90	517	86.2
Brick Road Films	\$7,500.00	Dubuque's Historic Millwork - A Visual Record	82	87	NA	80	90	75	90	504	84.0
Multicultural Family Center	\$8,822.00	Native American Heritage Month	65	81	NA	90	80	91	84	491	81.8
Matter	\$7,000.00	Faces of the District Public Art Project	63	78	NA	70	77	74	67	429	71.5
Dubuque Fire Pipes and Drum Band	\$6,225.00	Purchase of Uniforms	0	88	NA	70	78	74	73	383	63.8

