

MINUTES

ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, May 16, 2007 3:30 p.m.
Board Room, Carnegie Stout Public Library
360 W. 11th Street, Dubuque, Iowa

Meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. following staff assurance of compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

Commissioners present: Sue Riedel, Ellen Henkels, Louise Kames, Amy Weber, Geri Shafer, Paul Kohl, Mark Wahlert (via speaker phone).

Staff Present: Jerelyn O'Connor, Liz Willems

Others present: Miki Robinson, Laura Carstens, John Sutter

Approval of Minutes of April 24, 2007

Motion by Shafer to approve. Second by Henkels. Motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

FY 2008 Arts and Culture Grants Program for Special Projects Review/Rank Application.

Riedel suggested that commissioners discuss each application and then provide time for each commissioner to review/finalize their rating sheets.

Commissioners' Review of Applications

Bell Tower Productions

Project: I Left My Heart: A Tribute to Tony Bennett

Kohl: Expansion of program, questioned whether project will be done whether funding is available or not. Kames: Strong history of programming, just targeting audience over 65. Henkels: strong organizational capacity. Shafer: Expansion, address several goals of plan, is not reaching as many ages, but is good to reach this age group. Audience is somewhat limited. Wahlert: Good application, extension of existing season, operating based.

Applicant comments – Miki Robinson: Program will go ahead, special funding will include a fourth position, choreographer and costumer, rental of baby grand piano. Tony Bennett is wide reaching to all different ages. Adding entire production is a new undertaking for Bell Tower.

Mines of Spain

Project: Trade Silver Cultural Exhibit

Kames: Audience planning seems solid, would like to know more about the silver objects that will be exhibited. Input was good. Educational impact to local 4th grade local history classes. Strong focus for EB Lyons. Henkels: Interpretive exhibitions. Will staff be available to answer questions? She would like more of an interactive presentation. Family orientated. Historical exhibit – one more part of our history. Shafer: Expansion more than exhibition – project depends on the expansion. Weber: Heritage of Native Americans, what does it show. Questioned whether cabinetry is equipment, and therefore not eligible. Riedel: Is this all done by volunteers since no in-kind services listed in the application. Marketing – who is going to market the program, especially to the schools? Is this an on-going program. Wahlert: Just one component of a larger campaign or is it just for exhibit construction. Kohl: has questions on the relationship between City and Interpretive Center. Kames: City own a portion of the land. O'Connor stated that she did not see any conflict since the City owns the land. City owned projects are eligible. Also, cabinetry is not equipment.

Applicant comments – Laura Carstens: The silver collection includes jewelry and other apparel. She said the grant would allow them to exhibit this collection. The \$1.5 million expansion/improvement project is to make facility accessible, new well and septic – would like to have an interactive link from outside of center to inside center. They plan to show the link between early settlers and Native Americans. The exhibit will require a security system. Exhibit does include a budget for educational material. There is significant volunteer commitment. They plan to develop an overall marketing program and website. They are creating a program to tell the settler's story and will utilize a web based narrative.

Dubuque Historical Society

Project: Dubuque at 175: History Comes Alive

Henkels: Some of the aspects in the proposal have been done before, too many from previous years, although there is some expansion and new programs. Shafer: Some questions on new vs expansion, do like plan is over 13 month time period. Will serve broad range of ages, cultural diversity and demonstrates collaboration. Weber: One time event vs continuity of staffing, organization is great – too ambitious. Wahlert: Lots of the programming has been done before – is it eligible under these terms, is it new or an expansion. Riedel: Well written grant – good partnership, good for tourism. With 175th Anniversary approaching – good to develop for that. Kohl: Good event, cultural activity, living history material ten items, four quarterly brochures, over all a strong proposal. Kames: emphasis is on the past, how do we celebrate who we are today.

Applicant comments – John Sutter, Director of Marketing addressed concerns: He stated that the proposed project is in addition to the current programming. They are planning a series of events to celebrate 175 years. New projects include River Heritage Days – new demonstration such as fishing/clamming. Patrick O'Connor lives is a live production, visitors would get to meet him. Christmas on the frontier – more on how the frontier celebrates. Blacksmith

Days is new. General Grant visits Ryan House is a Civil War program. At the lead mines has more demonstrations. Dubuque's 1st day – flotilla. Boat building – complete focus weekend. River Harvest will demonstrate methods of fishing, clamming using actual people. Who Are We – at Jail – The majority is new and there will be more live demonstrations. Museum has a great staff and over 200 active volunteers. There will be program flyers for schedule of events. There are ticket events at river museum and jail.

Dubuque Community School Educational Foundation

Project: Dubuque and All Those Arts, A Multicultural Arts Festival

Shafer: This is an outstanding project that provides a good multicultural opportunity. There's extremely strong collaboration, it reaches many new audiences, accessible to entire community. Weber: Agrees with Shafer. It's an excellent program -- mixed venues, arts groups are working together. It's a great application that will impact lots of people for small dollar amount. Wahlert: Biggest bang for the buck, price is right. Riedel: New programming. It's what we are looking for – good partnership school/community interaction – problem the budget form is not filled in completely. Riedel: Good talent coming. Kohl: Great Program – good collaboration, where were things happening, venues chosen, Kames: suggested that a different title would emphasize cultural diversity of project. Henkels: great application.

Museum of Art

Project: Archival Framing of the North American Indian Collection

Weber: Basically request is for supplies and equipment with little community impact. This is not a strong application. Wahlert: abstained Riedel: not excited about this proposal. It will not reach a lot of people. Kohl: Not a new program, valuable project, well planned out. Kames: expanded cultural goals, no narrative, no specific topic for Dubuque. Henkels: is the collection on permanent loan from Library? Why was a Cedar Rapids framer chosen? Limited accessibility, would like to see more marketing. Shafer: Agree with previous comments, concerns about narrative and loan status of pieces, limited impact of community, Curtis collection project is moving forward – will/can it be completed without money – no educational component.

Dubuque Symphony Orchestra

Project: Final Four

Wahlert: Fair doesn't reach a wide base of audience, is the attendance going to be there? Shafer: Free concert, 50 year celebration, give back to community, good outreach, makes it accessible to people not usually served. Kohl: Fun marketing idea, expanded or brand new program? Kames: Innovative marketing campaign, not having the "buzz". Henkels: Free concert, makes it more accessible to all income levels, average person can attend. Riedel: Likes interactive component, creative approach to build audience, strong collaboration effort. Weber: Symphony, classroom project, make symphony more common.

Four Mounds Foundation

Project: Metal Sculpting Class

Riedel: Likes idea, lots of many small groups of people would effect, broader interest, like artists in community. Kohl: Benefits just a small group, will there be an exhibit at some point. Kames: Is there an art teacher at Central? Is it a Dubuque Community School program? All supplies, equipment and art teacher. Henkels: Why does Four Mounds proposal just serve ten Central students? Programs are art focus educational program for “at risk students.” Discussed relationship to DCSD and thought it should be part of DCSD curriculum. Wahlert: It would be a stronger application if they would have made it broader based.

Loras College

Project: Discovering Community: Native American Dance, Song, Story

Kames: Excellent application, on going series, learning through the Arts, multi-cultural education, strong library connection. Henkels: Free family orientated events, well laid out – high marks. Shafer: No dates on time line, strong proposal. Weber: Does it limit audiences, last program did very well. Wahlert: Good application, concern that native American portion “has been done before.” Riedel: Like application, educational, family/kids being involved, multi cultural. Kohl: abstained.

Grand Opera House

Project: Costuming for Beauty and the Beast

Henkels: Should be more than renting costumes. Shafer: well written responses, expansion of existing program. Weber: Hard to justify a cost of \$30,000 for just costumes. Wahlert: Not a good use of taxpayers’ money. Riedel: does not think the budget is clear. What are other areas of income, what about sponsors, history of major musicals. Kohl: Considers this an expanded program, too giant of production.

SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS:

All applications were ranked individually by the Commissioners. Consensus of commission is to approve funding for the top five ranked grants all scoring an average score of 75 and above.

| <u>Rank</u> | <u>Project</u> | <u>Rating</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| #1 | Dubuque Community Schools | 93 | \$ 2,995 |
| #2 | Dubuque Symphony | 90 | \$ 5,000 |
| #3 | Loras College (Kohl abstained) | 84.7 | \$ 6,000 |
| #4 | Bell Tower (Riedel abstained) | 81.8 | \$ 8,353 |
| #5 | Dubuque Co. Historical Society | 75.7 | \$12,652 |
| #6 | Friends of Mines of Spain | 67.9 | |
| #7 | Grand Opera | 62 | |
| #8 | Museum of Arts | 62 | |
| #9 | Four Mounds | 62 | |

Motion by Weber to approve funding for the top 5 rated applications, seconded by Shafer. All approved.

Old Business:

Commission again discussed funding formulas for operating support. Consensus of the commission is to reduce the maximum award to \$40,000 and to fund the Colts and Four Mounds at a lower percentage level.

Motion by Shafer, seconded by Weber to amend formula to fund organizations at 4.85% of previous operating expenditures or \$40,000 maximum with the exception of Four Mounds Foundation and Colts Drum and Bugle which will be funded at 2.42% of operating expenditures. All approved.

Commission again discussed the Colts Drum and Bugle Corps and the impact of organization on Dubuque. Consensus is that organization should be funded at a lower percentage since significant portions of the operating budget are spent on out of area travel expenses and a large number of concerts are held outside of the Dubuque area.

Four Mounds: Meets eligibility criteria due to their work in preserving a cultural resource for the community. However, the Commission considered that a large portion of the Foundation's operations are social service and educational in nature and the organization does not have the same impact on the broader Dubuque community as some of the other arts and culture organizations.

While the commission values the contribution of the Colts and Four Mounds to the City of Dubuque, budget constraints has limited the commission's ability to fully fund the organizations at percentage operating expenses requested. As the number of applicants and requests have increased the operating support funding budget has remained static.

OPERATING SUPPORT GRANT FUNDING AWARD MOTIONS:

Bell Tower Productions - \$14,213

Motion to approve by Henkels, seconded by Weber. Riedel abstained. Voted 6 in favor.

Colts - \$19,978

Motion to approve by Riedel, seconded by Henkels. Voted 7 in favor.

Dubuque Arts Council - \$5,067

Motion to approve by Shafer, seconded by Kohl. Voted 7 in favor.

Dubuque Fine Art Society - \$22,500

Motion to approve by Weber, seconded by Henkels. Wahlert and Kohl abstained. Voted 5 in favor.

Dubuque Museum of Art - \$25,025

Motion to approve Kames, seconded by Shafer. Wahlert abstained
Voted 6 in favor

Dubuque County Historical Society - \$40,000

Motion to approve by Henkels, seconded by Kohl. Voted 7 in favor.

Dubuque Symphony Orchestra - \$38,434

Motion to approve by Kohl, seconded by Shafer. Voted 7 in favor.

Fly by Night Productions - \$1,406

Motion to approve by Henkels, seconded by Kames. Voted 7 in favor.

Northeast Iowa School of Music - \$11,487

Motion to approve by Kohl, seconded by Shafer. Voted 7 in favor.

Four Mounds Foundation - \$16,269

Motion to approve by Kohl, seconded by Kames. Voted 7 in favor.

Grand Opera House - \$25,871

Motion to approve Henkels, seconded by Shafer. Voted 7 in favor.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 26 (4th Tuesday of month). Motion by Kohl,
second by Riedel to adjourn. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Willems

These minutes passed, approved and adopted on June 26, 2007.

Louise Kames, Secretary

