

MINUTES

ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 28, 2009
Board Room, Carnegie Stout Public Library
360 W. 11th Street, Dubuque, Iowa

Meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. following staff assurance of compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

Commissioners present: Ellen Henkels, Louise Kames, Sue Riedel, Geri Shafer, Julie Steffen (via telephone conference), Paul Hemmer arrived at 5:00 p.m. (Paul Kohl is out of the country until May.)

Staff Present: Jerelyn O'Connor, Jan Stoffel

Approval of Minutes of March 24, 2009. Motion by Henkels, 2nd by Shafer to approve. All approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Art on the River.** Commissioners were presented with photos of the 10 selected pieces and 3 alternates by the 2009 Art on the River Jury which met on Friday, April 25. This year, there were 68 entries from 36 artists from 11 different states. The 2009 Art on the River Exhibition will be installed in July 2009, with the date for the opening event tentatively set for Thursday, July 16th. Jury members were Douglas Schlesier, MFA, Professor of Art at Clarke College, Delores Fortuna, MFA, Adjunct Professor of Ceramics at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago, and Jeffrey Boshart, MFA, Professor of Sculpture at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. Motion by Shafer, second by Riedel to approve the selections and recommend their acceptance to the City Council. Motion passed 5-0. (Hemmer not yet present).
- 2. Review of Operating Support Funding Requests.** Chair Louise Kames introduced each grant.

Main Street/Dubuque Cultural Corridor

Commissioners discussed at length whether Main Street was an eligible organization. It is a 501c3 but its primary mission is not the arts. Does the Cultural Corridor program merit funding because it provides year-round arts programming? The Cultural Corridor is not a separate 501c3. Riedel commented that the application is better suited special project funding. The application also specifies an amount which is not usual for the Operating Grant. O'Connor reminded the Commission that a similar discussion in 2005 about Main Street's first application for Operating Grants resulted in a close vote. Steffen moved and Shafer seconded that Main Street/Cultural Corridor met the guidelines for an eligible

organization. Motion passed. Ayes: Henkels, Kames, Shafer, Steffen. Nay: Riedel. Motion passes. 4-1 (Hemmer not present for this vote).

Dubuque Chorale

Commissioners were glad to see the application because the Chorale fills a niche not addressed by other groups. They urged the Chorale to develop a more detailed application in the future which would include strategic plans and to show audience benefits. Henkels moved and Riedel seconded that the Dubuque Chorale is an eligible organization. Motion passed 5-0 (Hemmer not present for this vote).

Dubuque County Historical Society

Henkels thanked the Historical Society for their leadership role in preservation in the Dubuque community. Commissioners commented on the proven success record, how the application demonstrated historical significance and illustrated an exciting growth model. Riedel moved and Shafer seconded that the Dubuque County Historical Society is an eligible organization. Motion passed 6-0.

Dubuque Symphony Orchestra

Riedel commented on the good narrative and long range plan. Commissioners complimented the Symphony on its youth programs and growth. Steffen mentioned efforts in diversity awareness. Kames commented that the NEA grants received by the Symphony demonstrated excellence. Shafer moved and Riedel seconded that the Symphony is an eligible organization. Motion passed 6-0.

Dubuque Museum of Art

Shafer wanted the Museum to better demonstrate an alignment with the City Cultural goals. Henkels wanted to see more addressing of artistic goals and not just financial. Partnerships, especially with Prudential in offering free admission, are very good. Riedel moved and Shafer seconded that the Dubuque Museum of Art is an eligible organization. Motion passed 5-0 (Steffen abstained).

Dubuque Arts Council

Riedel commented that the Arts Council accomplishes much with only one part time position and dedicated volunteers. Shafer commented on the well-written narrative and on-going measurement. Kames suggested that the application would serve as a good model of a well-written grant. Henkels moved and Shafer seconded that the Dubuque Arts Council is an eligible organization. Motion passed 5-0. (Hemmer abstained.)

Grand Opera House

Commissioners stated that the submitted financials were not clear. Riedel wanted to see long range planning addressed. The Grand was complimented on its high number of volunteers, the professional staff, and good use of its historical landmark building. Hemmer moved and Riedel seconded that the Grand is an eligible organization. Motion passed 6-0.

Bell Tower Theatre Shafer was impressed with the narrative and demonstration of good management, particularly with their evaluation of programs and services. Hemmer commented that Bell Tower does shows that no one else does. Kames commented on how well the application addressed City goals and they explained a tie-in to Every Child/Every Promise. Henkels moved and Hemmer seconded that the Bell Tower is an eligible organization. Motion passed 5-0 (Riedel abstained).

Fly-By-Night Productions

Shafer noted that the organization's accomplishments over its 26 year history are impressive. Kames wanted to see a more detailed narrative. Shafer suggested the application show more planning for the future. Riedel moved and Shafer seconded that the Fly-By-Night Productions is an eligible organization. Motion passed 6-0.

Colts

Henkels was impressed with the narrative and how it separated out the impact in Dubuque with the Colt's out of town activities. She congratulated the Colts on its national ranking. Kames commented that the application related well to City goals. Shafer noted the strong economic impact statement. Riedel recommended that they show attendance figures at their events. Riedel moved and Hemmer seconded that the Colts is an eligible organization. Motion passed 6-0.

Dubuque Fine Arts Society Riedel commented that the application was much improved from last year's. The Society does much without paid staff. Henkels noted that the leadership was good. Shafer noted that the Society needs a stronger identity. Riedel recommended that they show attendance figures. Hemmer moved and Henkels seconded that the Dubuque Fine Arts Society is an eligible organization. Motion passed 5-0 (Steffen abstained).

Northeast Iowa School of Music Shafer liked that NISOM addressed economic impact issues but the application needs more of a strategic plan with timelines. Steffen was impressed with the senior outreach efforts toward the underserved population in nursing homes. Henkels wondered if they could offer their own scholarship program outside of the Leisure Services collaboration. Shafer moved and Riedel seconded that the Northeast Iowa School of Music is an eligible organization. Motion passed 6-0.

Dubuque Arboretum Hemmer noted that the music programs are really not their programs but occur at the Arboretum with partnerships. Commissioners agreed that the educational and outreach aspects of the application were good and they were a well-run all volunteer organization. Shafer advised to make sure there is a wide division of labor within the leadership and that they consider long range planning. Shafer moved and

Riedel seconded that the Dubuque Arboretum is an eligible organization. Motion passed 6-0.

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

	Hemmer	Henkels	Kames	Riedel	Shafer	Steffen	Average
Dubuque Symphony Orchestra	94	99	98	99	98	94	97
Dubuque Museum of Art	83	93	88	92	75	Abstention	86.2
Dubuque Arts Council	Abstention	100	96	96	94	92	95.6
Dubuque Chorale	96	97	59	80	63	82	79.5
Grand Opera House	85	90	83	80	69	87	82.33
Bell Tower Productions	91	100	87	Abstention	96	89	92.6
Dubuque County Historical	100	100	97	99	93	92	96.83
Fly-By-Night Productions	93	94	87	90	82	87	88.83
Colts Drum & Bugle	84	92	84	90	92	90	88.66
Dubuque Fine Arts Society	87	97	92	90	89	Abstention	91
Northeast Iowa School of Music	82	78	81	88	85	89	83.83
Dubuque Arboretum	86	75	81	89	90	81	83.66
Dubuque Main Street Ltd.	94	76	82	65	77	81	79

Grant applications average score in rank order:

Dubuque Symphony Orchestra	97
Dubuque Historical Society	96.83
Dubuque Arts Council	95.6
Bell Tower Productions	92.6
Dubuque Fine Arts Society	91
Fly-by-Night Productions	88.83
Colts Drum and Bugle	88.66
Dubuque Museum of Art	86.2
Northeast Iowa School of Music	83.83
Dubuque Arboretum	83.66
Grand Opera House	82.33
Dubuque Chorale	79.5
Dubuque Main Street Ltd.	79

Commission discussed options for allocating the funding and there was general consensus to utilize the rating points to calibrate funding percentages based on ranked scores. Staff will prepare possible scenarios for consideration at next month's meeting. Motion by Henkels, second by Shafer to cap funding at \$40,000 per organization. Motion passed 6-0.

3. **Approval of Iowa Community Cultural Grant.** Motion by Shafer, second by Riedel to submit an Iowa Cultural Community Grant to continue funding

for part of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Coordinator Position. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION:

INFORMATION SHARING:

Due to time constraints, these items will be shared at the next meeting.

1. Iowa Job preservation Grant Program
2. Update on NEA Grant
3. Update on CHAT

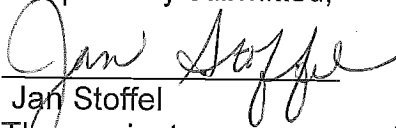
ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

ADJOURNMENT

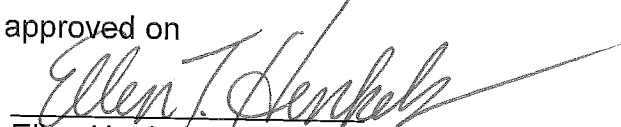
The next Commission meeting on May 26 will begin at 4:00 p.m. in order to accommodate the Special Project grant review session.

Motion by Hemmer and second by Shafer to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted;


Jan Stoffel

These minutes were passed and approved on


Ellen Henkels, Secretary