



ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, June 11, 2019

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Five Flags Center, Orpheum Room – 405 Main St, Dubuque, IA

Regular Meeting

Commissioners Present: David Schmitz, Mary Armstrong, Tyler Daugherty, Gina Siegert, Ali Lavasseur

Commissioners Excused: Sue Riedel

Staff Present: Jill Connors, Eileen Ricchio, Cori Burbach

The meeting was called to order by Schmitz at 3:30 p.m. following staff assurance of compliance with Iowa Open Meeting Law.

1. Minutes were reviewed. Motion by Lavasseur, second by Armstrong, to approve.

Motion carries unanimously.

2. Commissioner attendance - came up a couple years ago. 3 in a row seems a good rule. Good to have a conversation with an individual to make sure they want to stay. Moving forward can review minutes to verify attendance.

3:35 Gina arrive.

3. Grant selection presentation -
Jury panel of 3 members outside of community but familiar.
Cori had reviewed for technical compliance.
Then jurists scored.
4. Special projects - need one to one match, so recommend to fund all but lower amount. Jurists noticed some applications did not seem like new partnerships. Some DEI items included, but still some work to be done. May

want to focus on this moving forward. Recommend full funding for all, with exception of the Steeple Square which does not have enough match to max out.

Cori, Jill, Eileen, - all will get a copy of jurists comments to review for next year.

Question about why we didn't max out the amount of funding available for the special project grant funds due to lack of applications. Is it marketing? Is it DEI? Will want to do a survey or other tool to determine the reason. Might need to clarify the requirements of partnerships (don't necessarily need to be brand new). Each year there have been new requirements, so perhaps confusion or belief that would not be competitive application. Do want to investigate how best to disburse arts funding, do we keep the same operating and special projects grant programs?

Since we haven't spent all funds, we might be able to use remaining funds to market the information, for example. Would need MVM permission to reallocate the funds.

Some community groups may not realize that they can apply. Need some outreach. Don't want to leave money on the table.

Next meeting(s) discuss how to get the word out, clarify who can apply. Do folks understand what it means to have a fiscal agent? Maybe this is the sticking point or barrier?

We have \$5,875 left - think of how to use.

Scores are combined score of all 3 jurors. Feedback will be provided to all applicants. Commissioners thankful for this modification. Mary move to accept slate, Gina 2nd. Motion carries, with note that several line-item conflicts.

5. Operating grants - Cori reviewed for technical compliance. Same 3 jurists. One small question on whether the application should include current or prior year's operating budget. All are based on current year, after conversations between Cori and several applicants.

Ranked by points, and Cori looked for a natural break in the scores and created 3 tiers - 3.75% or \$30,000; 2.75% or \$30,000; 1.25% or \$30,000 for the 3 tiers respectively.

Option 2 looks at not funding the bottom tier. Option 3 recommends funding all the groups at least some amount. That option does not greatly affect the higher-scored

Tyler move approve, Mary 2nd to approve option 3 for the entire slate. Discussion: seems like we're tasked with funding everyone. Option 1 just

showed a “what if” everyone were funded at 6%. Grateful that commission is not scoring the applications. Others concurred. Carries unan.

After vote, names of organizations were displayed for the group.

Recommendation will go to City Council. Once approved, contracts will be drafted and sent out for signature. Jill will take to council.

Note that the amount of funding is increasingly inadequate. We have a growing art community and growing number of organizations interested. Commission/working groups will investigate and will advise staff during the budget season.

Open seats David and Mary rolling off. Applications due May 30 at noon in order to meet this year’s deadline for being seated in July. Mary and David will stay on working groups but cede the commission seat to new applicants for fresh voices.

6. Current Events Reporting from Commissioners

- a. DBQFest complete - David commended Ali on her efforts on the successful event. People liked the new setup.
- b. Rising Star theater company - Newsies in June and Godspell in July and Beauty an the Beast in August.
- c. AOTR - should there be a thank out note to applicants who are not selected.

Meeting adjourned 4:23 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 25, 2019

Respectfully submitted:
Eileen Ricchio
Economic Development Intern

These minutes were passed and approved on _____, 2019.

Gina Siegert, Secretary