

Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, October 24, 2012

Present

Lee Godburn (chair)
Cassandra Day (vice-chair)
Jenny Hawkins Lecce (sec.)
Barbara Arafah
Lea Tomaszewski
Linda Salafia (council)
Fran Ganguli
Bob Santangelo (council)
Franca Biales
Charlotte McCoid (7:20)

Also Present

Stephan Allison, staff

Absent

Richard Kamins
David Davis
Joyce Kirkpatrick

Call to order

Commission Chair Lee Godburn called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. at Room 208, City Hall, DeKoven Drive.

Public session: Carie Ochoa of Middletown Teen Theater introduced herself and stated that she is there to see some of our granting processes and to familiarize herself with us. The commission welcomes Ms. Ochoa.

Minutes from September 26, 2012

Motion to approve by Jenny Lecce, seconded by Bob Santangelo. Passed with abstentions from Barbara Arafah, Lee Godburn, Linda Salafia.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the meeting agenda as written, by Bob Santangelo seconded by Fran Ganguli. Carried unanimously.

Remarks from the Chair

Lee will save remarks for the end of the meeting.

Old Business:

Budget Report – no report

Program Update

- a) Arts Stakeholders Group: The October Arts Calendar includes a QR that leads the viewer to information on the website and on the Middletown Remix program.
- b) Arts & Creative Industries Council (Chamber of Commerce): No report.

Website – Arts2Go.org: Running smoothly, adding features and new dedicated pages for galleries/museums/exhibits, and physical/spiritual arts. Downtown Business District will be helping to get the promotional material out. Advertising the site is ongoing, and Arts2Go.org may be added to signage at parking areas typically used by visitors.

Other: None

Committee Reports:

Public Art Committee:

- a) Catalogue of Public Art Collection: no report.
- b) MCAAAA 2013 – no report. MCAAAA 2012 work still needs to get to the city. The MCAAAA 2011 piece still needs to be picked up.
- c) The estimate for the Shaw artwork has been received and accepted. Coordinator Allison will see that the work on paper will be remounted and framed.
- d) Display Area Dedication: ongoing.

Planning & Projects Committee: ongoing

- a) 40th Anniversary - ongoing.

Nominating Committee: No report.

Other: (Publicity Committee, Kids Arts Committee, Archive Committee):

Publicity: Lea Tomaszewski would like to blog about Arts2Go.org on her personal blog, as well as adding the link and logo on the Middletown Insider, and the Middletown Patch. Franca Biales suggested Arts2Go buttons and Coordinator Allison will look into it.

Kids Arts: Coordinator Allison has teamed up with NEAR and Oddfellows to create a summary sheet, with Oddfellows taking the lead, for the DECD-COA Arts Catalyzing Placemaking 3. The request is for funds for the summer Kids Arts program to go to a full day. The partners asked for \$50,000 per year for a two year project and a total request of \$100,000.

New Business:

September Category 2 & 3 Grants: Panel interviewers were Lea Tomaszewski, Jenny Lecce, and Richard Kamins. Commissioners Tomaszewski and Lecce presented the recommendations. Charlotte McCoid made a motion to vote on the recommendations as a whole. Barbara Arafteh seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner McCoid made a motion to approve the recommendations made. Bob Santangelo seconded. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

The following grants have been approved:

- Mt. Olive Church of Christ - \$1,600.00
- Robin Price, Printer, Publisher - \$1,300.00
- Oddfellows Playhouse - \$2,000.00
- Joe Fonda - \$2,000.00
- Middletown Even Start - \$600.00
- Christopher Polack – \$1,500.00
- Joe Flood - \$2,500.00

A total of 11, 500.00 was awarded for this grant cycle.

DECD-COA Arts Catalyzing Placemaking Grant Application: Coordinator Allison may apply for a ACP level 2 grant to see about hiring someone to do the Arts2Go website work. It is keyed on whether or not there is a viable opportunity for finding the necessary matching funds.

MCA Cat 1 revisions: Coordinator Allison presented the commission with the written grant policy and the guidelines for the Category 1 grant applications. On the written grant policy, there is added language that states: *In addition, every effort should be made to include an arts2go.org logo link on recipient's own website.* Jenny Lecce made a motion to accept the language as written into our written grant policy. Bob Santangelo seconded. Discussion ensued on whether to expand the language to include all social media. Commissioner Lecce made to motion to amend the original motion to now read: *In addition, every effort should be made to include an arts2go.org logo link on recipient's own website and social media.* Commissioner Santangelo seconded. No further discussion. Carried unanimously. Motion accepted.

The General Operating Support for Arts Organizations grant guidelines (Category 1) has the following highlighted area recommended for change: Under **Ineligible Applicants** *Elementary and secondary schools; colleges and universities*, Bob Santangelo made a motion to delete the line *Elementary and secondary schools; colleges and universities*, from the guidelines. Franca Biales seconded. Discussion followed. Carried unanimously.

Other: Lee Godburn asks that the commissioners come to the November meeting with two things: one, suggestions for the 40th celebration; and two, suggestions for the Arts Advocacy Award. The award may be for individuals and/or groups.

Miscellaneous:

Barbara Arafah announced that the Greater Middletown Concert Association has now formed a Music Guild which has already met and will continue as an offshoot of the GMCA.

Commissioner Arafah also shared that Mr. Gosselin, in particular, from Middletown High School has added the upcoming GMCA presentation of Carmen part of the class discussions.

Adjournment:

Bob Santangelo moved to adjourn at 8:55p.m., seconded by Charlotte McCoid. Carried. The MCA will next meet for its regular monthly meeting on November 28, 2012 at the City Arts Office, 100 Riverview Center-suite 140.

Announcements

The annual Charter Oaks concert will take place on Oct. 25 at Middletown High School.

2nd Annual event Artists for World Peace Goes to Broadway, a variety show comprised of actors currently appearing in other Broadway shows and visual artists from F.I.T. will take place Sunday, November 4 at St. Luke's Theater on 46th St.

Respectfully submitted

Jenny Hawkins Lecce