

Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, February 25, 2015

Present	Also Present	Absent
Franca Biales, Secretary & Chair pro tem	Stephan Allison, Staff	Cassandra Day (Chair)
Barbara Arafah		Anthony Moran (Student Rep.)
Julia Faraci		Jackie Pawlak (Student Rep.)
Lee Godburn		Robert Santangelo
Jay Hoggard		Sebastian Giuliano
Joyce Kirkpatrick		Fran Ganguli
Jennifer Lecce (departs 7:15)		
Charlotte McCoid		
Sara MacSorley		

Call to order: Franca Biales, Chair pro tem, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room of the Senior Center, Durant Terrace, Middletown.

Suspension of Meeting: following a motion by Charlotte McCoid, seconded by Julia Faraci, the meeting was suspended until 7:30 PM by unanimous vote of the Commission.

At 7:30 PM the meeting was called to order by Franca Biales, seconded by Lee Godburn and so voted unanimously by the Commission.

Public Session: There being no public present, there was no public session.

Motion: Jay Hoggard moves that the Grants Discussion be moved to the front of the agenda. Seconded by Sara MacSorley. Approved unanimously.

Grants Discussion:

Stephan Allison informed those present that the total amount available for Category 1 Grants is \$33,000-\$34,000. There are two Project Grant applications and five Operating Grant applications totaling \$68,000. The Category 1 grant applications and the presentations, made earlier in the day by the applicants from 4:30 – 6:45 PM before most of the Commissioners, were then discussed in general.

At 8:39 PM those Commissioners with conflicts of interest were recused and left the Conference Room. Commissioners Lee Godburn, Julia Faraci, Jay Hoggard and Charlotte McCoid, with Stephan Allison present, then approved unanimously the following allocations of grant funds:

Middletown Public Schools application for Middletown High School goes to the Symphony -	\$5,000
Art Farm's application for Shakespeare in the Grove -	\$6,000
with the stipulation that \$2,000 be in support of the Musicians Pre-Show	
Greater Middletown Community Concerts application for General Operating Support	\$6,000
NEAR's application for Buttonwood Tree's General Operating Support	\$6,000
GMChorale's application for General Operating Support	\$3,000
Oddfellows Playhouse's application for General Operating Support	\$5,000
Green Street Artss Center's application for General Operating Support	\$3,000
TOTAL Grants Awarded	\$34,000

The Commission then voted unanimously the Category 3 Grants, following a motion by Joyce Kirkpatrick, seconded by Sara MacSorley:

Wesleyan University Davison Art Center's "The Big Draw"	\$1,000
J&J Productions' Jack and Jill Music Festival	\$1,000
Tawana Bourne's autobiography publication	\$0
Jennifer Shafer's Middletown Music Festival	\$1,500
Mt. Olive Church of Christ's Free Music Festival on South Green	\$500
Kaleidoscope Arts' 9 th Annual CT Composers & Improvisers Festival	\$2,000
TOTAL Category 2&3 Grants Awarded	\$6,000

Old Business

Stephan Allison reported on the Arts Stakeholders Pot Luck, Summer Sounds and Kids Arts. State funding has made it possible for Kisha Michael to be hired to assist with the Kids Arts program until June 23, 2015.

Committee Reports

Planning & Projects Committee Lee Godburn reported on the Poet Laureate project and will discuss it with the Mayor.

Arts Advocacy Awards will be presented March 24 at 5:30 at KidCity. The event will open the new Middleshire exhibit at the children's museum. The Creative Team being honored are Jen Alexander, Scott Kessel, Matt Niland; Artists and Tradespeople: Jerry Aldieri, Natalie Barker, Johanna Case-Hofmeister, Miranda Casler, Eva Ellmore, Ted Esselstyn, Tom Humphries, InCord, Ben Komola, Tenzin Masselli, Tanner Niland, Cait Pierce, Greg Ryan, Jon Schroth, Tom Turci.

Motion: Following a motion by Joyce Kirkpatrick, seconded by Barbara Arafeh, and voted unanimously by the Commission, \$150 was allocated for catering for the awards event, to be used as needed from the checking account.

Public Art Committee Chair Charlotte McCoid reported that the new addition to the City Art Collection by Middletown artist Gil Scullion will be shown to the Common Council when Cassandra makes the Arts Commission report in April or May. The MCAAA Award works of art from previous years will be returned to the students.

Stephan Allison reported that he had created a loan form for works of art now on loan to the Senior Center.

New Business

Stephan Allison reported that certain state and federal mandates result in increased wages for Kids Arts employees and an increase in music license fees. This makes the 2016 budget requesting a 0% increase difficult.

Franca Biales adjourned the meeting at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kirkpatrick, Secretary pro tem

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 25, 7pm, Room 208, Municipal Building