

Amherst Cultural Council
APPROVED Minutes
Monday, November 19, 2012
& Tuesday, November 20, 2012
Crafts Room, Jones Library

The meeting was called to order by: Ellen Kosmer, Co-Chair.

Attendance

Present: Ellen Kosmer, Co-Chair, Honoré David, Co-chair, Jim Scott, Treasurer, Gretchen Fox (left at 5:30), Arnold Friedmann, Sandra Mullin, Rachel Mustin, and Joan Temkin. Ruth Rootberg, Secretary, arrived after 4pm. In her absence, Sandra Mullin took minutes. Sondra Radosh, liaison, was present to open the room, but then left.

FY2012 Reimbursements

Ellen informed the members that there are several grants, awarded last year (FY2012) where no request for reimbursement has yet been received. **She** contacted the Boston office and they did not seem to **be concerned about this**.

Transfer for Administrative Needs

The Council voted to transfer \$300 into the administrative funds account to cover expenses for this year.

Minutes:

The minutes of November 13 were approved as corrected.

Voting decisions (Provisional):

Denials for insufficient copies of applications

Ellen noted that several of the organizations have not yet sent the 10 copies of their grant applications. She has contacted them concerning this but several have not yet responded. The Massachusetts Cultural Council guidelines indicate that we cannot deny merely on the grounds that not enough copies are submitted. However, as we requested the copies and they were not delivered, we can deny.

Therefore, the following applicants were denied without consideration:

FY2013- 75X Clifford White requests \$590 for a Saxophone Quartet Concert.

Decision: Denied. Failure to submit 10 copies of the application by October 15th, and further failure to submit when requested past the deadline.

FY2013-72X Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity requests \$2,015 for The Miss Black and Gold Scholarship.

Decision: Denied. Failure to submit 10 copies of the application by October 15th, and further failure to submit when requested past the deadline.

FY2013-71X Peter McNeaney requests \$1,350 for Summer Latin Music Concert.
Decision: Denied. Failure to submit 10 copies of the application by October 15th, and further failure to submit when requested past the deadline.

FY2013-69X Stefanie Weber requests \$700 for Creatures of Habit.
Decision: Denied. Failure to submit 10 copies of the application by October 15th, and further failure to submit when requested past the deadline.

FY2013-68X Mike Spencer requests \$1,400 for Autumn Bavarian Music Concert.
Decision: Denied. Failure to submit 10 copies of the application by October 15th, and further failure to submit when requested past the deadline.

FY2013-67X Edward M. Wirt requests \$1,600 for Charles Neville/Skeletones Big Band.
Decision: Denied. Failure to submit 10 copies of the application by October 15th, and further failure to submit when requested past the deadline.

FY2013-68X Paul Bouchard requests \$1,400 for Swing Concert.
Decision: Denied. Failure to submit 10 copies of the application by October 15th, and further failure to submit when requested past the deadline.

FY2013-65X Friends of Amherst Recreation request \$1,350 for ACTSMART IMPROV company.
Decision: Denied. Failure to submit 10 copies of the application by October 15th, and further failure to submit when requested past the deadline.

Previously tabled:

FY2013-21 Eric Carle Museum (previously tabled) requests \$5,000 for the Annual Educator's Night. We learned the event where Howard Gardner was to speak did take place, but was not well publicized, didn't show up on their website, and was under-attended.
Decision: \$200.

FY2013-37 Music on Main (previously tabled) requests \$200 for Celtic Fire.
Decision: \$100.

New considerations:

FY2013-40 Arcadia Players requests \$750 for its spring concerts.
Decision: \$500.

FY2013-41 Youth Action Coalition requests \$850 for Arts of change.
Decision: \$400.

FY2013-42 Jubilat/Jones Reading Series requests \$1,350.
Decision: \$150 (note - please see Nov. 20 minutes for re-consideration.)

FY2013-43 Motoko Dworkin Eshu Bumpus requests \$650 for Tales from Asia and Africa.

Decision: \$325.

FY2013-44 Anna Sobel requests \$250 for Two Dinosaurs are better than One.

Decision: \$100.

FY2013-45 The Jones Library requests \$300 for the Children's Music Series.

Decision: 300.

FY2013-46 Seth Lepore requests \$1,000 for War and Peace.

Decision: \$625.

FY2013-47 Seth Rotberg requests \$1,000 for Immigration Nation: Past and Future.

Decided: \$200

FY2013-48 Project NoA requests \$1,000 for Foreign Affairs. This is a new applicant. There was discussion about the difficulty parking at Hampden Gallery. It was noted they are getting grants from many sources.

Decision: \$250.

FY2013-49 Dawn Kelley requests \$150 for "Music is Love" for the Amherst Senior Center. It's such a small amount, we will fund it in its entirety.

Decision: \$150.

FY2013-50 Mohawk Trail Concerts requests \$1,000 for the Spirit of Youth. There was some discussion about the distance from Amherst, and whether this series particularly serves our community.

Decision: \$500.

FY2013-51 Music in Deerfield requests \$750 for their concert season. They are closer than Mohawk Trails.

Decision: \$250.

FY2013-52 John Root requests \$350 for Edible Plants of the Northeast. Joan saw the program last year and was very impressed.

Decision: \$150.

FY2013-53 Robert Darrow requests \$500 for the Pioneer magazine, a new publication for the Valley. We wonder whether the Valley can support another publication of this nature, but feel it's our responsibility to help a new venture like this one.

Decision: \$200.

FY2013-54 Tim Van Egmond requests \$550 for Contra Dance Workshops at Amherst Middle School. We appreciated this project because it gets students participating.

Decision: \$550.

FY2013-55 The Amherst Public Art Commission (APCAC) requests \$2,000 for public art for Kendrick Park. Note: The amount requested was incorrectly input on the website, and therefore showed up incorrectly on the tracking sheet as \$3,333. This will need to be changed.

Decision: \$750.

FY2013-56 Burleigh Muten requests \$800 for writing with Emily, A workshop for Young Authors. The project is only for 12 children, and although it says it might reach **families who couldn't afford the tuition, we don't know whether either the outreach or** the application process will actually favor those in need.

Decision: Tabled. Joan will investigate.

FY2013-57 Ko Theater Works requests \$1,300 for the 2013 Story Slam.

Decision: \$750.

FY2013-58 Dance Generators requests \$500 for New Dances for All Ages.

Decision: \$100.

FY2013-59 Blanca Osorio Castillo requests \$2,000 for Grupo Folklorico Tradiciones. This is a first-time applicant and we would like to encourage them.

However, we don't see evidence that space or dates have been committed.

Decision: Tabled. Jim will follow up with these questions: Have they participated in the September and October events; do they have firm commitments for the next events; can they supply letters of support for the future events.

As we were to meet the following day, rather than adjourning, we recessed at 4:55 pm.

Amherst Cultural Council Meeting
Draft Minutes Continued
Tuesday, November 20, 2012 at 4:00 pm.
Jones Library, Crafts Room

The meeting reconvened November 20 at 4pm.

Present: Ellen Kosmer, Co-Chair, Honoré David, Co-chair, Jim Scott, Treasurer, Ruth Rootberg, Secretary, Gretchen Fox, Arnold Friedmann, Rachel Mustin, Joan Temkin, & Sondra Radosh, liaison, who stayed until 5pm.

Absent: Sandra Mullin

Ellen noted Sandra's absence by reporting e-mail correspondence they had during the afternoon prior to the meeting. Sandra was missing most of the proposals with numbers in the late 60s-70s. **As she couldn't read the applications beforehand, she** felt there was nothing she could offer at this particular meeting. She requested to be kept informed of the next grant cycle.

The Council members present inferred Sandra did not intend to attend future meetings for the FY2013 grant cycle. As there is further business beyond those grants (many of which were probably the ones where 10 copies were never received), the Council members present encouraged Ellen to continue corresponding with Sandra, requesting she come to the final meetings for this cycle.

Member Term renewals and resignations

Sandra's correspondence indicated her interest in continuing on the Amherst Cultural Council next year. Ruth pointed out that the Council term is three years, and that Sandra, Arnold, and Ruth's terms would all expire July, 2013. One may sit for six consecutive years, and may rejoin after at least a year off. There is probably some process one does to **renew one's term which Sandra (and Arnold) will need to take care of**, should they wish to continue.

Ruth took this opportunity to say she would not be renewing her term of membership on the Council.

Calendar of Meetings:

We reviewed the dates for the next meetings: Nov. 28 from 3-5 (Joan will leave early; **Rachel can't make it**), and December 11 from 3-5. Sondra will let us know whether we can get the Crafts Room for November 28; she has already secured the newly remodeled Woodbury Room (formerly known as the Large Meeting Room) for December 11.

Unencumbered Funds FY2011.

Based on information Jim had circulated, Ruth noted she had increased the giving total in the tracking sheet by \$2,350. She thinks we have \$20,600 to give, and asked for verification. Ellen and Honoré need to complete the calculation sheet on-line, and then Jim can verify the procedure for transferring the monies from the Interest bearing account.

We then reviewed the applicants who had never requested any reimbursement from

FY2011. Of the five groups, three have regularly applied and been awarded grants, including this current FY2013 grant cycle: Jubilat/Jones, Hampshire Shakespeare, and Old Deerfield Productions. We thought that perhaps in the case of Jubilat/Jones, the transitory nature of the students in charge have created problems: the people who apply for the grant are not necessarily the students in charge of requesting the reimbursements.

There was a strong sentiment among the Council members that if groups were not actually using the funds awarded two years ago, there was no point in giving them money for this coming year. We returned to those applications and decided to deny in each case, as follows:

Voting decisions (Provisional):

Re-considered :

FY2013-#20 Hampshire Shakespeare

New Decision: Denied: You did not submit a request for reimbursement in FY2011; therefore we see no reason to award you monies when they can be offered to groups that are in need.

FY2013-32 Old Deerfield Productions

New Decision: Denied: You did not submit a request for reimbursement in FY2011; therefore we see no reason to award you monies when they can be offered to groups that are in need.

FY2013-42 Jubilat Jones

New Decision: Denied: You did not submit a request for reimbursement in FY2011; therefore we see no reason to award you monies when they can be offered to groups that are in need.

Previously tabled:

FY2013-56 Burleigh Muten, Writing with Emily (previously tabled). Sondra spoke about it this applicant; there is a sign up on a first-come-first-served basis. It **doesn't** depend on any application showing financial need.

Decision: \$200.

#FY2013-59 Blanca Osoria Castillo, (previously tabled). Jim Scott spoke to Blanca, a teacher at Wildwood. She did perform in September at First Day Celebration on the Common. They were well received. In October the date was shifted and there was a conflict; they did not perform. The Multi-cultural fair is at Wildwood in May. They are hoping to perform at that. Latino achievement awards is open to students at the Middle School. The main cost to them is space rental for rehearsals at \$20-30 per hour. They are looking at many weeks of rehearsals. Five adults and five children are involved in performance. Jim has requested letters confirming venues and interested. Decision: \$500 and recheck we have received the letters.

FY2013-34 Amherst Ballet (previously tabled). Joan passed out a new budget page. They have reduced their request to \$1,856 from the original \$4,600. Decision: \$1,200.

New considerations

FY2013-60 Dorothy Cresswell requests \$200 for Happy Valley Children's Chorus. Decision: \$200.

FY2013-61 Mark Mandeville requests \$500 for the 2013 Massachusetts Walking Tour Concert. Decision: \$200.

FY2013-62 John Porcino Storyteller/Musician requests \$425 for To Life! Celebrations in Story, Song, and Music. Denied: 9) Venues must be confirmed when submitting an application.

FY2013-63 The Marble Collection requests \$200 for its publication. Decision: \$150.

FY2013-64 Pioneer Jewish Film Festival requests \$750 for the 2013 festival. Decision: \$450.

FY2013-65 Steve Henderson requests \$250 for The Renaissance Buffoons. Decision: \$200.

FY2013-70X Susan E. Farrell requests \$100 for Singing with Susan. We thought it was a great project and she is not asking for a lot of money. Decision: \$100.

FY2013-73X Moijue Kaikai requests \$1,200 for Global Renewable Energy Education. This request is to meet costs of one person attending a program in Costa Rica. **We don't** see that this project will serve or benefit the community. Decision: Denied. a) Priority is given to Amherst artist(s)/cultural groups.

FY2013-74X Joel Jean-Claude requests \$2,000 for attendance at the NSBE Fall Regional Conference.

Decision: Denied: 1) Project must be arts, humanities, or interpretive science based and 2) Projects must provide public benefit.

Revisiting Decisions - non school applications

Having considered all applications at least once, the Council reconsidered non-school applications we had marked to revisit. As our original estimate of money available included the several applications that were denied for lack of copies, and the funds released because of the three entities who had not used funds from FY2011, we were able to increase awards in several instances.

FY2012-14 - Quick Brown Fox for Reading series, originally awarded \$50.

New Decision: Increase to a total of: \$200.

FY2013-16 Rosa Maria Calderon World Celebration, originally awarded \$150.

New decision: Increase to a total of: \$300.

FY2013-21 Eric Carle will stay at \$200.

FY2013-30 Hampshire Choral Society, originally awarded \$250.

New decision: Increase to a total of \$400.

FY2013-37 Music on Main, originally awarded \$100.

New decision: Increase to total of \$200.

Some Council members wished to re-consider other applications that we had not marked for revisits. Ellen suggested we first re-consider the school applications. Between this meeting and the following, Council members are requested to review all applications and prepare to request increases to specific ones based on personal, heart-felt interest.

Revisiting Decisions - school applications

We reviewed most of the school field trip requests, whether or not they had been marked for a re-visit. In some instances, schools have applied to attend the same performance, but to honor our publicly stated request for a curriculum tie-in, those schools that did not make that effort were denied funding.

FY2013-1 Crocker Farm national circus remains denied. Not only did they fail to offer curriculum connection material, we saw that they had proven they could make that connection very well as per the FY2013-1A application.

FY2013-1A Crocker Farm for living history: immigration, originally awarded \$325. This is a great grant. We see we still have money and will increase to 50% of what they requested.

New decision: Increase to a total of \$650.

FY2013-1B Fort River for Lady Black Smith Mambazo originally awarded \$325.

New decision : Increase to a total of \$400.

FY2013-1C Fort River for 3 little pigs, originally awarded \$200.
New decision: Increase to a total of \$500.

FY2013-1D Fort River for national circus originally awarded \$82.
New decision: Increase to a total of \$300.

FY2013-2 Wildwood School for Imago ZooZoo, will stay at \$800.

FY2013-1E The Common School for Ladysmith Black Mambazo will remain denied.

FY2013-3 Amherst Regional High School for Ladysmith Black Mambazo, originally awarded \$150.
New decision: Increase to full funding, a total of \$ 245.

FY2013-5 Amherst Cinema, see-hear-feel-film, originally awarded \$250.
New decision: Increase to a total of \$700.

FY2013-6 Aimee Gelinis stays at \$225.

FY2013-9 Hampshire Young People's Chorus, originally awarded \$250.
New decision: Increase to a total of full funding: \$325.

FY2013-10 Common School for African Storytelling, originally awarded \$138.
New decision: Increase to a total of \$300.

FY2013-11 Common School for Singers of United Lands Concert, originally awarded, \$80.
New decision: Increase to a total of \$200.

Having finished our review, we discussed whether we needed to convene on both of the dates set aside. Jim: suggested we meet November 28 for one hour to revisit grants still tabled, and for members to make a case to increase other grants. The 2nd hour would be reserved for other business, as needed. We assume we will need to meet December 11 so we can approve the language of the denial letters, which should be mailed no later than December 15. We may also have requests for FY2012 extensions to consider by then.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55pm, with best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving offered to all.

Notes: Ellen and Honoré will take care of adjusting two numbers on the website:
FY2013-55 The Amherst Public Art Commission (APCAC) requests \$2,000 (not \$3,333).

FY2013-34 Amherst Ballet requests \$1,856 (not \$4,600).

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Rootberg, Secretary, Amherst Cultural Council