

Chairman's report from the State Council on the Arts

NJ State Council on the Arts received 22.68 million dollars. It is the highest amount awarded in the 38 years of the NJ State Council on the Arts. NJ State Council on the Arts has requested that thank you notes with anecdotes be mailed to the legislators regarding any programs that are being done with grant funds.

The stabilization program awarded its first grants from the Cultural Trust. The Trust gave funding to 19 arts projects in the amount of \$300,000.00. Fourteen history projects were funded at \$150,000.00.

Sharon Harrington, who has been the chair for the last 2 years, has been named as the chair of the Motor Vehicle Commission. She will be stepping down as chair, but remaining on the council. Carol Herbert is the new chair for the State Council on the Arts. Dr. Arthur Factor is the vice-chair. Anna Ashkenes, the Cultural and Heritage Director in Middlesex County, was named to the Council. This is a first in the council's existence.

The NJSCA Planning Committee is planning a Governor's Conference for the Arts on Dec. 2 & 3 in Trenton.

Grant Writing Workshop

The annual grant writing workshop was held on Tuesday, July 29, 2004 at the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts. Over 60 attended the workshop. Ten new groups attended to apply and 5 that have previously applied did not attend. Some of the new groups in attendance will not be eligible because they are too new. But they expressed gratitude for the information.

Pat Bohse conducted the workshop. The presentation was tailored to the County's Arts application. The applications are due on September 2, 2004. The Grant Review Board is meeting on Sept. 27, 2004 at Cumberland County College. A proposed list of funding will be available for the October meeting.

The Budget for 2005 will be established at the September meeting. The consensus of the Commission members was that the bulk of the funding of \$120,000.00 out of the \$162,874.00 be used for the regrant program. That leaves \$42,874.00 for local programming.

Mr. Kehs informed the Commission that the County Library is in the process of organizing a workshop specifically geared towards foundation funding. If anyone on the Commission is interested the Commission could perhaps cosponsor the workshop.

East Point Open House - recap

This year's open house was one of the best that the County has had so far. The Snake Brothers and Steve Byrne were the entertainment. Louisa Oliver and Danielle Trout conducted the children's Paint-A-Lighthouse. At one time the wait to get into the lighthouse was up to 2 hours. The Post Master General from Heislerville was also in attendance. A special cancellation was being stamped on outgoing mail or commemorative postcards. Two thousand lighthouse stamps were also sold.

Website

The website has not been updated. Ms. Weintraub is working with web designer to make the website more user friendly.

Cultural Festival - update

A press release asking for artists and performers interested in participating to contact our office for an application. Letters were also sent to other Cultural Organizations. The due date for applications is August 20, 2004.

A committee meeting was held with Suzanne Merighi, Penny Watson, Mel Brody, Kim Wood and Pam Weintraub to discuss several items. When the videotapes and other applications arrive the committee will be reviewing them to make their selections for the event.

The committee is working on the food for the dessert reception. The college suggested that one caterer be used to make several different types of food.

Fall Newsletter

Newsletters will be sent out on Sept. 1, 2004. The newsletter will cover the months of September, October and November.

Some ideas for the newsletter were:

- Teen Arts Festival
- The Cultural Festival
- Cumberland County Historical Society craft fair in October.
- Wheaton Village Craft Fair
- Cemetery Tour

Suzanne Merighi suggested possibly interviewing some of the participants that will be part of the Cultural Festival.

2005 Newsletter

The current newsletter is produced on a quarterly basis - December, March, June and September.

Ms. Weintraub would like to know if the Commission would like to change from doing a newsletter quarterly to every other month, so that six issues would be produced rather than just four.

Anyone with ideas on how to update the format would also be discussed at the September meeting.

The increased number of issues and a new format would be requested in a new RFP. Ms. Weintraub asked if anyone on the Commission knew of anyone that might be interested in producing the newsletter so they could be sent an RFP.

Upcoming Dates

8/21/04 - Purple Martin Festival
9/2/04 - Grant Applications are due
9/27/04 - Grant Review Board Meeting
10/16/04 - 35th Anniversary Cultural Event

Old Business

Pat Gale inquired about Teen Arts for 2005. Ms. Gale suggested sending out "Save the Date" card to schools so that teachers could incorporate Teen Arts into their plans for the new school year.

Ms. Weintraub stated that reminders would be sent out during the second week of the new school year. Also, on October 27, 2004 an informational meeting is being held to show educators downtown Millville.

The first County Record Book has been restored. The next step would be to digitize the book. Ms. Weintraub asked whether the Commission would like to have the book digitized or brought back to the County to be digitally photographed by Ken Browne from the Planning Office. The consensus of the Commission was to have the book bound, returned to the County and then photographed by Ken Browne.

Marianne Lods thanked the Commission for their support of the Millville Development Corporation's Main Street designation application. Their application has now been selected as one of the finalists.

New Business

Ms. Weintraub handed out a letter from Matthew Pisarski concerning the County Register. The letter is requesting comments in favor or not to include the Dunn House in Millville on the County Register. Jean Jones made a motion to provide a letter supporting the nomination of the Dunn House, Pat Gale seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Ms. Weintraub picked up 100 copies of History of the Revolution in South Jersey from Mr. Uhland. Ken Browne is designing a book plate to be placed on the books before the books are distributed. They will be going out in September after schools reopen.

There were visitors from the Salem County Cultural Commission in attendance at this meeting:

Mary Ellen Brooks, a consultant for the Salem County Cultural Commission.
John Trout, the Vice-Chairman for the Salem County Cultural Commission.
Harold Smith, Chairman for the Salem County Cultural Commission.

The Salem County Cultural & Heritage Commission is going through a reorganization and Steve Runk from the NJSCA suggested the Commission contact the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission.

Mr. Smith came to the Commission to challenge and ask for assistance to find an artist who would be interested in doing a portrait of Governor Howell. He is the only governor that does not have a portrait in the Capitol building in Trenton. He was the governor from 1792-1801.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 14, 2004 in the County Freeholders Conference Room in Bridgeton, NJ. A motion to adjourn was made by Joe Polhamus, seconded by Jean Jones and passed unanimously.