

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

December 8, 1998

3:30 P.M.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Present:

Jean Jones
Penny Watson
Patricia Gale
Mel Brody
Freeholder Chuck Griffiths
Austin Gould
Suzanne Merighi
Sunkie Oye

Kim Wood, Director
Nancy Cannone, Secretary

The meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was called to order on Tuesday, December 8, 1998, at 3:30 p.m., in the Freeholder Meeting Room, County Administration Building, by Chairperson Penny Watson.

The Chairperson called for approval of the Minutes of October 13, 1998, and November 10, 1998. A motion to accept the two sets of Minutes was made by Suzanne Merighi, seconded by Patricia Gale, and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

CHILDREN'S BOOK: Director Wood reported that she spoke to Richard Geiger, the County's legal counsel in reference to the Children's Book. He will look in the legal possibilities of the Commission finding a co-author to redo the book.. He agreed that it was not the job of the Commission to go over the book page by page to point out where the problems are. It is hopeful that he will be able to get back to Director Wood at the end of the week with what would be the most appropriate way to proceed. Mel Brody stated that he felt it very important that the Commission see some of the previous work of any person being considered to redo the book

TEEN ARTS: Mrs. Wood stated that there is a need for new Teen Arts Coordinators as soon as possible as both the current coordinators had resigned. Liz O'Brien was a part-time art teacher and now has a full-time job in the Bridgeton School System, and Kay Klotzbach from the County College, felt it was an incredible amount of work and she was not ready to handle the job without someone else who has done it before. Chairperson Watson suggested that Marion Spence might be a good person for this job as she had just retired. She has done a lot of work with teen arts and was an excellent member of the Commission. Mrs. Wood will attempt to contact her. Freeholder Griffiths also suggested contacting the Arts teachers at the local high schools. It was also suggested that Mrs. Wood talk to Judy Scull of Bridgeton.

TEEN ARTS GRANT: The Director advised Commission members that there is a Teen Arts Grant in the amount of \$500 available. She reported that she had received the information on this Grant, but did not pursue it because she was not confident that she would be able to fulfill the obligations of the Grant this year. This year's Teen Arts Festival is scheduled for March 24th.

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY WORKSHOP: The CCC&HC is hosting William Patterson College at Wheaton Village, in the pottery house, on Wednesday, December 9th, from 10:00 a.m., to 12:30 p.m., for a workshop to help teachers figure out how to implement National History Day. Susan Gogan has volunteered to pick up pastry and coffee. There will only be six to eight people attending including Dick Waldren of the New Jersey State Historical Commission. Mrs. Wood urged Commission members to come out and meet him.

ARTIST'S DIRECTORY: Director Wood showed members a rough draft of the new Artist's Directory. The first couple of pages will contain a letter by Pat Witt, a listing of the Commission Members, etc., and acknowledgments of funding by the State Council and the Board of Chosen Freeholders. The bids for the printing have already gone out and Adam's Printing was the low bidder.

CULTURAL PROGRAMMING FOR VINELAND SCHOOLS: Mrs. Wood had a very productive meeting with Jean Doremus, Supervisor of Social Studies and Fine Arts for the entire Vineland School System, who is very excited about the cultural programming for the schools, especially the "Share the World" program. There are four very large sixth grade classes which creates the problem of how all the students can benefit from the program. It was decided that two classes will participate in "Share the World" and two classes will participate in "All the Worlds Our Stage" a cheaper workshop, but a program that compliments the other. This way all four classes are covered. Art and History teachers from every school were present and discussed the programs and decided which class would get which program. The sixth grade was chosen on the recommendation of the teachers because of the History and English literature programs taught as part of the sixth grade curriculum.

The Director has spoken to "Young Audiences" and they hope to be able to schedule all the programs in the Month of March 1999.

These programs will use up one-half of the \$45,000. Grant that had to be spent in the City of Vineland. The other one-half will be used to present a children's Opera. Mel Brody asked about the time table for the children's Opera, and after a discussion it was decided that September 1999 would be a good time as it would give the Commission time to put together a more professional package. A motion was made by Mel Brody, seconded by Austin Gould, and passed unanimously to hold a children's opera in September 1999. A Committee, to be chaired by Mel Brody, will be formed to work on pulling together the opera program, and Mr. Brody will report back on the Committee members at the January 1999 meeting.

NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION AWARD: Freeholder Griffiths reported that because no member could attend, he, Freeholder Peterson and Director Wood on Saturday, accepted from the New Jersey Historical Commission an Award that was granted to the Seabrook Educational Center.

NEW BUSINESS:

EARTH DAY CONCERT: The Director reported that some problems have come up in getting Steven Stills, from Crosby, Stills & Nash for the 1999 Earth Day Concert. Mr. Stills is only available Sunday March 21, 1999 as he is giving a concert in New York City that weekend, and we would get a substantial reduction in his fee as we wouldn't have to pay his air fare. The College Foundation has already reserved that date for a function, and we must defer to them.

The Commission has reserved space at the college for April 24, 1999, which is in Earth Day Week, and it was felt by Commission members that we should try to find another artist, and keep to this date. It was suggested that both Lee Tofanelli and Greg Hambleton be contacted to see if they can assist us. Suzanne Merighi also suggested that perhaps the Smithsonian Group that Wheaton Village has used, may be another possibility, and Barry Taylor may be able to help in contacting them. Mrs. Wood will report on any progress at the January 12th meeting.

GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP: The Commission is sponsoring a Grant Writing Workshop from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., January 5th, at Craft and Trade Row in Wheaton Village, for the three-year Grant for the fiscal year 2000. Director Woods stated that she would like to use a facilitator by the name of Jenny Ayres, who was the Cultural & Heritage Coordinator for Cape May County and is familiar with the new Grant guidelines that have just been received. This was agreeable to all Commission members.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Cannone,
Secretary