

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

**December 10, 2002
3:30 PM**

CUMBERLAND COUNTY LIBRARY MEETING ROOM

Present: Suzanne Merighi
Patricia Gale
Joseph Polhamus
Mel Brody

Pam Griner, Sr. Planner
Kris Lemmonds, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, December 10, 2002, at 3:30 PM., in the Cumberland County Library Meeting Room, Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Clarena Snyder, Executive Director from the Bay-Atlantic Symphony presented a 60 Minutes episode called "The Orchestra" documentary regarding how this music program influenced and changed the lives of children in Peru. She stated she would like to begin a similar program here in Cumberland County. She has already spoken to Dr. Foster from the Bridgeton Public Schools. Dr. Foster's staff is preparing a proposal for the Bridgeton Schools.

Ms. Snyder handed out several articles after presenting the video to the members in attendance. These articles contained research and findings regarding the impact the arts can have on people and on the economy. The articles basically spoke of economic revitalization through the arts. Ms. Snyder sited concerns over the budget cuts that are being made in education, specifically to the arts/music curricula.

Ms. Snyder stated that she attended a NJSCA grant writing workshop earlier that day. She would like to prepare a grant for Vineland, Millville and Bridgeton to look at arts as an economic stimulant. Ms. Snyder however did not have any specific details for the planning grant. The type of grant for this project would be a Community Arts Collaboration grant. She needed approval from the Commission to be part of a planning process that would be county wide. A letter of intent is due on Friday, December 13, 2002. The grant application is due February 14, 2003. A grant in the amount of \$60,000.00 would fund an employee and office supplies and materials. This facilitator would be needed in order to do the work and prepare the plan. A consultant could also be hired to complete the plan. Ms. Griner stated that preparing a grant mostly involves finding the time to do it. Ms. Griner stated that she would not have the time to prepare a planning grant. Ms. Snyder offered to volunteer her time to assist in the process.

Ms. Griner explained to Ms. Snyder that only two of the nine members of the commission were in attendance. Thus a vote for approval to submit a letter of intent could not be taken. A phone poll will be conducted to get that approval. In January, Ms. Snyder will have to return to speak before the Commission with definite plans to present to the Commission. With the Commission's approval in January, Ms. Snyder can proceed with the grant application.

The next meeting of the Cultural and Heritage Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2003 at 3:30 pm, in the County Freeholder Conference Room, if necessary, in the County Library Meeting Conference Room.