

# CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

July 9, 2002  
3:30 PM

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BLDG. FREEHOLDER MEETING ROOM

**Present:** Suzanne Merighi  
Penny Watson  
Austin Gould  
Mel Brody

Jane Christy  
Joseph Polhamus  
Jean Jones

Pam Griner, Sr. Planner  
Kimberly Wood  
Kris Lemmonds, Secretary  
Jeffrey Trout, Freeholder  
Michael Tofanelli  
Sue Perry  
Greg Hambleton

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, July 9, 2002, at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder Meeting Room of the Cumberland County Administration Building, Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Penny Watson, called for a motion to vote on the minutes from May 2002. Jane Christy wanted a clarification made to minutes regarding the writing of a letter regarding the sandbars in Fortescue. The letter was written by KimWood and it was not suggested that Ms. Christy write the letter. Austin Gould motioned to accept the May 2002 minutes as corrected, seconded by Ms. Christy and passed unanimously.

### **Vineland Cultural Funding - George P. Luciano Memorial Program** **Saturday - October 5, 2003**

Mel Brody introduced Sue Perry, the Executive Director of at Cumberland County College Foundation and Greg Hambleton. Ms. Perry informed the Commission that the Foundation would like to partner with the Commission for the memorial program. The Foundation would assist with the advertising, promotion and selling tickets to insure a full house. Ms. Perry was made aware though by Mr. Brody that additional funds from the foundation to do the project. It

that is the case Ms. Perry will have to discuss that with the Foundation to ask for additional funding.

Mr. Brody introduced Mr. Hambleton to discuss programs for the memorial program. While researching possible theater productions Mr. Hambleton realized that a fully produced opera could cost as much as \$50,000.00. Also that the necessary facilities, an orchestra pit, to put on a fully produced opera were not available.

Another option that was presented was a play by Bob Dragotta called "Epic Proportions". It would be a fully produced play. The cost for a three night performance would cost an estimated amount of \$25,000.00. This play was shown on Broadway. Mr. Dragotta is a local playwright.

Kim Wood expressed a concern that the Commission could be in competition with other art organizations such as the Cumberland Players, if it were to try and put on a straight play.

Mr. Hambleton distributed copies of a Gilbert and Sullivan production called "Cox & Box". This program would cost an estimated amount of \$12,000.00 plus airfare and lodging for them. This production would have light opera as part of the play.

Ms. Christy asked Mr. Hambleton which program he believed would be easier to sell. Mr. Hambleton admitted that opera is a hard sell in the county. The successes of past performances were directly attributed to the Mr. Luciano's involvement in promoting and selling tickets. But at the same time Mr. Hambleton believed that any program that is put on in Mr. Luciano's memory will be successful.

Ticket prices would be in the range of \$20.00 - \$25.00. Mr. Brody stated that if only one performance would be done ticket prices should be slightly higher. Ms. Perry suggested prices of \$40.00 - \$45.00.

Mr. Hambleton advised the Commission that if they wanted to do the play for three days there may not be an audience for three nights of the play. A Saturday night gala could be done with a premium ticket and that a Sunday afternoon matinee could also be done.

Penny Watson asked for a motion to accept the Gilbert and Sullivan production of "Cox & Box". Mr. Brody motioned to accept "Cox & Box", Mr. Gould seconded and was unanimously passed.

### **East Point Artists' Day - August 3**

Steve Byrne and The Snake Brothers will be providing the music for the open house. Tricia Dufford and Louisa Sharp will again be doing the children's workshop. The Glass town Nine will also be participating as practicing artists. East Point Artists Day will be on August 3 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

### **New Jersey State Council on the Arts**

Ms. Griner stated that she appeared before the Peer Review Panel for the NJSCA along with Jane Christy on May 29, 2002. The awards for 2003-2005 funding will be announced on July 23, 2002. The NJSCA will be announcing awards for operating funds, regrant funds and cosponsored project funds. The Commission is asking for \$125,000.00 per year for operating expenses. The Commission currently receives \$56,000.00 for operating expenses.

### **Teen Arts Festival**

The Anthology and Calendars Ms. Griner distributed were prepared by the Friends of Teen Arts Foundation. Next year's Teen Arts Festival will be on Friday, March 14, 2003. Pam Griner will be the official coordinator for next year's Teen Arts Festival.

Ms. Griner informed the Commission of the Professional Service Provider registry. This registry allows groups to award Continuing Education Credits to educators those participating in Teen Arts. Friends of Teen Arts is registered as a Professional Service Provider. County Teen Arts groups can use the Friends of Teen Arts number. Ms. Griner asked the Commission if they would be interested in issuing continuing education credits. Mr. Gould motioned to accept and seconded Ms. Merighi with no objections.

### **Old Business**

A representative from the Preservation Group in Philadelphia will come to the County Complex to look at the record book. The cost will be \$90.00 an hour, travel and mileage expenses will be additional.

### **New Business**

The Empowerment Zone provided Ms. Wood with a list of local Faith Based Organizations for the Commission to use for publicity. Ms. Griner informed the members that she mailed out letters to those organizations listed. Several have called interested in attending the concert and bringing possibly bringing a group by bus. The organizations have also inquired about the possibility of obtaining group rates if they were to do that. Mr. Brody stated that the tickets are already reasonably priced and no discounts should be given. Jean Jones also stated that the tickets have been set as low as they can be set. Suzanne Merighi motioned that a policy be set stating that adult tickets are \$25.00 and \$15.00 for children 12 & under and no group discounts. Austin Gould seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Ms. Griner asked for volunteers to be on a Fund Raising Committee for the Harlem Boys Choir concert. The fundraising committee would raise money for kids' tickets for the concert. Ms. Christy volunteered to help and Mr. Brody volunteered to provide contacts.

The Cultural and Heritage Commission received a grant to do a survey of historic groups in the county. Ms. Watson has found three consultants that would be qualified to do a historic organization survey of the County. The \$3,000.00 grant is a matching grant, \$6,000.00 is available for the survey to identify and list historic organizations. Ms. Griner stated that the survey would provide them with a historical listing that was as strong as the arts listing.

Mary Paz Russell has approached the county about her brother who is a modern artist and lives in Mexico City. The Down Jersey Folklife Center and the Mexican/American Association, would like to bring him to the U.S. for an exhibit. Ms. Griner asked if the Commission would like to partner with the Folklife Center and the Mexican American Association to bring the artist here. Ms. Griner however was not provided with specific details. The Commission members stated they would like more information as far as cost and what value it would be to the community to have him here. Ms. Merighi motioned that more information be presented first and Mr. Brody seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Cultural and Heritage Commission is scheduled for Tuesday August 13, 2002 at 3:30 pm in the County Library Conference Room. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.