

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**May 11, 2004
3:30 PM**

**Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts
Millville, NJ**

*1st Marianne
2nd Penny
Pat ~~Watson~~
photocopy*

Present: Suzanne Merighi Marianne Lods
Jean Jones Penny Watson

Pam Weintraub, Sr. Planner
Steve Kehs, Department Director
Kris Lemmonds, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, May 11, 2004 at 3:30 PM., at the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts, Millville, New Jersey.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Marianne Lods to approve the minutes from March 9, 2004 with some minor changes. Motion was seconded by Penny Watson and passed unanimously.

Teen Arts Update

Ms. Weintraub gave the commission an update on the Teen Arts Festival that was held on Friday, April 23, 2004. It was held at the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts in Millville. The visual arts were held in the Plaza. The music portion was held at the First Presbyterian Church. The dance portion was held at the American Legion. Small vocal performances were held at the Millville Library.

Ms. Weintraub did report that there were a few complaints about the harsh criticism from some of the judges. A few teachers and a parent called Ms. Weintraub to report that some of the participants were reduced to tears. Ms. Weintraub informed the commission that due to certain circumstances some of the students participating weren't properly prepared for the festival. The students weren't prepared for the possibility that some of the criticism would not be what they wanted to hear. Ms. Weintraub did however admit that some of the criticism she did hear from the judges was a bit harsh. As a result next year there would be sensitivity training for the judges.

Due to the overwhelming response to the Festival being held at the Riverfront Renaissance Art Center it may again be held there next year. It is currently scheduled to be held at CCC on March

23, 2005. If the festival is held at the art center again next year the date will have to be changed to a date later in the year. The Visual Arts portion of Teen Arts will be on display at the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts on Third Friday May 21, 2004 for the closing reception.

Suzanne Merighi would like to have Teen Arts advertised better next year. Perhaps by sending out press release packets well in advance of the festival.

Upcoming Dates

The Natalie MacMaster concert took place on Friday, May 7, 2004 at the CCC Performing Arts Center. Suzanne Merighi attended and said it was a wonderful show. The crowd in attendance also seemed to love the show.

Steve Kehs asked if the Commission was considered or ever has partnered with the Bay Atlantic Symphony. Ms. Weintraub told him that the Commission hadn't partnered with them but did purchase 100 tickets for the Older Americans Month Concert.

Steve Kehs sited that the Bay Atlantic Symphony was able to fill the auditoriums at Stockton, Cape May but they never seem to be able to fill the auditorium at the College. Perhaps a discussion could be started with Clarena Snyder to try and develop some way for the Commission and the Bay Atlantic Symphony to fill the Cumberland County College auditorium four times a year.

The Aiken Awards are being held on Thursday, May 13, 2004. Cocktails are 5:00 pm and dinner will start at 6:00 pm. It will be held at Caesar's in Atlantic City.

East Point Artists Day is on August 7, 2004 from 10:00 - 4:00. The Vineland Art Alliance group will be participating this year. Louisa Sharp will be doing the Children's Paint a Lighthouse project this year.

Multicultural Festival

Ms. Weintraub has been working with Ivetta from Wheaton Village. Wheaton would like to partner with the Commission to help with their Mexican Art Concert on October 30, 2004. Wheaton will help the Commission to find talent for the October 16, 2004 Multicultural Festival. Lila Downs is the featured entertainer for the Mexican Art Concert. Information is being gathered to find out if obtaining Ms. Downs would be feasible for the Commission.

Commission Address Listing

Ms. Weintraub distributed a new updated version of the Commission Member address listing.

Old Business
County Record Book

The first book was taken to the conservation center on April 30, 2004. It should take about 3 to 5 months to be completely done and brought back. When the first book is completed and returned, the second will be done.

The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, June 8, 2004 in County Freeholders Conference Room in Bridgeton, NJ. A motion to adjourn was made by Marianne Lods. Motion was seconded by Penny Watson and passed unanimously.