

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

November 23, 1999

3:30 P.M.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Present:

	Joseph Polhamus
Austin Gould	Jean Jones
Penny Watson	Suzanne Merighi

Freeholder Chuck Griffiths
Kim Wood, Director
Nancy Cannone, Secretary

Freeholder

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, November 23, 1999 at 3:30 p.m., in the Library Meeting Room, of the County Complex, Bridgeton, New Jersey. Chairperson Penny Watson called the meeting to order and read the opening statement in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act.

The Chairperson called for approval of the October 12, 1999 Minutes. A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Austin Gould, seconded by Joseph Polhamus, and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

EARTH DAY EVENT: Director Wood reported that Lee Tofanelli had spoken to Ricky Van Shelton's agent and found out that Ricky is available for approximately \$19,000 on April 29, 2000. No air fare would be required as Mr. Van Shelton travels on his bus with his entourage of five. A general discussion was held about the availability of the facility, the date, postponing the "Earth Day" event or doing something else in its place. A Concert could still be done, but at some other time. It was decided to postpone the Concert until the fall of 2000. \$10,000. has been put aside from this year's grant money for this event.

Mrs. Wood had a conversation with Mel Brody and he suggested that an "Opera Dinner" be held instead as the Commission's "Spring Event". Mr. Brody also reported to Mrs. Wood that Cafe Centro stated they were very interested in working with the Commission. Freeholder Griffiths stated that he felt the venue of the Ramada was much more conducive for this type of event and the Commission members present agreed and would like to keep the event at the Ramada. A Valentine Evening was suggested, or perhaps a event like "Sing into Spring."

MILLENNIUM COMMISSION: Mrs. Wood asked Commission members to mark down the date of Saturday, October 21, 2000 from 10.00 a.m., until 8:00 p.m. The Millennium Commission has reserved the Cumberland County College campus for the entire day

for a festival that will entail the land of the past, land of the present, and tomorrow land. All kinds of organizations in the County are being contacted for participation in many different ways, including County Department Heads. In addition, a survey will be sent to every school in the County asking for some type of participation. Some kinds of participation will include displays, projects, etc.. Some of the schools are doing distant learning labs such as planning for the future where students will talk to people in foreign countries to find out how they are planning for the future. Lakeside School in Millville is doing a history of Cumberland County using graphic arts on computers, which will then be made into a giant quilt.

Mrs. Wood asked the members to think about how the Commission could participate in this event. Perhaps this would be a good time for a concert - not necessarily on that day, but in conjunction with.

CULTURAL & HERITAGE CALENDAR: The Director reported that the Millennium Commission has requested that their events be added to this calendar for the next year. This was agreeable to the members.

DISTANT VOICES PROGRAM: Mrs. Wood commented that this free event is scheduled for Friday, January 14, 2000 at 8:00 p.m., at the Cumberland Regional High School theater. There will be an afternoon performance for Cumberland Regional students. There is a cost of \$300. to the Commission for use of the school facilities. Mrs. Wood has asked the Japanese-American Citizens League about the possibility of their doing some type of program the next day, perhaps with the dancers or drummers, in an attempt to make it a two-day event.

It was suggested that Junior & Senior Social Studies teachers in the other County schools be made aware of the program so that could attend to the evening program to see if this program would be of interest to their schools.

Chairperson Watson stressed the importance of publicizing the evening event so that the auditorium would be filled. Mrs. Wood is having flyers prepared, and she is hoping to have John Sbrana put something on television.

NEW BUSINESS:

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCY PROGRAM: The Director reported that she had meet with Jean Doremus, and the Vineland School system has selected a program called "Write a River, Paint a River, Dance a River" from the Chinese Folkdance Company, New York Chinese Cultural Center. The students will learn about Chinese culture as manifested through dance and visual arts. The Vineland School system has budgeted \$5,000. toward the program this year. Because of this the Commission will now have \$5,000 to spend to expand this program to another school in the County. Mrs. Wood called the County Superintendent of Schools to find out what other school in the County is in desperate need of an arts program. The Superintendent immediately said Fairfield Township. Mrs. Wood asked the Commission for a motion to allow her to approach

Fairfield Township about funding a residency in their school district. A motion was made by Suzanne Merighi, seconded by Jean Jones, and passed unanimously by the Commission to fund a "Artists in Residency Program" for the Fairfield school system.

CO-SPONSORSHIP OF CCC OPERA PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP: Mrs. Wood reported that Mr. Luciano has again approached the Commission again about doing another scholarship co-sponsorship with him with Cumberland County College. Last years successful event raised over \$30,000 for scholarships which allowed 12 students to attend CCC. Hugh Smith, the new up and coming star, will be the star attraction. The program would have to be scheduled for very late spring or early summer because of the theater construction. Mr. Luciano has asked us to set \$20,000 (which will fund the orchestra) aside for this purpose. The State Arts Council was very complimentary about this program in their comments last year. This \$20,000 was put into the Commission's budget for the year. A motion was made by Jean Jones, seconded by Penny Watson and passed unanimously to Fund the Opera Scholarship Program in the amount of \$20,000.

NUTCRACKER TICKETS: Commission members were given tickets to the "Nutcracker Ballet" scheduled for December 18th at 8:00 p.m., at Vineland Senior High School.

VAN GOGH: Chairperson Watson asked about the Pat Witt traveling art project. Mrs. Wood stated that there was no new information to report on this project.

DECEMBER COMMISSION MEETING: The Director reported that the next Commission meeting is scheduled for December 14th. at the home of Director Wood.

Chairperson Watson expressed the Commissions regrets to Chuck Griffiths, stating thanks for the magnificent job he has done with the group and how much he would be missed.

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

Respectfully submitted



Nancy Cannone
Secretary