

# CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

NOVEMBER 13, 2001  
3:30 PM

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE - PERFORMING ARTS BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM

**Present:** Penny Watson, Chairman  
Joseph Polhamus  
Jean Jones  
Mel Brody  
Austin Gould

Suzanne Merighi  
Patricia Gale  
Jane Christy  
Marianne Lods

Steve Kehs, Planning & Development Exec. Dir.  
Pam Griner, Sr. Planner  
Kris Lemmonds, Temporary Secretary

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, November 13, 2001, at 3:30 PM., in the Conference Room of the Cumberland County College Performing Arts Building, Bridgeton, New Jersey. Pam Griner called the meeting to order and read the opening statement in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act.

Pam Griner called for approval of the October 9, 2001 minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Joe Polhamus, seconded by Austin Gould and passed unanimously. Patricia Gale abstained due to her absence at the October meeting.

### LONG RANGE PLAN

Pam Griner reminded members that the meeting to discuss the long range plan will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2001, at 7:00 - 9:00 PM at the 911 Center in the Conference Room. Mel Brody stated that he could not attend.

### SITE VISIT - NOVEMBER 8 - ALEC SIMPSON

Ms. Griner informed the members that Alec Simpson, a member of the grants panel, from the New Jersey State Council of the Arts came to visit on Thursday, November 6, 2001. This is an annual site visit by a panel member. Mr. Simpson met with Penny Watson, Steve Kehs, Douglas Fisher, Bob Rose and Marian Soence from Gallery 50. Ms. Griner took Mr. Simpson to Gallery 50 to see the Commission's co-sponsored project, County on Canvas Art Contest. Mr. Simpson stated that he was very impressed by what he saw at the Gallery 50. Mr. Simpson was pleased to

see that most of the plans that had been made for this year were accomplished. Mr. Simpson left with an overall positive impression.

### 2002 Fall Concert - Harlem Boys Choir

Ms. Griner did not have any additional information to add regarding this issue. It will be tabled until the next meeting at which time she hopes she will have additional information to share. Ms. Griner stated that the dates that Cumberland College has available are in conflict with the Harlem Boys Choir schedule. A question of affordability was brought up by Marianne Lods. Ms. Griner stated she is waiting to get that information confirmed to determine if grant funds budgeted will be sufficient or if other means, by fundraising or grants, will need to be used to raise the money necessary.

### Appel Farms - Arts Education Assessment

*one word*  
Ms. Griner asked if anyone had had time to look over the assessment package compiled by Appel Farms. Only Joe Polhamus and Jean Jones stated that they skimmed over the information. Ms. Griner stated that the information compiled by Appel Farms was very impressive and would be very helpful in planning. Jane Christy asked if the assessment gave any indication of newspaper readership in Cumberland County. Steve Kehs stated that he would inquire if we had a newspaper readership survey. Mr. Kehs did believe that there was a television market survey and that he would check on that.

### Ballet Hispanico Video Presentation

Mel Brody did not have the tape available at this meeting. He stated that this ballet company is from New York. They do a week long education program. They work with senior citizens and children in schools. Ms. Griner inquired how much a program such as that would cost. Mr. Brody stated that it would be a very expensive program, perhaps in the \$30,000.00 range. But he believed that the state could provide special funding. He will try to locate a new copy of the video for the December meeting.

### Old Business - George Winston Concert - tickets

Ms. Griner asked who would attend and how many tickets would be needed for the George Winston concert being held at Cumberland College on Tuesday, December 11, 2001 at 8:00 PM. The Commission will be given 10 tickets.

Jean Jones - can't attend  
Austin Gould - would need 2 tickets  
Mel Brody - tentatively needed 2 tickets  
Joe Polhamus - would need 2 tickets  
Patricia Gale - would need 1 ticket  
Jane Christy - would need 2 tickets

Patricia Gale inquired on the status of the Cumberland County History Book. Ms. Griner informed her that Matt Pisarski had brushed it up as far as grammatical errors and that Penny Watson was working on it now. Jane Christy stated that there were still factual errors in the latest copy. The style was questioned by Ms. Gale as to whether it would hold a 4th grade reader's attention. Ms. Christy stated that they would be looking at some 4th grade books and using the same language format. Ms. Gale stated that she would like to take part in doing some of the editing.

Mel Brody brought up the issue of restoring some county record books that Doug Fisher brought to him for possible restoration. He inquired on the cost of doing such restoration. Jean Jones speculated that the cost could be around \$1,000 more or less. He inquired if someone could research this issue. Steve Kehs suggested that Nancy Forester at the County Library might know if grant money was available for the preservation of some of those old books.

### **New Business**

Ms. Griner informed the members that all of the letters of approval or denial for grants have been sent out. Applications from the Cumberland Players and the Urban Network Organization (UNO) were denied. They were denied on the basis of ADA. All of the available grant money has been allocated. However, if the applicants submit appeals and the grant review board decides to award them a grant; would the committee be agreeable to using money from the Trust Fund Account to fund those grants. The funds awarded would be minimal amounts such as \$1,000.00 - \$2,000.00. At this time UNO is filing an appeal that now makes the site being used ADA accessible. The grant review board has yet to make a decision.

Mel Brody commented that the Cumberland Players have not been ADA complaint for several years. He did not feel that they should be funded if they are not willing to be ADA compliant. Since the basis for granting funds is that the applicants have to be ADA compliant. Marianne Lods agreed with Mel Brody.

Jane Christy mentioned that her name is misspelled in last month's minutes. That would be corrected in the next one. Other spelling errors in last month's minutes have been corrected. One of the items listed, concerning the workshop for students applying for college, on the last page is grammatically incorrect. The correction was noted and will be corrected for the record.

Penny Watson arrived late for the meeting. The issue of book restoration was brought up again for her input. She believed that the cost could run up to \$2,000.00 per book or more. She could not remember the name of the company that did book restorations but she would find out and let Pam Griner know. Mel Brody inquired if there were possible grants available. Pam Griner suggested perhaps through the New Jersey Historical Commission.

Marianne Lods wanted to say thank you on behalf of the Riverfront Renaissance Center and the Arts District for providing the money for the music that was provided at the Army Airfield 60th Reunion on the Friday evening registration.

Mel Brody brought up the issue of the Monthly Calendar. He suggested if we could change the format from a monthly calendar to a three month calendar in order to save the monthly cost. Marianne Lods agreed with Mel Brody's idea of a three month calendar. It was suggested perhaps making it an insert in the newspapers. Marianne Lods' main concern was circulation. The possibility of creating a calendar web site was suggested. Steve Kehs stated that a budget request for next year was submitted to the Freeholders to do a web site for the department which could easily include a Cultural and Heritage link. Perhaps he would know in the next six weeks if it will be part of the new budget.

Pam Griner informed the members that the RFP for next year is going out shortly. Do the members want to make any changes to the current calendar format or let it go for this year and change it for 2003? It was decided that the format would be changed this year to start in January 2002. Keeping the quarterly newsletter and making an extended calendar. Extra copies of the calendars need to be made and perhaps dropped at distribution points such as the art center, college, libraries and Gallery 50. The current contract for the newsletter and the calendar expires on Dec. 31, 2001. Mel Brody suggested that newspaper insertion versus mailing the calendar should be researched to compare the savings cost. Steve stated that the proposal would be reworked to maximize distribution.

The next meeting of the Culture & Heritage Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, 2001 at 3:30 PM at the County Administration Building.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM. Motion made by Marianne Lods and seconded by Joe Polhamus. The motion was approved by all present.