

**Murray Arts Advisory Board**  
**Minutes for January 20, 2015**

Attendance: Alisa Brousseau, Bonnie Tollefson, Scott Mooy, Kevin Westenskow, Wendy Richhart,  
Mary Ann Kirk (staff)  
Excused: Brandon Beckstead, Shauna Hart

1. Minutes for November 18, 2014 were approved as written. Mary Ann indicated Kimberly resigned so we are looking for 2 additional board members.
2. Kevin noted the high school Broadway review was packed. The larger casts are almost too large for the Little Theater stage.
3. Mary Ann reviewed the current status of the amphitheater remodel. It includes creating a new plaza area as part of the park, new gate entrances, remodeling the current restrooms, an added permanent structure for concessions, tickets sales, green room, dressing rooms, and restrooms for cast and public, and a permanent tech booth. Audience seating includes better handicapped accessibility and rails down the stairways. The board liked the direction of the proposal.
4. Upcoming calendar was reviewed. Mary Ann will be leaving town the morning of the Todd Green production. Former board member, Jenny Simmons, and amphitheater tech person, Luke Orton will coordinate the activities. Board members volunteered to help with load-in and ticket/usher assignments. Mary Ann explained to new board members that this is voluntary. A flyer with a coupon for the Saturday concert will be sent home through schools. Patrons can purchase vouchers at Living Social. The voucher was combined with the Murray Symphony's March concert.
5. Musicals and storytelling residencies are in progress. Mary Ann will send the musical schedule to board members. We now have musical directors at all schools except Horizon. Kevin suggested listing that request on audition sites.
6. The Unplugged program is being organized in Murray. It features free activities for kids during the summer to keep them active in positive activities and away from the TV and computer. We will be suggesting activities in Murray that could use some encouragement to participate. We need to find business sponsors to pay for the tags that the children earn. Murray City and Murray School District are supporting this.
7. Board members reviewed a potential float design that included a future looking machine with children creating or building things. Scott thought the "forging" icon will be used multiple times by others. Bonnie and Wendy thought the proposed design looks like we are manufacturing children. Kevin asked if this was a city float or a boys and girls club float. He suggested a bridge that could illustrate the smelter era which has evolved to a top hospital in the country. He felt the city itself has evolved in many ways in the arts and technical aspects. The boys and girls club is just one example. Mary Ann explained the Mayor and staff chose the theme of Forging Future Leaders which will be a city float specifically honoring the boys and girls club. Bob Dunn will be asked to serve as the parade grand marshal. Scott suggested we look at their vision and mission statement. Wendy reviewed some of the vision statements on the Boys and Girls Club site.

Board members liked the idea of children representing art, sports, school, with an adult mentor connected by an arch to future adult professions such as doctor, mother/baby, and astronaut along with the royalty. It is hard to put a lot of figures on the float. We could allow a few children to be on the float. Wendy knew the designer and said he is very creative if we give him a few suggestions. Bonnie suggested putting the wording over the arch or at the back.

8. The school district has declined the suggestion to give the new junior high auditorium a name. However Mary Ann thought we could still create our own informal name for publicity purposes. Wendy liked Theater on 53<sup>rd</sup>. Kevin wondered if that would be confused with Murray High. Wendy suggested we add the clarification by adding the words to read Theater on 53<sup>rd</sup> at Hillcrest Jr High. Kevin asked if it could be named performing arts center or community arts center. Mary Ann said that could be confused with the potential county performing arts center. Wendy felt the community name is used for a lot of things. She thinks the word “theater” creates a more professional feeling. Alisa asked if we need the permission of the school district. Mary Ann said she will talk to the school district but thought it would be fine as long as we included the name Hillcrest Jr High somewhere. We are basically branding the location for the arts programs.
9. We continue to have problems with school facilities. The supervisor has not showed up for the second time since October. Mary Ann asked the school district to find a supervisor who is assigned to our shows but they have not been willing to do that.
10. The city has made several presentations to a committee and county council members for the performing arts center. We will know in a few months if the facility will be built in Murray or Taylorsville.
11. Arts Day on the Hill is set for February 17. Kevin and Bonnie were interested in participating.
12. The city is updating its master plan. Board members may be called to participate on various focus groups. She suggested board members call the Mayor’s office if they want to be involved.
13. Mary Ann reviewed a variety of art workshops for elementary teachers hosted by universities throughout Utah. BYU hosts Art Express in June, SUU ArtsFusion in July, and USU Arts Are Core in August. Weber also has one. The SUU one this year is focused on nature and rhythm which correlates very well with our nature center. This could help us with our idea to plan an art day along the Jordan River Parkway with local artists and then connect this project at the nature center. The university workshops are fairly inexpensive but sometimes require travel and hotel accommodations. Mary Ann said she sometimes organizes workshops for teachers along with a touring performance but wondered if it would be cost effective to help pay for teachers to participate in something that is already planned. These programs provide techniques on how to include the arts in the classroom with other core subjects such as science and math. Board members liked the idea of offering scholarships to encourage teachers to participate in these workshops. Mary Ann wanted to encourage one per school and then ask them to share the information with their school. It would be first come first served. Mary Ann will ask the district for feedback. Mary Ann will ask the city if this would be appropriate. Mary Ann will include \$1000 for these scholarships in her budget for next year. She will develop an application form.
14. Mary Ann passed out the art grants applications. We will review them next month.