

Murray Arts Advisory Board
Minutes for February 17, 2015

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

Excused: Kevin Westenskow

1. Minutes for January 20, 2015 were approved as written.
2. Upcoming calendar was reviewed. Board members will be helping Jenny Simmons for the Todd Green performance while Mary Ann is out of town. Mary Ann passed out a year end report from last year.
3. Storytelling residencies and musicals are in full swing. Mary Ann will email a schedule for musical performances. The city storytelling festival will be held as part of the Murray High artfest on May 22. The high school drama teacher thought the storytelling component would work better in the Little Theater. The board felt it should be outside where the other activities are held but we will have to address the sound problem with many other things going on. The school finally recruited the PTA to help this project continue after the former organizer stepped down.
4. The arts integration teacher training reimbursement application was distributed through the schools. Mary Ann has not received any requests yet. Scott thought the introduction might be confusing because the schools have music specialists and teachers might think it doesn't apply to them. Mary Ann said it could include music specialists but there are other topics covered for all teachers. She will double check with the district to see how the application was distributed and if she needs to clarify who it applies to.
5. A few other suggestions were made by our local arts groups for an informal name for Hillcrest Jr High art events including Hillcrest 53. Board members still liked the name Theater at 53rd at Hillcrest Jr High. Shauna thought it had a nice professional sound. She suggested the tag line of Hillcrest Jr High should be small print. Scott asked how you would differentiate between the auditorium and the little theater. Wendy suggested they could just add the word blackbox if it is in the Little Theater.
6. Mary Ann noted we had another problem last month with the school supervisor not showing up on time to open the high school for the concert band dress rehearsal. This is the third time it has happened. Mary Ann has asked Supt. Hirase if they could hire a specific person to be responsible for our shows alone. The times vary each week and month. The district couldn't guarantee that situation but they were willing to interview anyone we sent their way with that idea in mind. They have had problems finding supervisors. The pay isn't very much. Mary Ann asked board members to think about people they might know who would be interested. Bonnie suggested we talk to seniors at the Senior Center.
7. A float design was reviewed. Board members really liked the idea. Mary Ann wanted to add a little contour to the base and a few supported places where children could sit with an adult under the clubhouse. Board members weren't totally sure about the location of the royalty and they had no shade. But Mary Ann said that is often the case.

8. A request was made to incorporate a small jazz band into our evening series. Mary Ann said we typically host evenings with several groups such as the bluegrass festival or an oldies night, but not a single band. Board members agreed this opens up a problem with many smaller groups wanting to be part of our series when they usually don't draw an audience. This jazz group also has a larger band but it conflicts with our other local jazz group. Mary Ann suggested it be part of July 4th program rather than the Arts in the Park amphitheater season.
9. The mayor is exploring the idea of creating a Murray history coloring book. He would like to do short presentations to 2nd or 3rd grade classrooms about Murray City and wanted something to give to them. We already have a children's history workbook which he is reviewing. Board members didn't think teachers would have the time to ask the students to color the books. Mary Ann said it was designed to go home where parents could also be educated about Murray history. Scott thought a professional illustrator would cost between \$150-\$200 per page. Bonnie suggested we talk to the high school and see if a student(s) was interested. A competition might also be considered. Artists could submit drawings and we could select the best.
10. Grants were reviewed and recommendations were made as follows:
 - \$2500 Murray Symphony
 - \$2500 Murray Concert Band
 - \$1000 Murray High Arts Fest
 - \$1000 Arts Integration Teacher Training/Housing Fees (reimbursement)
11. Mary Ann handed out the ordinance that establishes the arts advisory board which we have related to our goals and five year plan. Board goals and five year plan were reviewed. Mary Ann moved around a few items to match the timing of a new city hall. It addressed key issues identified in the arts assessment including facilities and staffing with a few large projects we plan to implement over the next few years. She will add a goal related to marketing since that was also one of the critical areas that came from our arts assessment. Shauna suggested we try to get an intern. Mary Ann said she interviewed interns two years ago but they found paid internships. She did use a volunteer intern this past summer. Brandon said most companies pay now.
12. Shauna was willing to attend the city master plan committee for arts and culture.