

Murray Arts Advisory Board
Minutes for August 18, 2015

Attendance: Bonnie Tollefson, Deborah Daines, Carolyn Milne, Alisa Brousseau, Scott Mooy, Wendy Richhart, Brandon Beckstead, Kevin Westenskow, Mary Ann Kirk (staff)

1. Minutes for July 21, 2015 were approved as written. Shauna Hart resigned because they sold their home and we will have a new board member next month, Lori Steadman.
2. Activities over the past month included Annie Get Your Gun (1752 attendance), Drama Camp (37 participants), and Jazz Concert (325 attendance). Carolyn attended the jazz concert and said it was fabulous and was well attended. Kevin asked if we received any complaints about the language in Annie Get Your Gun. He said people were leaving. Mary Ann indicated she hadn't heard anything. Brandon said you will always have people complain. Kevin asked if we have some control over the content and have we identified community standards. Mary Ann said that is sometimes hard to define and we are bound by licensing restrictions. Most directors do some adjustments but sometimes that can be risky from a legal standpoint. We do have some control by giving final approval of what shows will be in our summer series. Kevin asked if we want Murray Arts in the Park to take on a professional feeling or stay community oriented. Mary Ann said we want to stay family oriented. Wendy asked about how Hale Center Theater changes the script. Mary Ann said they write for approval of changes. She has heard some groups ask for the Hale Center Theater version. Kevin asked about how someone can apply to direct. Mary Ann said they should send her a bio and they will be considered for our June show. She also forwards these to the Arts Council for consideration. She has consistently used Jim Smith for the August show who does an incredible job.
3. Upcoming events were reviewed including Camelot, Acoustic Music Festival, and a US Air Force Band. We are trying to promote this concert.
4. The plein air activity is attracting good artists and we have arranged with Ginger Shaw to provide an origami activity for the children. We have someone to do chalk art and provide food. We will have a show and sell in the afternoon. They can bring the piece they created and a few others that can fit on a grid. That is about the only thing we need to set up. It is not limited to Murray residents. Bonnie will continue to recruit artists. We won't have a deadline and artists could even show up that day. There is plenty of room. Wendy suggested we send out an email to art teachers to provide extra credit for students who attend.
5. The float won 4 awards: Murray (judges choice), Herriman (best community choice), Taylorsville (governors award), and Midvale (most original). We were very surprised we didn't win anything at July 24th. Mary Ann indicated we had a problem with the queen's father cutting pieces off the float after the last parade for a memento. Leesa Lloyd will be adding wording in the royalty contract that prohibits them from taking anything from the float in the future. Mary Ann wants to add wording in our contract with the builder that clarifies who owns the material on the float base. The builder does own the chase and the base of the float.
6. Mary Ann requested an exception to a school district policy to allow us to get into the school at 3:45 for Missoula. It has been approved. We also asked for 2 months of rehearsals in late May through mid July. Dr. Hirase is checking on Hillcrest but thought they could find an alternative facility if needed.
7. The city submitted a grant application for the amphitheater. The county still has not formally announced where the performing arts center will be built. The county called the Mayor's office and said it was going to West Valley City, but now they have back pedaled on that statement. The city needs to move forward with the new city hall and cannot wait any longer so Mary Ann thought the land will be used for other plans. We should hear about the amphitheater recommendations sometime this fall.
8. Lighting in the amphitheater parking lot and the handrails are being addressed. The lighting is in the budget and the city safety person is exploring what to do with the handrails after the city received a formal complaint from a patron. The handrails may be done this fall.
9. Tentative calendar for 2015-2016 was reviewed including the community arts pass, other non-performing projects and next summer's programming. Mary Ann was very surprised that both Murray High and Cottonwood High

are doing Mary Poppins. We have a very busy year with multiple things going on every month including plein air, Haunted Tales, History tours, juried art show, Missoula, literary workshop and competition, storytelling and RDT residencies, and secondary art show. This year we are doing the art show in the lounge area instead of in the auditorium so it will be open to the public all day from Nov 4-23. We will not need volunteer to watch the show since each art piece will have a security tag on it. However we will need volunteers to help set up the show. The Arts Power performance of Chicken Dance will be at Cottonwood High this year. We have invited Granite School District elementary schools for this performance since they are providing the facility. The city storytelling festival will not be connected to the high school art fest next year since we have to select the winners by late March for the county festival. We will need to decide on a venue for the city festival.

Mary Ann is waiting to see if the Arts Council wants to do a play in the winter months. She doesn't know how we will deal with new school policy that requires school access to the stage during the day. She doesn't know if they will let us have a set on the stage. She will be discussing the fire station contract when it expires in two years. This is a city facility which we allow the school district to use for community education. Mary Ann wants to adjust the contract to allow us to use it at night during the school year and possibly for some shows.

Mary Ann also reviewed some of the art programs that are offered from public and private organizations in Murray aside from private studios. We all try to "like" our related facebook pages to help get the word out about the various programs. Mary Ann will try to educate our patrons more about NowPlayingUtah.com where residents can access many art events throughout the state. She is trying to market our activities every way possible including flyers, mailers, social media, and local newspapers.

10. Mary Ann asked Dr. Hirase if the district was going to recognize the Sorenson Foundation for their significant contribution. They already did a fairly low keyed open house where they verbally thanked various people but they are not planning on doing anything more for the arts component of the new school. Board members decided to present art awards at the opening concert for the winter series and recognize some of the key players like Mr. Tranter and the Sorenson Foundation for their contributions. Bonnie suggested giving some history related artwork or photos nicely framed as a gift. She felt that people have their own tastes for artwork but history related themes are more universal. Board members liked the idea of a reception for awardees and city leaders. Brandon will plan on presenting the awards.
11. Mary Ann reported that she has been collecting artwork by Matt Madsen through donations. She would like to do an art show featuring his work in the next few years.
12. The music specialist positions in Granite School District were discussed. They are full time teachers with teacher salaries and benefits and rotate between schools, 1 day per week. Each class gets 30 minutes of instruction. Deborah expressed concern that Granite District just eliminated their instrumental programs during the day. Board members discussed how to proceed to encourage Murray School District to make changes with their music specialists to attract and retain quality teachers. Board members agreed that the current specialists are not being valued and will eventually go elsewhere. This is a concern since we are sharing the costs for these specialists. Deborah thought they should hire at least one full time teacher. Mary Ann said it will take several full time positions to cover all schools. Wendy said there is a facebook page called Concerned Murray Parents. Mary Ann was worried about connecting with a group that is perceived as negative because it hurts relationships with policy makers. Alisa asked what the time frame would be if the board sent a letter first to either the school board or the superintendent. We may want to set up a meeting first with the superintendent and then send a letter. Kevin asked if we could sit down with the superintendent first in a less formal setting. After some discussion, board members decided to invite Supt Hirase to an arts board meeting rather than making a presentation at a school board meeting or writing a letter. Kevin felt that this may be less confrontational. We need to create a shared vision. Kevin wanted to talk about the music basics but then move beyond with elementary instrumental instruction. Mary Ann said that money is an issue even for the basic music instruction and that is the first step we need to address along with the scheduling concerns. It would be best if we could get Murray School District to fully fund these specialists just like Granite District does.