

**Murray Arts Advisory Board
Minutes for November 20, 2012**

Attendance: David Christensen, Mildred Horton, Sharon Whitney, Scott Mooy, Shauna Hart,
Mary Ann Kirk (staff)

Excused: Elaine Judd

1. Minutes for October 16, 2012 were approved as written.
2. Juried art show featured 28 artists and 49 entries. It was smaller than normal but a good show. We bought a photography piece by Ann Charat for \$250. People's Choice was One Fish, Two Fish by artist Jennifer Broschinsky.

3. Staff report/upcoming activities:

The Community Theater festival featuring the musicals throughout the valley was very successful. It would make a great show for our summer Arts in the Park season.

Winter Series pass numbers are lower than the past but overall attendance about the same.

Missoula Children's Theater will arrive next week. Shauna will help with ticket sales if needed. Nov 26-Dec 1.

Symphony is combining with a large choral group and is not charging, Dec 8.

Young Choral Artists has had a very small group participating at the Murray location. They combine with three other satellite groups. We need to discuss if we want to include them in the series next year. Dec 14.

4. Local arts training will be held on Saturday, December 15 from 10 am to 1 pm. Mary Ann asked the board about inviting other art groups outside of Murray. It will be a very small group with just the symphony and band. When we are paying someone to provide the training, it might be nice to open it up to others. Mildred asked if there was a set schedule so groups could come at specific times for specific topics. Mary Ann said this has already been done. The board was comfortable inviting other groups as long as there was room. Board members are welcome to come.
5. The elementary before school music program has doubled their numbers this year. It now has 25 orchestra and 28 band students. The instructor was not sure why. They had 18 students two years ago, 38 last year, and 53 this year. Mary Ann thinks it may be a result of a consistent band instructor whom they like. Sam Jewkes is a young teacher with good student rapport so hopefully it will keep building. Before he arrived, they had several teachers come and go.
6. Storytelling festival has all but two schools participating. The first school only had five

students participating. We may have to adjust as we see what kind of participation levels. If we do it again next year, we may want to focus on classrooms where teachers are interested. We couldn't afford to pay for a residency in more than one or two classrooms but maybe that would still reach more students.

7. Hillcrest Jr High facility fundraising efforts resulted in a commitment of \$125,000 with a possibility of another \$75,000. Mary Ann will submit a preliminary request to the Eccles Foundation. The city is creating a contract with the school district to specify what facilities will be included and how the city will be allowed to access the facilities for the city's commitment of \$200,000.
8. Mary Ann is trying to recruit interns from Westminster College who have an arts administration program. She doesn't have money for a paid intern but she can pay some stipends for coordination of certain projects. She hasn't had any response yet.
9. The board meeting schedule for 2013 was reviewed and approved. It will continue on the 3rd Tuesday at 7 pm of each month except December.
10. Murray School District has been reviewing their facilities fee policy. There are four categories. Mildred talked to Mitzi and Mary Ann talked to Marge and they didn't think there is much of a change. Mary Ann said she wasn't sure if the school board paid attention to what they were charging. Joan may have also been waiving some of the fees particularly when there was already a supervisor in the building. This inconsistency has been part of the reason they are reviewing the schedule. Mary Ann agreed that has been confusing. However, the new categories they have created could cost the Murray Symphony \$100 a night which could be \$5000 a year which is half their budget. They couldn't afford it. The category that the city falls under included a \$200 fee for each use of the grand piano. She said they don't need to tune a piano that many times and we could work out an agreement with the school district to share in the tuning costs if that is why they are charging a fee. They have probably looked at the fees for other school districts and facilities that do charge for these incidentals. Mary Ann told board members they could call their school board member to share their concern about affordable access to school facilities both for the city and general public access.

Mary Ann also indicated the policy states that at no time can you have a school facility used without a school employee in attendance. She didn't know how this would affect Cory and the recreation program. She also uses some of the elementary schools for play rehearsals without a school district employee. We have never had a problem and we have been responsible.

11. Options for the Miss Murray Pageant were reviewed. First, the board could make a recommendation that the pageant wasn't worthy of city support. Second, it could recommend the funding request be administered through the Mayor's office since they are the ones who work closely with Miss Murray, or third, the board could review the request as it has been done in the past.

Mary Ann explained that the board was given this assignment many years ago so that the funding request had a public review process in place by a citizen board. Mildred didn't have a problem with continuing as in the past, but emphasized the need to highlight the service component to the public. Mary Ann didn't know how to increase participation but the pageant committee was aware of this. Shauna said this was a concern for her. But the board agreed that we didn't think participation would increase just because they eliminated the Miss Murray/Miss America connection. Another concern was paying money to so many girls especially when they have so few contestants. It would be better to focus any extra money on increasing the scholarship for the queen. Mary Ann doesn't want to tell them how to run their program. Scott suggested the board process does allow us to provide input. Board members agreed and decided it was probably useful to have a citizen board review the grant application and recommended we continue the review process as we have done in the past. Mary Ann said she would remind the pageant committee of these concerns so they can address them in their application this year.

12. David reviewed new categories for the literary competition. He recommended that we eliminate the published author and amateur labels and divide it by grades 9-12 and adults. Sharon asked if published authors enter. David felt that published authors don't typically enter competitions like this. Mary Ann wondered if a published author might want to enter something to get an idea on whether it was material that was worth moving forward with. Board members thought we should give these new categories a try.

The new draft included subdivisions for children and adult literature and restricts it to fiction. Mary Ann was concerned that this would prevent someone from submitting an entry based on a true story. Scott suggested that we add a category called personal narrative. It was also suggested we eliminate the category of essay and leave the short story in. In regards to judging, David didn't like the idea of combining categories. Board members agreed it was difficult to judge categories when a novel takes so much time compared to poetry. Mary Ann explained the process of combining different mediums. Judges don't consider the time it took to create the piece. Rather they look at the skill level of that genre. David suggested we print certificates for all the winners, not just the 1st place cash award winners. Board members agreed that individuals could win in the same category from year to year, but not the grand prize twice in a row. All first place winners will be invited to read a portion of their entry at the literary workshop if they want to.

13. The 2013-2014 grant application was passed out. There are a few changes. These will be handed out at the training. We will review grants in January.
14. The 2013 Arts in the Park schedule was reviewed. We will host Missoula the first part of June but board members agreed it should be separate from the evening season. We will produce *Doo Wop Wed Widing* and *Oklahoma*. The Murray Arts Council is producing *Twelve Dancing Princesses*.