

**Murray Arts Advisory Board
Minutes for May 21, 2013**

Attendance: Scott Mooy, Sharon Whitney, Shauna Hart, David Christensen, Mary Ann Kirk (staff)
Excused: Alisa Brousseau

1. Minutes were approved for April 16, 2013 with a few grammatical corrections. Alisa provided approval for minutes by email. Sharon asked for clarification about the music competition. It was clarified that several people cannot compose the music together but a person can compose the music and another person can write the lyrics. However we are not judging lyrics. Sharon thought it sounded like we were limiting entries to one person from Murray. It should read we limit each entry to one composer or arranger.
2. Secondary art show set up went smoothly. Shauna liked the location better than last year. Mary Ann agreed it had more light. There were 184 total entries (33 HJH, 37 RJH, 75 MHS, 27 CHS). The awards were nicely distributed between the different schools.

Murray Symphony attendance in May was 238.

MHS Art fest went forward outside even though the weather was threatening. Mary Ann didn't know what happened in the afternoon when it started to rain.

3. June will be busy with the music competition, Arts in the Park kickoff which begins May 31 followed by Missoula Children's Theater and youth camps, and the marching band camp.

Mary Ann went ahead and used the new on-line music station with a 2 for 1 coupon to see what kind of response we get. Scott thought the site was getting a good number of hits. They have other business coupons on the site also and each business is telling their patrons to go to the site so we should get fairly good exposure. Mary Ann also spent about \$2500 for some paid ads on FM 100 (for two Sundays) and weekly ads on KSL. Sharon asked if we have flashing marquees. Mary Ann said we have a sign on the park entrance but don't have flash marquees. She could talk to the high school but they haven't been willing in the past. We do have banners for the major musicals on the overpass. But Mary Ann was unsure how productive that is. Mary Ann found a contact for Hometown Values and will call to see how expensive it is. Salt Lake City Weekly has called but she felt it was not the best use of our money. Scott agreed. She did put paid ads with the fulls schedule in all the Valley Journals.

Mary Ann reported that all shows had small numbers audition for their shows. But they all have strong casts. It will be interesting to see what happens with Missoula Children's Theater.

Facilities have been a problem this year because of seismic construction at schools we

typically use for camps and rehearsals. The school district has accommodated us at the high school for 12 Dancing Princesses rehearsals. The band camp has been moved to Viewmont. Missoula will be housed at Horizon and we will have to create some side wings to accommodate all the children. We are doing one hour camps for the general public before rehearsals begin each day. The cost is \$5. Mary Ann suggested we give free registration to any individual who auditioned but didn't make it. If someone has paid in advance in that situation, Mary Ann can give them a free ticket to the production which is the same cost.

4. Mary Ann described a patriotic choral festival for 5th graders she attended in the Alpine School District. This is an annual event that the Alpine District has been doing for many years as part of the 5th grade history and music curriculum. Teachers teach the music and all students are given a CD with the music to practice at home. Parents are asked to buy a \$10 shirt. Mary Ann thought it was a great way to involve kids at an age that they don't normally want to sing. But when they are all together, it creates an electric environment where kids experience a unique event together. It included some other ethnic group performances. Mary Ann asked the music specialists if they could help teach the songs. They could introduce the music but the teachers would need to follow through. Their focus is on instruction of the core curriculum. They thought we would need commitment from the teachers. Or we could get a volunteer if needed. We could also teach a square dance. We could do it in the day and bus the students or do it at night and the parents would be responsible to get the children there. Parking would be a problem during the day unless we have it on a day that the high school students are out. Scott wondered if we could use the school choirs instead of the 5th grades. We could ask the school choirs but it would be nice to have all 5th grade students involved. It could be voluntary but we would have to have enough students to make it work. Sharon said that she taught music as a volunteer at Grant and felt that we could probably find parents. Scott asked how many performance opportunities the school choirs get to sing. Mary Ann said they do 1 or 2 performances - one in the fall and/or one in the spring. Scott wondered if we should focus on those who really want to sing. Scott was worried that if it was voluntary for 5th grades we would lose the synergy of numbers. Shauna said the more students we could involve, the more effective it will be. Scott wondered if the Martin Luther King program could incorporate this.
5. The Utah Museum of Contemporary Art Truck is looking for summer locations. It is a 30 foot semi trailer truck that houses an art collection. People walk in and experience an art exhibit. You have to book two weeks in advance and it is free of charge. During the winter, they go to schools. Mary Ann asked if there was an event that could incorporate this activity. The amphitheater doesn't really work. July 4th has lots of people but it is really crowded. Mary Ann doesn't know where we would fit a large trailer. And Mary Ann questioned if they would want to come on a holiday. The farmer's market may be an option. Scott suggested the high school art fest would be a perfect event although that is in the school year. High school students would be a good age group for contemporary art. We could park it in the park but Mary Ann didn't know if people would come without some event. Boys and Girls Club may be another option. Shauna wondered if the senior

center would like something like this.

6. We are finalizing the Hillcrest Jr High facilities. We are removing some wording that allows the school district to move us to alternate facilities that have already been booked at the beginning of the season. Mary Ann wanted some parameters so we don't get thrown around at the last minute because a teacher forgot to book a program. She doesn't mind being moved to another facility at the beginning of the year when we initially reserve space. We asked for access to the Little Theater for 35 weeks along with weekly rehearsals for the symphony and band. They reduced that to 17 weeks. We can arrange for more if it is available. This will allow for two shows. Mary Ann expressed concern about accessing school buildings during the summer because the custodians want to clean. She is going to need to work closely with the facility coordinator to encourage them to rotate their cleaning schedule. Sharon wondered if they can limit use to 17 weeks and then book out the facility to someone else. Mary Ann felt we would hopefully have priority. Mary Ann thinks it is suppose to be finished in the fall of 2015.
7. The five year plan which was discussed last month was formally adopted. It did reflect the plan to alternate the literary and music competitions each year. It also suggests a review of all programs to determine effectiveness and if programming needs to be reduced or altered based on community needs and new staff capabilities. We still may add some additional items in the future. Scott liked the fact that we try new things. Mary Ann likes to have things fresh without getting stuck into things that have to be repeated every year. She feels you can't do everything, so rotating experiences makes sense. The only downside of rotating is building a program. Some things needs to build to be successful. But variety is nice. Mary Ann would really like to do a dance festival one more time before she retires.
8. Scott asked if the city is moving ahead with a new city hall. Mary Ann said that a committee was established. But with new elections, she wasn't sure where that was headed. Scott asked how many pieces are in the city art collection. Mary Ann could gather that data. We have all the artwork and their locations documented. We created a children's workbook several years ago that lists the art collection. We have been purchasing for about 20 years and some artwork was here before that. Mary Ann guessed we have 30-40 pieces of art. Shauna suggested we take photos of them. We recently met with fire department personnel to educate them about the original artwork which needs to be a preservation priority in the event of a fire or building damage in a major disaster. It is worth a fair amount of money. We have artwork by George Dibble, Matt Madsen, and Thelma Parsons, all well-known artists. Some are even in the schools. Scott wondered if we should add an event to celebrate our art collection. Maybe we could have a 20 or 25 year anniversary exhibit. He wants to make sure we keep track of this collection. It will be important if we build a new city hall that the collection gets preserved and moved with the building. The artwork could also be included in a new performing arts center.