

Douglas County Cultural Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 21, 2011 @ 8:30 a.m.

Lone Tree Arts Center

Members present: Pat Braden, Chris Eppers, Ann Speer, Jack Christensen, Mary Ann Evans, Sheri Kangas

Members absent: Linda Humphrey, Debbie Lewis, Diana Wiens

SCFD Staff: Kathy Spuhler (DC Rep), Cassiope Sydoriak, Jessica Clare

Douglas County Staff: Holly Carrell, Wendy Holmes

Guests: Highlands Ranch – Larry Perkins, Valerie Miller; Castle Rock – Alison Stewart; Parker – Kelly Kuper; Lone Tree – Kirsten Bomgardner;

- 1 – Meeting called to order by Pat Braden at 8:45 am. Pat welcomed all participants, outlined the day and introductions took place.
- 2 – Jack Christensen made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 31, 2011 meeting. This motion was seconded by Sheri Kangas and all voting members present were in favor.
- 3 – SCFD Update – Cassiope shared the following:
 - She outlined the new electronic application system that will occur this next request cycle. She discussed the value of all requestors to attend the workshops since this will be covered in detail.
 - Revenue was up 6.7% in 2011 over 2010 and 2012 was projected to be up around 7%. This increase would give a projected budget for Douglas County of \$415,000 for allocation for arts and culture.
 - Upcoming events include the October 19th Rex Morgan Award ceremony and reminded us that the call for nominations will be due in September.
- 4 – Kathy Spuhler shared the SCFD Board goals and priorities:
 - Collaboration is key as we move through the next planning sessions and look to the reauthorization of SCFD funding.
 - We need to be aware of the changes in demographics, population trends and arts and culture, being open to trying new things will help us transition through these changes.
 - Our role as members includes talking about the value of arts and culture and how SCFD impacts our ability to provide these enriching experiences.

5 – Art Encounters - Kelly Kuper told us about the success of the new Café program to put a call out to artists. This program allowed an increase in the number of artists submitting work, increased quality and different types of art. Café also allows better use of time by staff, quicker review of submissions and the value of timing in acquiring desired pieces. In addition, there were 15 pieces approved for the 2011-2012 installations.

6 – Lone Tree Arts Center tour – we all enjoyed the behind the scenes tour of the center and learning about the state of the art advances included in the construction.

7 – Grant Guidelines discussions:

A – Encourage other disciplines by broadening our scope of who we fund, ie – Dinosaur Ridge. How can the organization enhance their programming based on perceived challenges? **Sheri will contact Joe at Dinosaur Ridge to strategize options.**

B - Our goal is to grow our own Douglas County performances, however, there will be times when we need to look outside DC for variety and quality. We also want to be aware of any situation that could be perceived as “double dipping”. A suggestion under review is asking the requestor to define the relationships/roles when indicating collaborative events. **This would be added to the grant application.**

C – Project funding caps were discussed and it was proposed that we keep GOS and project as is within established guidelines. It was brought to the council to consider clarification of an “event”. This would be a onetime occurrence, allowing the council to more accurately assess the funding request and the impact on the DC community.

D – International Baccalaureate (IB) programs – IB programs provide a broad and global perspective. There are only a handful of schools in DC that currently offer these programs. It is suggested that when reviewing a grant request that will be serving an IB school we ask: “How is this request adding value to the IB program? How does it differ from a typical art/dance class? What collaborative efforts are taking place? (see B above).

E – We reviewed the matrix information from other counties and the only change we made to our guidelines, on the matrix, is changing “must change” to “may change”.

F – An updated scoring system was handed out for council member review. The goal is to make the scoring simple and consistent. **This will be discussed at the next council meeting.**

G – The mini-grant is not available on-line for 2012.

8 – Wendy Holmes gave an update on DC highlighting the need for marketing collaboration. The challenge is we do not have a cultural brand. With the objective to drive attendance to DC the cultural brand is key and needs to be developed as part of the economic development plan. Pat indicated we have some discretionary funds we could allocate to help this process move forward. Wendy and Pat agreed that they would take the lead on promoting the council and SCFD. **We will learn more about this at the next council meeting.**

9 – 2012 Goals

A – Mind Map: **This discussion will continue at the next council meeting.** Topics covered include: Arts Promotion, Public Art (continued focus), cultural awareness, increase of disciplines offered to DC citizens, and collaboration.

B – Leverage strengths of council members: **moved to next meeting**, as time permits.

C – Elevate the position of the Council: How can we increase visibility of the Council? Ideas include: attendance and introduction at events, inclusion in certain DC meetings, face-to-face with commissioners, better communication of events/activities.

Next meeting: September 13, 5:30p on the 2nd floor in the Planning Large Confm (meeting with the Commissioners with a regular meeting to follow.)