

ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 12, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Callahan, Duer, Marable, Michael, Shelton, Trezek
Commissioners Absent: Barry
Staff Present: Moore
Guests/Visitors Present: none

Call to Order and Welcome. Chair Michael convened the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Public Comment: none

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Trezek moved to approve the November minutes, Commissioner Callahan seconded and the motion was carried.

Recommendation to Hire Part-Time Office Staff: Commissioners discussed the rationale for hiring another part-time staff, and reviewed the proposed job description. Commissioner Callahan asked that one change be made, to add the wording “specific tasks may include but are not limited to” so that the job is not limited to the exact tasks listed in the description. Further discussion clarified the period of the contract, its flexibility regarding breaking the contract at any time by either party, and recognizing that further funding by the California Arts Council will be needed to maintain the position. Commissioner Duer moved to recommend hiring of a part time, 20 hour per week, \$20 per hour assistant; Commissioner Trezek seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Ms. Moore will take this recommendation to AC5’s county liaison and start the contract process.

“POETRY OUT LOUD” program – Three high schools have agreed to participate so far, and others have shown interest. Schools have a number of challenges which leave them little time for extra activities such as this, unless a teacher becomes engaged in the concept. The AC5 county competition will take place the last week of February. Judge possibilities were discussed, and Commissioner Callahan suggested Senator Torlakson as he is running for State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Ms. Moore has made an appointment with Supervisor Bonilla to request her participation also. Venues for the competition were discussed, and some suggestions were made which will be followed up on. Chair Michael and Ms. Moore have been asked to act as judges for the Deer Valley (Antioch) competition, and will be doing this the week before the AC5 competition.

Critique of Arts Recognition Awards (ARA) 2007 – The commission discussed ideas for improving on the program. A committee will be formed in the spring to determine appropriate changes and formalize them – commissioners who have an interest in these issues should consider joining the committee. Some of the areas discussed included:

- There was general agreement that the campaign to encourage nominations should be expanded. Suggestions included soliciting nominations from: 1) previous winners 2) CCC arts commissions and councils, encouraging them to do annual nominations like the Richmond Arts Commission does 3) create a simple brochure about the awards which commissioners could pass out, and include the list of previous winners.
- Extending the nomination period doesn’t seem to serve any purpose, as most applications seem to arrive at the last moment.
- Adding an award for an emerging artist - the exact criteria would need to be determined – is it for a specific age range (under 25 years old was discussed) or just for someone new in the arts. Should this award also be for contributions to the arts in the community, or for talent? The group agreed using talent as a criterion opens up a whole new can of worms.
- The special (6th) award which has been given in some prior years at the discretion of the commission will probably be abandoned in the future.
- Determine how many awards is enough – Commissioner Callahan suggests that 5 should be enough, no matter what the combination of categories.
- Judging – Chair Michael would like to craft standard guidelines to the judges for the criteria to be used to evaluate the nominations.

NOTE: This meeting was adjourned early as the meeting room was double booked by the Concord Police Department. The following agenda items were held over for the January 9, 2008 meeting:

Arts Directory

Brief Commissioner Reports

Office Manager Report

Request for Agenda Items: Next meeting is scheduled for January 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the County Library's Ygnacio Valley Branch. Contact Robin Moore if you have agenda items to be added.

New Business: none

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.