

Harvard Cultural Council Meeting Minutes
3 June 2014, 7pm
Volunteers Hall, Harvard Public Library

Present:

Members - Alice Bartram (Chair), Fran Nickerson, Edith Joyce, Robin Carlaw, Rebecca Wright, Lily Moore-Eisenberg

Guests: Alison Thornton (PTO), Melissa Carshaw (Fruitlands), Bob Eiland (self), Laura Vilain (Fresh InkK)

I. Call to Order (Alice Bartram) – 7:06pm

a. Introduction - main points to address today:

- i. Sharing ideas
- ii. Guests update the council on their projects
- iii. Fewer, bigger projects, or numerous smaller ones?

II. Membership updates

- a. Fran Nickerson renewing for a second term
- b. Robin Carlaw leaving
- c. Treasurer Elinor Stapleton resigning
- d. Lily Moore-Eisenberg to do administrative duties and record minutes

III. Vote to accept minutes from 11/6 meeting

- a. Passed unanimously

IV. Grants

a. Please get reimbursement paperwork in ASAP

- i. Final deadline is 12/31/14
- ii. Fran Nickerson will send a reminder email to applicants

b. Two grant changes

- i. 1 year extension for Jean McCrosky
 1. Periodical check-ins with Rebecca Wright
 2. Rebecca Wright: McCrosky recently got services of personal assistant through the Council on Aging, which will help her stay on schedule.
- ii. Friends of the Arts (subcommittee of Friends of the Harvard Public Library) request a grant change
 1. Friends of the Arts has already sent a letter to the HCC concerning the matter.
 2. Cause for change request:

- a. Friends of the Arts booked Shakespeare group based in Martha's Vineyard using HCC funding.
 - b. The theater group canceled at the last minute.
3. Requesting a substitution/relocation of funds to new project
 - a. Documentary: "Following the Ninth: In the Footsteps of Beethoven's Final Symphony"
 - b. To take place December 6 and 7 of 2014
 - c. Only venue in MA for the film
 4. Responses to the request:
 - a. Fran Nickerson: Relocation of funds should not become a precedent.
 - i. Alice Bartram: HCC will make it clear that the relocation is a one time thing.
 - b. Rebecca Wright: The project should be included in the 13/14 cycle even though the event may take place in the 14/15 cycle.
 5. Motion to vote to approve grant change
 - a. Bearing in mind that it is an exception, not a precedent
 - b. Grant change approved.

V. Side discussion

- a. Recap of standard HCC procedure:
 - i. Applications due October 15th each year
 - ii. HCC meets in November to review applications
 - iii. State usually gives about \$4000 per year, which HCC divides into \$300-500 sums per applicant
- b. Consolidation versus continuation of current funding strategy
 - i. Alice Bartram: should the HCC fund fewer, larger projects or numerous, smaller projects?
 1. Consensus: numerous, smaller projects
 - a. Allows for repeated funding from year to year
 - b. Most groups pool funding from various sources
 2. However, collaboration of smaller projects would be looked upon favorably in grant applications.

Project Information

VI. Guests share their projects

- a. Alison Thornton: curriculum enrichment committee at HES
 - i. 4 -5 standard programs complemented by a few new ones each year
 - ii. Brings diversity to learning
 - iii. The committee picks one of these projects for which HCC funding will be used.
 - iv. Examples of programs:
 1. Eyes on Owls for 2nd grade
 - a. 11th year coming to HES
 2. Artists in Residence
 - a. Curriculum enrichment committee has shared artists with the Council on Aging as well as the Festival of Cultures.
- b. Representative from Fruitlands Museum
 - i. Planning for Centennial Saturday to take place on 6/21/14
 1. Free admittance
 2. Tours, crafts, games, food, animals, puppet performance, music
 - ii. Upcoming
 1. 6/21/14 opening ceremony for Centennial year
 2. 6/21/15 closing ceremony for Centennial year
- c. Laura Vilain: Fresh InkK
 - i. Used HCC funding for events on 2/1/14 and 5/17/14
 1. 2 local writers per event
 2. Well-received, good turnout
 - ii. Publicity
 1. Asked for email list of HCC members
 - a. Council unanimously agreed to disclose emails
 2. Bob Eiland suggested using Harvard's community message board called Harvard Next Door.
 - iii. Looking to the future
 1. Next Fresh InkK event will be held on 10/11/14
 2. Hoping to eventually host a literary festival
- d. Bob Eiland

- i. Live performance of original play
 1. Age group: preteen to mid-teen
 2. The Merrimack group vetted the play
 3. Play is already cast
 4. Receiving funding from Warner Free Lecture
 5. Hired an experienced children's director
 6. To take place 5/15/15
- ii. Reasons behind the project
 1. Practically no non-musical theater opportunities for young kids
 2. Great learning opportunity
 - a. Peter Pan Center is interested in writing an acting workbook to accompany the play.

Open Discussion

- VII. Discussion regarding funding strategy (continued from “side discussion,” part V.b)
- a. Robin Carlaw: Numerous smaller funds better than fewer larger funds?
 - i. Bob Eiland: Numerous smaller funds preferred
 - 1. Most event planners piece funds together from multiple different groups
 - 2. This helps to involve various different groups and to facilitate cooperation.
 - 3. The involvement of multiple different benefactors widens the scope of projects.
 - ii. Laura Vilain: Numerous smaller funds preferred
 - 1. She wants to keep Fresh InkK free.
 - 2. Needs consistent funding from year to year, and fewer larger funds would likely be awarded to different groups each year.
 - b. Consensus: Numerous smaller funds is the better funding strategy.
- VIII. HCC could potentially do its own fundraising.
- a. HCC could favor projects that provide material for Harvard cable TV, thereby giving back to the community
 - i. Some projects/events are not conducive to this
 - ii. There is already a question on the application form in which applicants could discuss benefits to the community.
 - b. Bob Eiland suggested the following for HCC advertising:
 - i. Harvard Next Door
 - ii. Facebook page
 - 1. Rebecca Wright and Lily Moore-Eissenberg will look into this.
- IX. Alice Bartram suggested that the HCC host another forum like this one during the next grant cycle for questions and informal presentations.
- X. Motion to adjourn
- a. Motion passed