

Murray Arts Advisory Board
Minutes for August 15, 2017

Attendance: Deborah Daines, Kevin Westenskow, Becca Spjute, Wendy Richhart, Alisa Brousseau
Mary Ann Kirk, Lori Edmunds (staff)
Excused: Clark Bullen, Carolyn Milne

1. Minutes for July 18, 2017 were approved.
2. Becca noted the amphitheater parking lines are very light. Mary Ann said they are being repainted next week.
3. We have received grants for the following year from UDAM (\$11,000) and ZAP (\$79,000). These are the highest amounts we have ever received.
4. Amphitheater red ribbon cutting went well. The Music Man attendance was 2748 which was above normal. We averaged about 450 per night. We had 219 (10%) bought through reg tix and 100 KSL Deals. Carousel has had smaller attendance but that is typical for the August show which is usually more adult oriented. The drama camp had 40 attend. Lori said we had 249 attend the art and museum camps and about 2000 for daytime concerts excluding family night. Wendy suggested we advertise for daytime concerts at the swimming pool. We will have a complete summer report in September and discuss future shows.
5. Public art design is completed and contract is being signed. We have raised \$15,000. The final amount was donated by the contractors. We are working on the donor names for the sign. Board members liked the idea of a metal color (bronze, copper) for the powder coating rather than a white color.
6. Winter programming was reviewed including the winter series, Halloween film fest, Juried art show, Literary competition, and Arts in Education activities. The price for the winter series was raised to match our summer season prices. About 50-70 purchase the community art pass each year which is similar to the summer season. Mary Ann said the goals for the winter series are designed to educate and promote the range of cultural events during the school year and provide access to events that are close to home especially for the senior population. Wendy asked if we were planning to do a winter theater show. Mary Ann said we didn't have enough in the budget this year because of after school musicals and we didn't have a venue yet. The city is in the process of doing a feasibility study and schematic design for the Murray Theater to determine costs. The intent is to make it a performing arts space for internal programming and outside rental. The city will need to design a business plan for facility operations. Kevin suggested it be used for educational purposes that the city could write off. Mary Ann said there is no write-off. If there is no revenue, then the city would be heavily subsidizing it. Kevin suggested the city would have access to other funding sources such as grants and donations. Mary Ann said that takes staffing which again requires funding. Wendy liked it as a rehearsal facility. Mary Ann said it may not be a good rehearsal option once the building is rehabbed. The city will want to generate revenue rather than tying it up for long rehearsal times. She thought the armory could be an option for rehearsal if it isn't remodeled for a community center.
7. The State Office of Education has removed health, PE, all art subjects, and career exploration as a defined required "core" topic in middle schools in grades 7-8. They have left the option to local districts to determine requirements for those subjects. Mary Ann felt this decision gives the impression that these topics are not important. Wendy asked if the state is leaving those spots as electives or if they are adding more required courses that restrict opportunity for art classes. She felt that the requirement exposes students to new interests. Mary Ann was concerned that Murray District will start to reduce options for students. Wendy and Mary Ann will attend a school board meeting to share our concerns. We will also include some posts on our facebook page to encourage parents to contact their school board members to maintain a good variety of art courses for junior high students. Mary Ann asked if we should mention that the elementary music specialist funding may not continue in the future and encourage them to take the responsibility for teaching the arts. Alisa was worried that removing funding would push them to eliminate the program. Mary Ann didn't think it would and noted that some schools are using trust land monies this year for visual art specialists so they do have the money to fund the arts. They just need to have it as a priority. She felt arts integration is also a good strategy.