

**Murray Arts Advisory Board
Minutes for October 17, 2017**

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

1. Minutes for the September 19, 2017 meeting were approved as written.
2. October is Arts and Humanities month and the Community Art Awards were given to Kristen Davis of the Murray School District for her scheduling help when the amphitheater remodel collapsed, and to Doug Hill, the Public Services Director, for championing the financial shortfall of the amphitheater remodel. Wendy Richhart, the advisory board chair presented an award to both recipients.
3. *Resident on Display* this month is Dora Lavoie. Board members were encouraged to visit the displays of the art and the “*Then and Now*” history displays that have been going up.
4. October is a full month of Art and Cultural events:
 - The public art piece went in on Monday, October 16th and October 21 is the amphitheater open house from 1 – 3 pm. Wendy Richhart was asked to say a few words at the beginning of the event and guests will be able to tour the facility as well.
 - October 28 is the Murray Symphony “*Fright Night with the Symphony*” at HJH, featuring a costume parade and is also the date for the *Halloween Film Festival*. Lori Edmunds toured the theater with the City Facility Manager, Jeff Martin to make sure it will be ready for the 28th. The Murray Concert Band will perform on Saturday November 4th.
 - Haunted Tales will take place on October 30, at the library at 6:30 & 7:30 pm. We have 96 entries this year. Lori Steadman agreed to judge the stories, and the poetry will be judged by Sue Ranglack.
 - Juried Art Show entries are due November 1st at the library and intake will be between 4 and 6 pm., with the actual show going from November 3-20. A reception for the artists will be held on November 20, at 7:00 pm where there will be awards for 1st place in several categories. Also, the people’s choice award will be given as well. At that time the artists will be encouraged to retrieve their art.
 - Both high schools will be presenting their fall musicals. MHS will feature “*Brigadoon*” November 9-13, and CHS will be performing “*Beauty and the Beast*” November 30 – December 4th. Both are at 7 pm.

A sign-up sheet was passed to the board for volunteer help with several of these events.

5. The Murray Theater was discussed as to what could be feasible for its use. Kevin suggested a writing guild workshop. Mary Ann said that we have tried to get a writing guild together two previous times both ending, due to lack of participation. Lori Steadman agreed that it is difficult to get writers to attend. Mary Ann and Lori Edmunds reminded the group that the theater needs to have a revenue stream to help sustain the building costs. Lori Edmunds said we should remember that we need to justify our choices. Mary Ann reminded us that we are limited to what we can reasonably produce.

5. Agreements for both the Fire Station Lease and the inter-local Cooperation Agreement with Murray School District regarding District Musical Specialists and a District Music Specialist Trainer have been fully executed.
 - The Old Fire Station Lease agreement was changed to insure that the space available to the Murray Arts Advisory board for summer musical rehearsal starting April 1, instead of May 1st with first priority being Murray City, then the Murray District, and third, the Head Start program.
 - The inter-local agreement for music specialist maintains 30 minutes or more music instruction each week for each student, in-service training for the music specialists, and a reasonable budget.

Regarding the music specialists, some board member are still concerned about the quality of instruction the students are getting. Becca reminded us that she had been an instructor and she was never asked about her background in music. Deborah encouraged parents on the board to check with principals on the status of the instructors of schools in their boundaries. After much discussion from the board, they decided to have Lori Edmunds inquire from Missy Hamilton, the district curriculum advisor, as to how the specialists are chosen and about their musical backgrounds. They would like Missy to reiterate the districts' vision of the program to move it forward. The board felt this would reinforce the City and boards commitment to the program and let them know we are actively engaged in its success. As Mary Ann reminded us, we would like the school district to incorporate the arts into their core curriculum, so as to not be dependent on City funds. It was decided to revisit this topic at the end of the year to see if the next year's grant will be available.

6. After School Musicals are in progress. We still need a director for AISU, but all other schools have directors and selections for their musicals have been decided.
7. The board would like to see more musical directors rotated into the Summer Series. Musical directors for the 2019 Summer Series season were interviewed before board meeting tonight. Those interviewed were Cameron Garner, Brighton Sloan, and the third candidate, Alyse Shattuck was unable to make her interview. Mary Ann will check in with her. Jim Smith was interviewed on Friday, October 14. The decision on directors will hinge on the permission request to MTI for "*Into the Woods*" which is the only show that Will Saxton was willing to do and the board liked that pick for the middle, July show. The board was adamant that the middle show be one that was family friendly and wanted it to be a production where several children would be able to participate.. Mary Ann was asked to talk with Mr. Saxton to see if he would like to wait until the 2019 season then ask Brighton Sloan to direct the August show. Then have Jim Smith do *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* in 2019 in August and ask Cameron Garner to select a family/kids show for July 2019. Mary Ann will contact both Jim Smith and Will Saxton to see what their preferences are.